

CHURCH HISTORY LITERACY

HERESIES - PART TWO

The Gnostics #2

Lesson 9

Biblical-Literacy.com

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“If you worship me, it will all be yours” (Lk 4:7)



“If you worship me, it will all be yours” (Lk 4:7)



Lessons Today



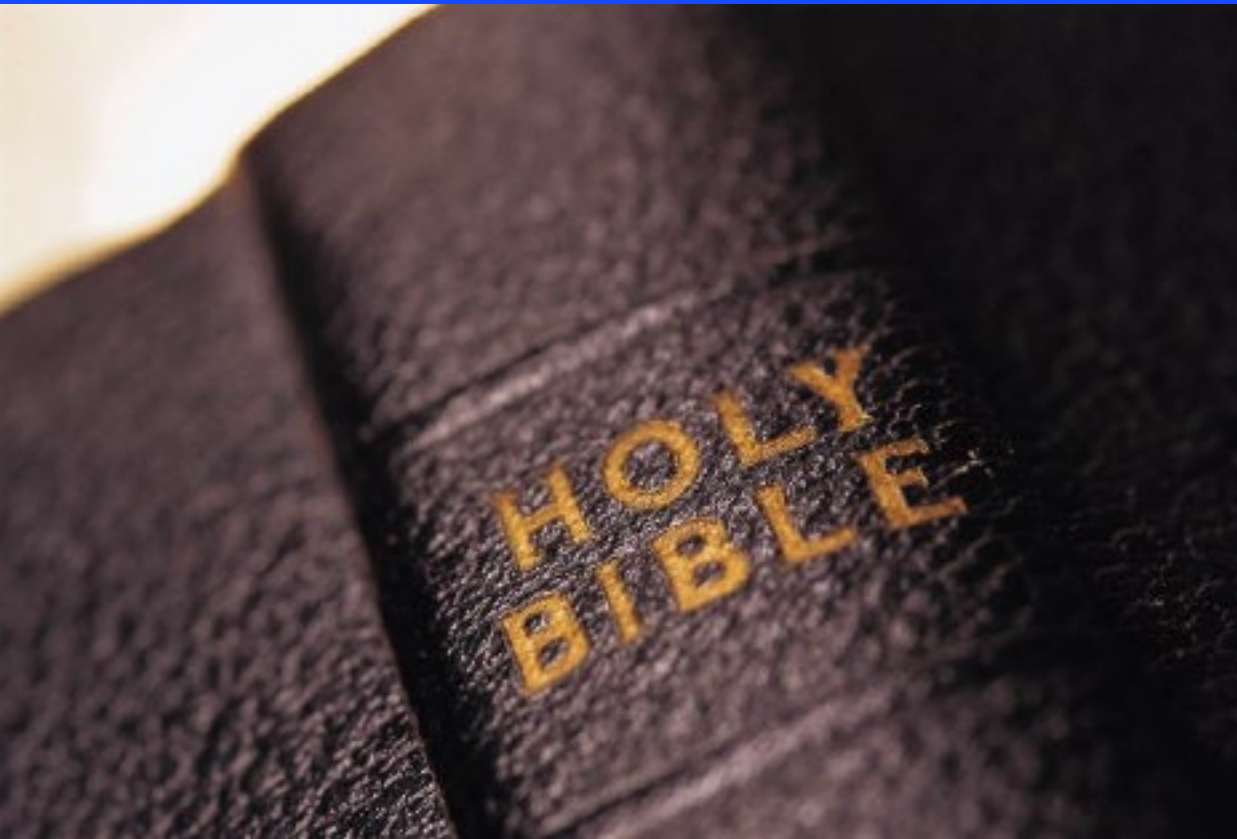
- Truth Matters
- TRUTH: (This is a dog in sheep's clothing, not a wolf!)

