**Brief Timeline of Early Church**:

60-135? Papias

64 Great Fire of Rome

64-8 Nero’s punishment of the Christians

70 Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem

70-135 *Letter of Barnabas*

95? *1 Clement*

96? *2 Clement*

100? *The Didache*

100-165 Justin Martyr

110 Martyrdom of Ignatius

110-40? *The Shepherd of Hermas*

130-200 Irenaeus of Lyons

150-90 *Letter to Diognetus*

155? Martyrdom of Polycarp

160-225 Tertullian

303-312 The “Great Persecution”

312 Conversion of emperor Constantine

325 Council of Nicea

**Further Reading**:

* Michael Reeves, *Breeze Through the Centuries*
* Henry Chadwick, *The Early Church*
* Andreas Kostenberger and Michael Kruger, *The Heresy of Orthodoxy: How Contemporary Culture's Fascination with Diversity Has Reshaped Our Understanding of Early Christianity*

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**Capitol Hill Baptist Church Church History – Class 2 CORE SEMINARS**

# Gathering the Saints, and Defending the Faith

*The Development of Scripture, Worship, and Leadership*

*in the Early Church*

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering…not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.” Hebrews 10: 23, 2

“They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang an anthem to Christ as God, and bound themselves by a solemn oath not to commit any wicked deed, but to abstain from all fraud, theft and adultery, never to break their word, or deny a trust when called upon to honor it.” –Pliny the Younger, Letter to Trajan

1. Practice of Early Christian Gatherings

## Baptism

## The Lord’s Supper

## Forming the Canon

a) Marcion

b) Montanists

c) Establishing the Canon.

## Leadership

## Church Fathers

1. Apostolic Fathers – taught by the Apostles
   1. Ignatius of Antioch
   2. Polycarp of Smyrna (*Letter to the Philippians*, *Martyrdom of Polycarp*)

2. Apologetic Fathers

a. Justin Martyr (*Dialogue with Trypho*, *First* and *Second Apologies*)

1. Athenagoras of Athens
2. Irenaeus of Lyons (*Against Heresies*)
3. Tertullian (*Apology*, *On Patience*, *On Prayer*, *To The Martyrs*, *On the Spectacles*, *On Idolatry*, *On the Flesh of Christ*)
4. Clement of Alexandria
5. Origen