

# The Eternal Kingdom

July 3, 2019

Lesson 16

Intro: Discuss the book we have been studying. The past couple of weeks we've been looking at the apostolic fathers. Tonight we are going to begin with

## Polycarp (115-156)

- Best known as an elder of Smyrna martyred for his faith.
- Died on Feb. 22, age 86.
- Was an elder for 40-45 years.
- Who claimed to have seen Polycarp as a child?
- What fanciful story did Irenaeus remember?
- What do you admire about Polycarp while being escorted to his death?

## The Shepherd of Hermas (140-150)

- Believed to be a brother of Pius, bishop of Rome
- He was a slave of Rhoda and freed by her.
- He became a wealthy farmer, strayed from God, and eventually repented and returned.
- What are some biblically correct points he makes in his writings?

## Summary of Apostolic Fathers

- What We Have Learned?
  - Authors/Leaders close to the apostles from 100-150 A.D. are called “Apostolic Fathers”
  - By way of their writings, we see the operation of the Lord’s church in the second century
  - We see the beginning of departure from truth
  - We see episodes where the church was holding to the pattern of New Testament teachings

## The Apologists 185-250 A.D.

- What is an “apologists”?
  - A person presents and argument to defend their beliefs and practices
- After reading the intro on pg.59-60...
  - When Christianity began, how did the Romans identify or label the Christian community?
  - When the Romans learned about the distinctive nature of the church, how did it affect the church?
  - Provide an example where Jesus’ remarks were taken out of the context and inflamed persecution against Christians
  - What did Mattox say could “improve the Roman world”?
  - What were the authors of written letters in defense of their actions called?

## Quadratus 125-129

- Who did he write a letter to?
- What did he write about?