Lessons Today



- Road to heresy not always a U-turn

Lessons Today

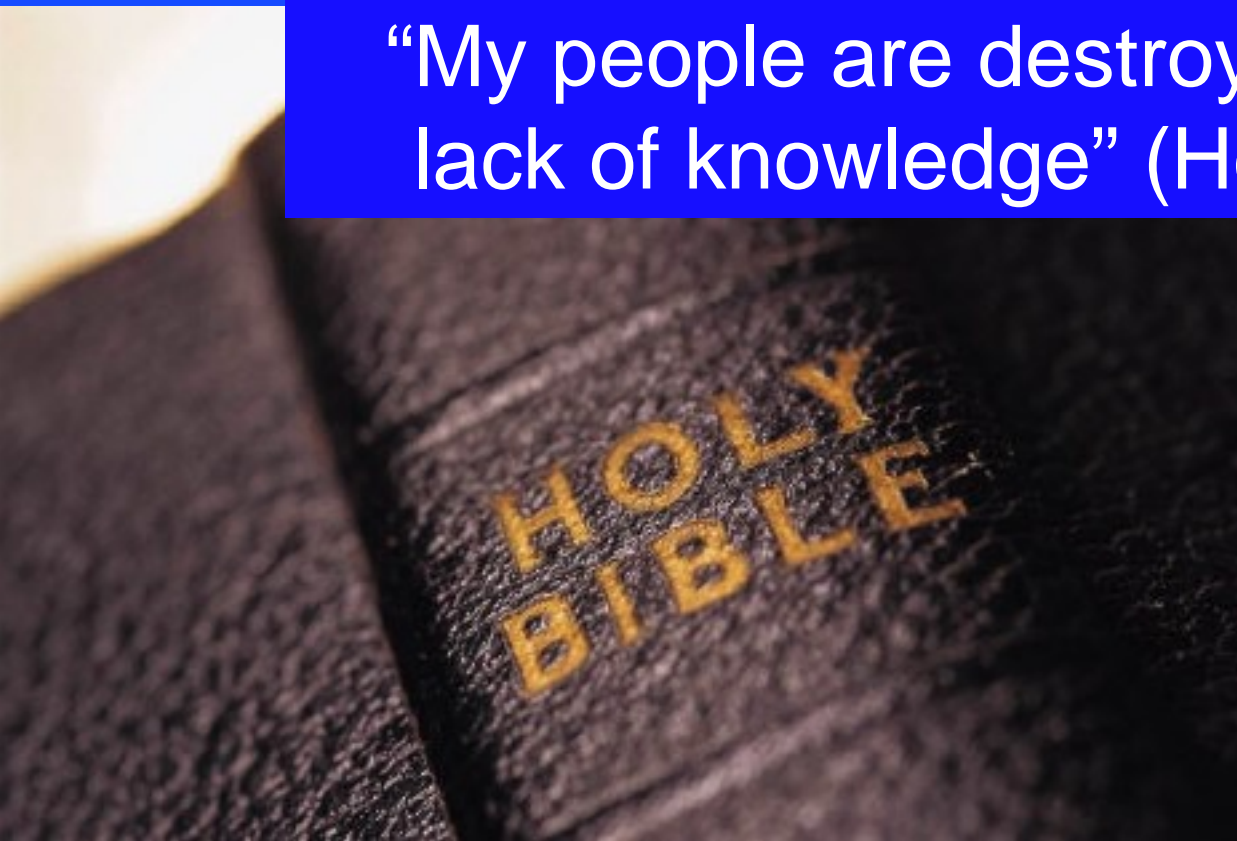


- Core understanding vs. complete understanding

Lessons Today

“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6)

- Core understanding vs. complete understanding



Lessons Today

“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6)

- Core understanding vs. complete understanding

“My people will go into exile for lack of understanding” (Is. 5:13)

Lessons Today



- Be wary of
goofy
interpretations

Major Heresy: Gnosticism



Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- Gnostic (γνοστικός): Capable of attaining knowledge - Secret knowledge!

Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- More than one god!

Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- Spirit good! Body and earth evil!
- So ... Option one: Deny the body!
- Or ... Option two: Anything goes!

Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- Salvation a matter of WHAT you know, not WHO you know.

Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- Jesus as “Savior” taught the secrets and how to get home!

St. Irenaeus of Lyons



St. Irenaeus of Lyons



- Originally from Smyrna

St. Irenaeus of Lyons



- Originally from Smyrna
- Mentored by Polycarp

St. Irenaeus of Lyons



- Originally from Smyrna
- Mentored by Polycarp
- Around 150 moves to Lugdunum (Lyons, France)

St. Irenaeus of Lyons

**ANCIENT
CHRISTIAN
WRITERS**

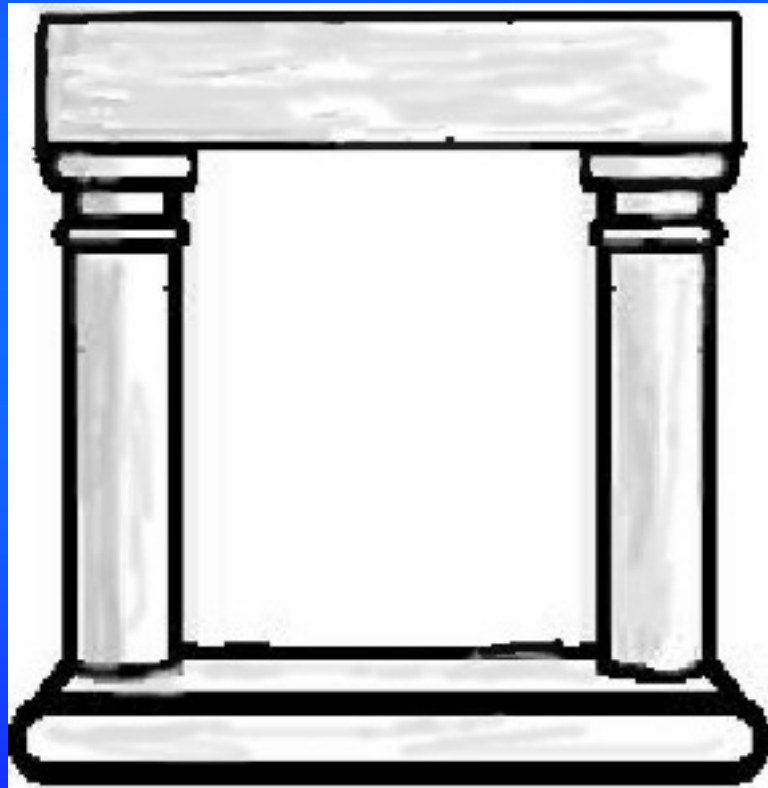


**ST. IRENAEUS
OF LYONS**

**AGAINST THE
HERESIES**

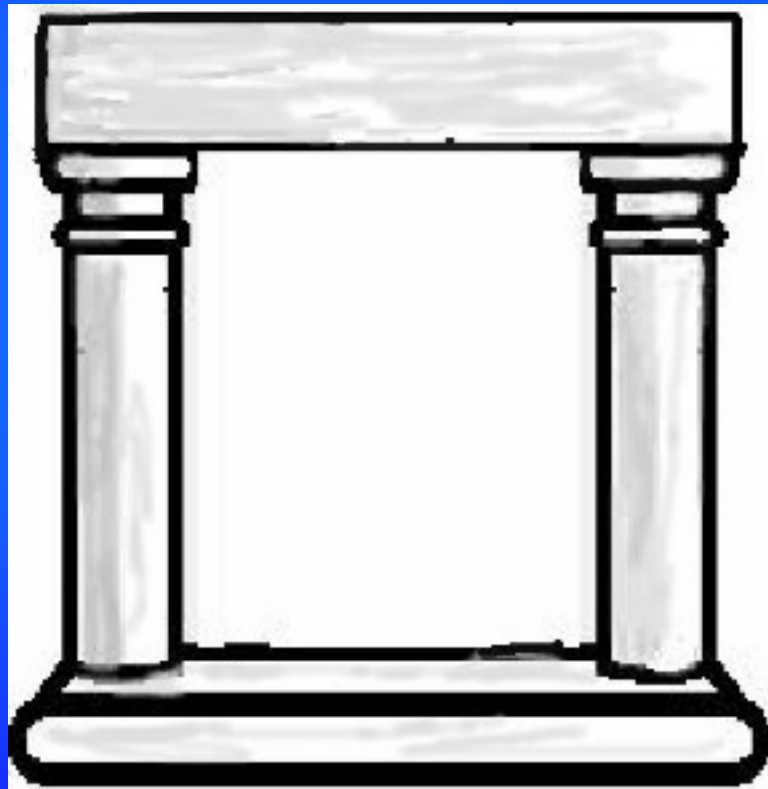
- Full title: Expose and Overthrow/Refutation of What is Falsely Called Knowledge

St. Irenaeus - 2 Pillars of Church



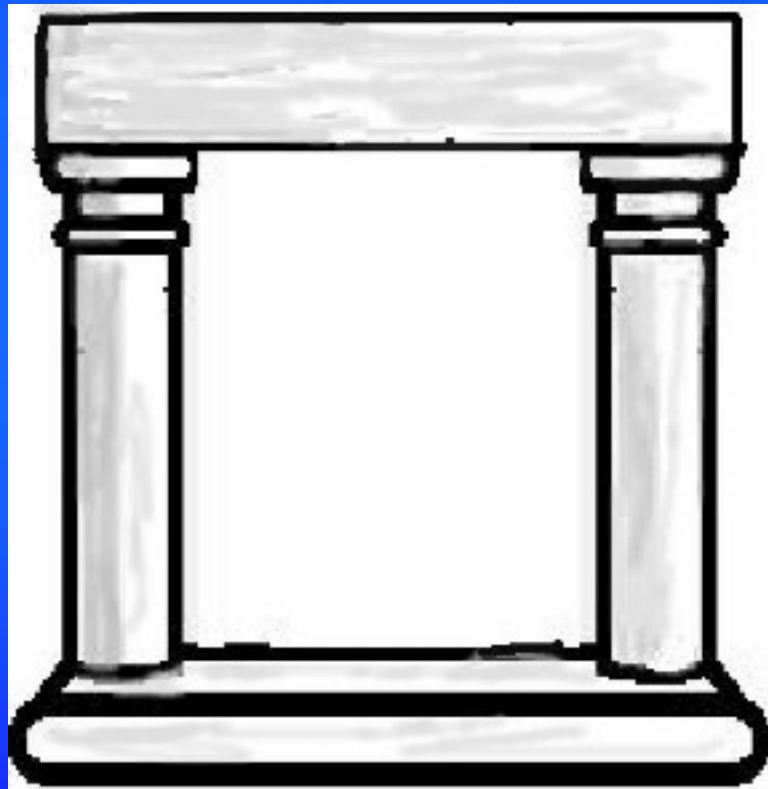
St. Irenaeus - 2 Pillars of Church

- Authority of Scripture



St. Irenaeus - 2 Pillars of Church

- Authority of Scripture



- Apostolic Tradition

St. Irenaeus - the Doctrine Analyst

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1. What is the Doctrine? Flesh it out!

St. Irenaeus - the Doctrine Analyst

1. What is the Doctrine? Flesh it out!
2. What is the Basis or Authority for the Doctrine?

St. Irenaeus - the Doctrine Analyst

1. What is the Doctrine? Flesh it out!
2. What is the Basis or Authority for the Doctrine?
3. What Does Scripture say on the Issue?



Last Week =>



Gnostic # 1 -
Cerinthus

Last Week =>



Gnostic # 1 -
Cerinthus

Gnostic # 2 -
Marcion

Last Week =>



Gnostic # 1 -
Cerinthus

Gnostic # 2 -
Marcion

Gnostic # 3 -
Valentinus

This Week

This Week

- Marcion --- “money can’t buy me love ... or orthodoxy...”

This Week

- Marcion --- “money can’t buy me love ... or orthodoxy...”
- Valentinius --- Did he meet the angel Moroni???

Marcion - A Major, Major Problem





Marcion - A Major, Major Problem

- Born around 100

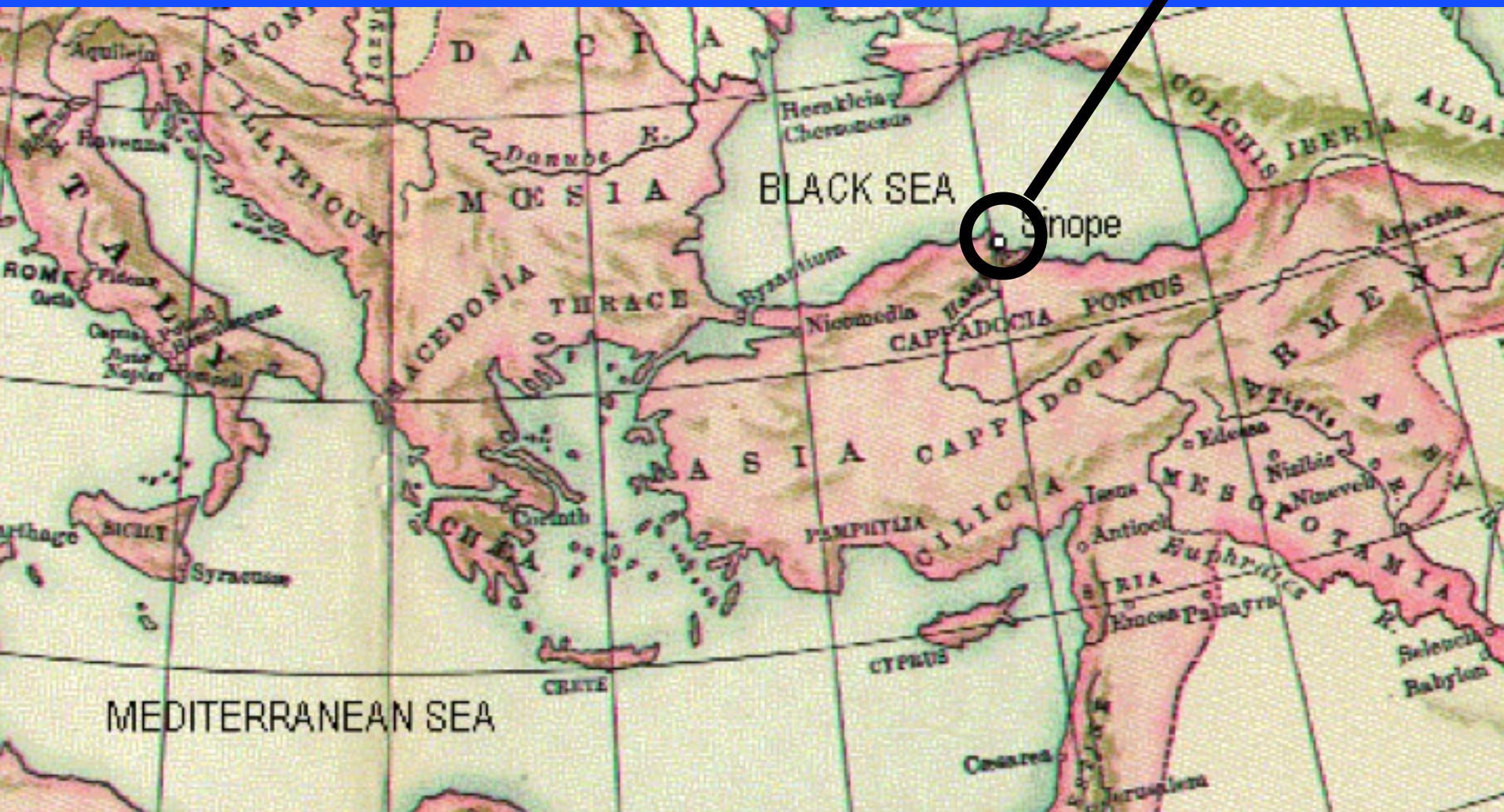
Marcion - A Major, Major Problem



- Born around 100
- Son of a Bishop in Sinope

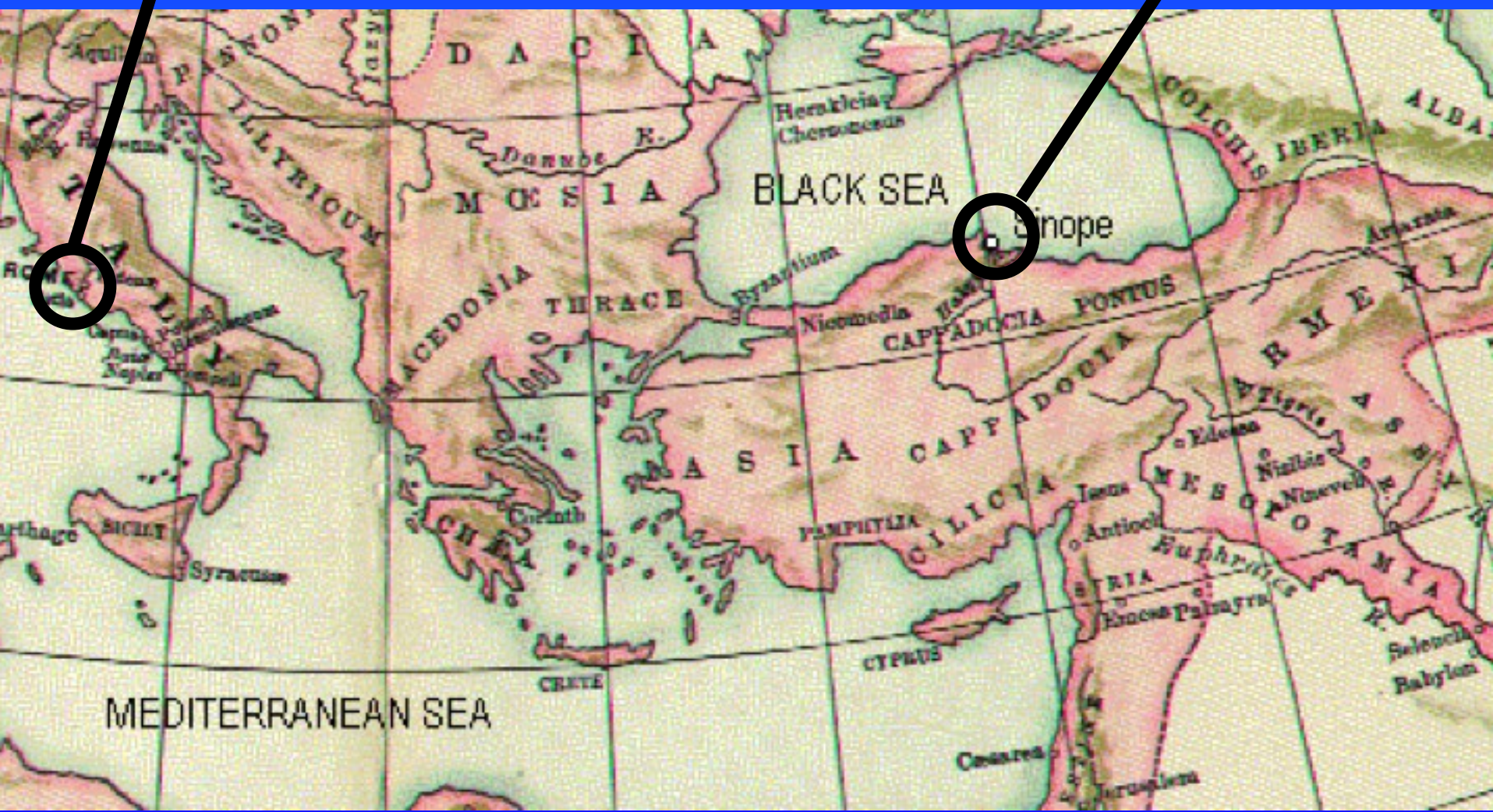


Sinope



Rome

Sinope



Marcion - A Major, Major Problem





Marcion - A Major, Major Problem

- Kicked out of church in sinope



Marcion - A Major, Major Problem

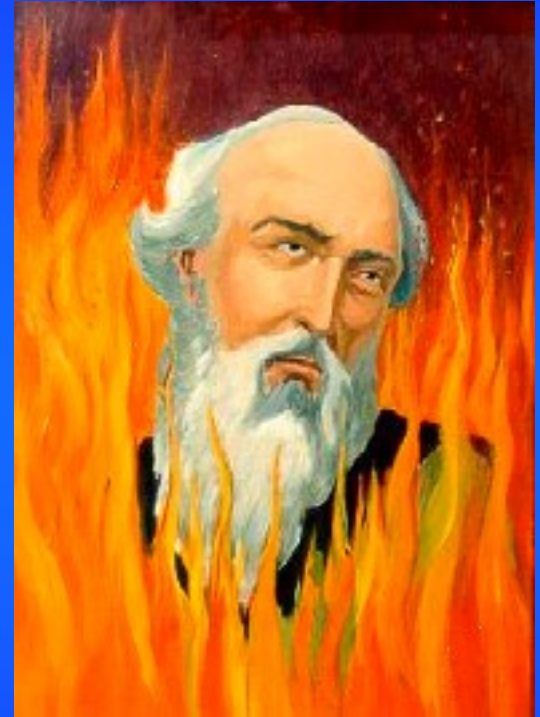
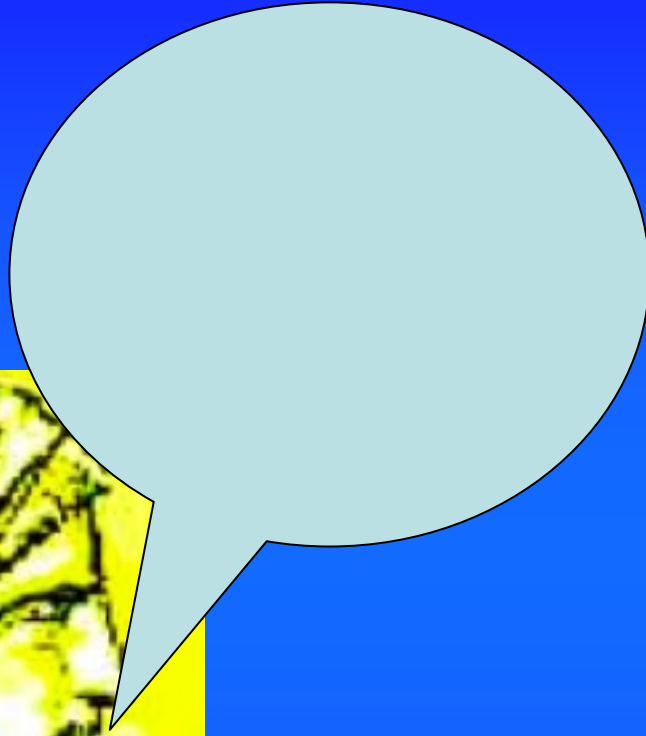
- Kicked out of church in sinope
- Becomes wealthy shipping magnate

Marcion - A Major, Major Problem



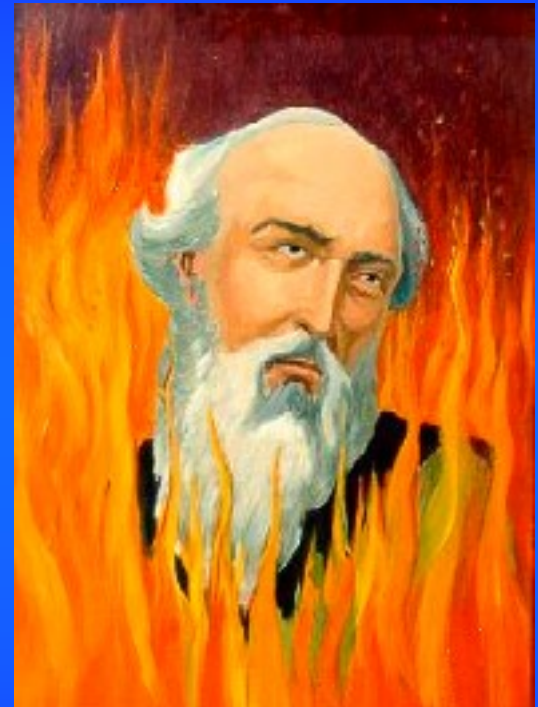
- Kicked out of church in sinope
- Becomes wealthy shipping magnate
- Meets Polycarp in Asia Minor

Marcion and Polycarp



Marcion and Polycarp

Do you
recognize
me?



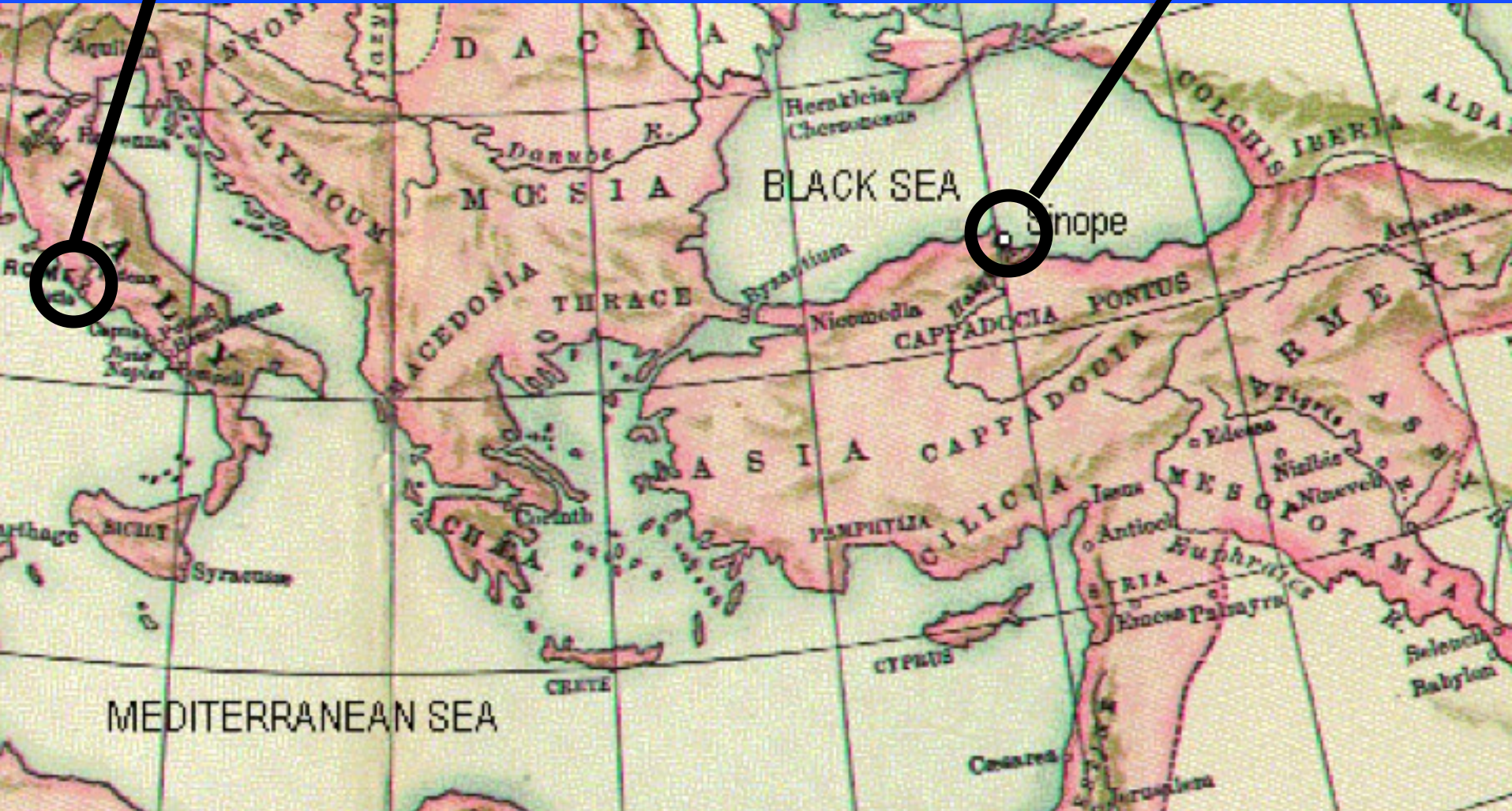
“I recognize you
for the firstborn of
Satan”

CAUTION:

Satan's influence and attack is not just "physical sinning." It includes attacks on mind and faith.

Rome

Sinope



Rome

Sinope



Donates 200,000 sesterces
(Think a few hundred thousand
dollars)

Marcion's Heresy

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Evil,
manipulated
God of hatred
and war

Jesus

CAUTION:
Economic Motives can be a
Dangerous Influence on
Religion

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Evil,
manipulated
God of hatred
and war

Jesus

CAUTION:

**Ignorance can be a Dangerous
Influence on Religion and
Politics**

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Vengeful,
manipulated
God of hatred
and war

Jesus - A
reflection of a
higher and purer
good God of love

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



“Where are
you?” (Gen.
3:9)

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



“Where are you?” (Gen. 3:9)

Lk 5:22 Jesus knew even the thoughts of man

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



“An eye for an
eye” (Ex 21:24)

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



“An eye for an eye” (Ex 21:24)

“If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also.”
(Lk 6:29)

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Enter Jericho and
murder every man,
woman and child
(Joshua 6)

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Enter Jericho and
murder every man,
woman and child
(Joshua 6)

Love enemies,
pray for those
who persecute
you and turn the
other cheek (Lk 6)

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Elisha mocked by
young boys calls a
bear to maul them
(2 Kings 2)

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Elisha mocked by
young boys calls a
bear to maul them
(2 Kings 2)

Let the little
children come to
me (Lk 18)

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Cursed is everyone
who hangs on a
tree (Dt 27&28)

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Cursed is everyone
who hangs on a
tree (Dt 27&28)

Jesus ordered to
hang on a tree

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Tree is known by its fruit (Lk 6:43-44)

Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Justice

Tree is known by its fruit (Lk 6:43-44)

Marcion's Heresy



Justice

Vs.



Mercy

Tree is known by its fruit (Lk 6:43-44)

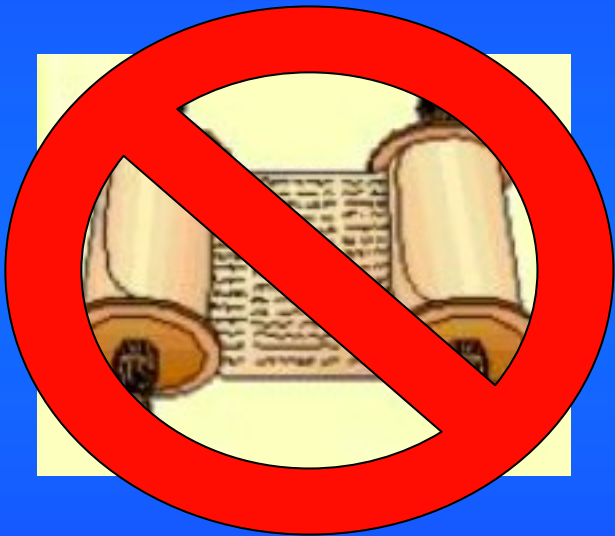
Marcion's Heresy the Canon



Vs.



Marcion's Heresy the Canon



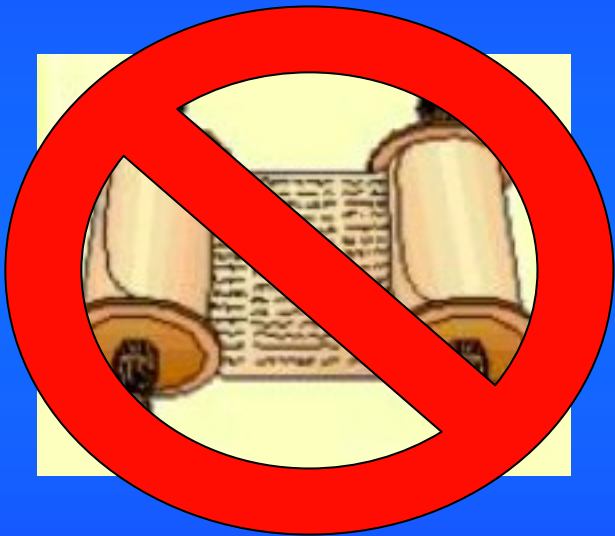
Vs.



CAUTION:

**Ignorance can be a Dangerous
Influence on Religion and
Politics**

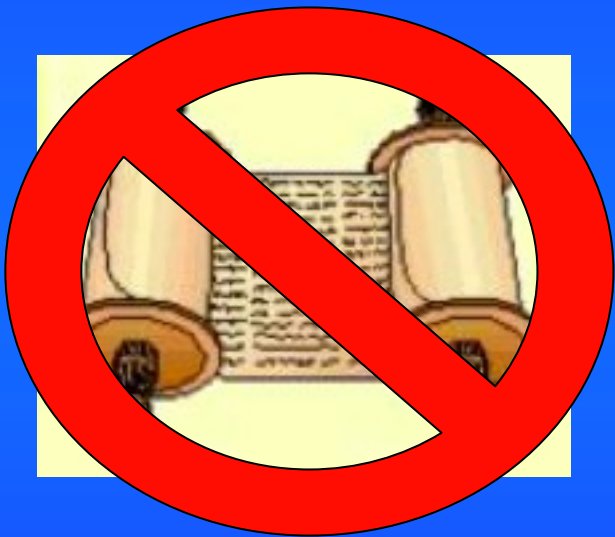
Marcion's Heresy the Canon



Vs.



Marcion's Heresy the Canon



Vs.



Edited Luke

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- Take out first two chapters

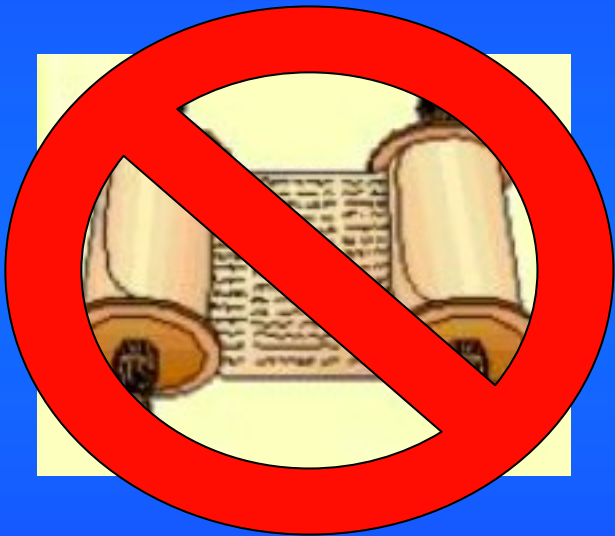
Edited Luke

- Take out first two chapters
- Take out temptations in 4:1-3 (Jesus quotes Deuteronomy)

Edited Luke

- Take out first two chapters
- Take out temptations in 4:1-3 (Jesus quotes Deuteronomy)
- Take out 4:16-30 (Jesus says he fulfills the Old Testament)

Marcion's Heresy the Canon



Vs.



- Edited Luke
- 10 edited letters of Paul After all, Jesus found it necessary to come to Paul.

Paul's Edits

Paul's Edits

- Romans 9-11 Mostly gone

Paul's Edits

- Romans 9-11 Mostly gone
- Romans 3:21-4:25 Also gone

Paul's Edits

- Romans 9-11 Mostly gone
- Romans 3:21-4:25 Also gone
- Galatians missing Abraham example

Why Were People Attracted?

Why Were People Attracted?

- Some always like the new and cutting edge

Why Were People Attracted?

- Some always like the new and cutting edge
- Isn't it great to be in the know?

Why Were People Attracted?

- Some always like the new and cutting edge
- Isn't it great to be in the know?
- Lifestyle was most impressive

Why Were People Attracted?

- Some always like the new and cutting edge
- Isn't it great to be in the know?
- Lifestyle was most impressive
- Ignorance of Scripture and theology

And

And

- A message of peace and love ...


And

- A message of peace and love ...
- Perhaps the moon was in its seventh house and Jupiter was aligned with Mars ... With peace guiding the planets ... And love ruling the stars..... It's the crystal revelation and the mind's true liberation!

Let the Sun shine in!!!!!!

Marcionism spread
like a poison



A close-up photograph of a wasp nest. The nest is composed of many small, hexagonal cells made of a greyish-brown material. Several yellow and black striped wasps are visible, some standing on the cells and others partially obscured. The wasps have long legs and wings. The background is a dense array of these cells, some of which are filled with white, oval-shaped eggs or larvae.

Marcionism spread
like a poison

Tertuillian: Marcion planted churches
the way a wasp makes nests

The Church's Response

The Church's Response

- Take no part

The Church's Response

- Take no part
- Reveal heresy, explaining Apostolic truth

The Church's Response

- Take no part
- Reveal heresy, explaining Apostolic truth
- Concentrated effort to put together Apostolic canon

Valentinus

30

Divine Gods

Valentinius

30

Divine Gods

- 2 Become 12 silent gods, then 18 more!

Valentinius

30

Divine Gods

- 2 Become 12 silent gods, then 18 more!
- Great names! “First Father” joins with “Silence” and gives birth to “Mind” and “Truth” and along come “Profound” “Ageless” and others!

Valentinus

30

Divine Gods

- Parable of vineyard and workers Mt 20 (1st hr, 3d hr, 6th hr, 9th hr, 11th hr!)

Valentinus

30

Divine Gods

- Parable of vineyard and workers Mt 20 (1st hr, 3d hr, 6th hr, 9th hr, 11th hr!)
- 30 years of silent ministry

Valentinus

30

Divine Gods

- Parable of vineyard and workers Mt 20 (1st hr, 3d hr, 6th hr, 9th hr, 11th hr!)
- 30 years of silent ministry
- Jesus spoke in parables because “the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven have been given to you... (Mat 13:11)

We are told:



We are told:

- Joseph Smith received his secret revelation

Valentinius

30

Divine Gods

- 2 Become 12 silent gods, then 18 more!
- Great names! “First Father” joins with “Silence” and gives birth to “Mind” and “Truth” and along come “Profound” “Ageless” and others!

Itranaeus:

Woe, woe! Alas, alas! Indeed such...a concoction of names, and such boldness to add the names [to his belief system] without blushing.... [He has given the names to his gods] Nothing, therefore, prohibits anyone else from proposing names for the same system as follows:

Iranaeus:

There exists a power, which I call a Squash; with this Squash coexists a Power to which I give the name Utter-Emptiness. Now this Squash and Utter-Emptiness brought forth a fruit...which we call Cucumber. With this Cucumber there coexists a Power to which I give the name Pumpkin...”

Heresy led to:

“They do shameless forbidden things”

Points for Home

- Truth is Truth.

Points for Home

- Truth is Truth.
- Fiction is Not.

Points for Home

- Truth is Truth.
- Fiction is Not.
- Measure Truth by God's Word.

Points for Home

- Truth is Truth.
- Fiction is Not.
- Measure Truth by God's Word.
- Decide to learn more.

Points for Home

- Truth is Truth.
- Fiction is Not.
- Measure Truth by God's Word.
- Decide to learn more.
- Salvation is a real event, by a real God in real history.

Next Week ...

- An early Charismatic movement goes awry....