

Polycarp's Letter to the Philippians: A Study of the Importance of the Bible in the Early Church

Greg Stiekes, Pastor

Polycarp's name means "Much Fruit," and it is obvious when we read of his life and his death that the Lord used him to bear much fruit in the early church. One of the fascinating observations we can make from his one surviving letter is his reverent regard for the Word of God and that he was already, like others of the church fathers, recognizing the NT writings of the apostles to be the Holy Scriptures that they are. The purpose of this session is to introduce you to Polycarp, particularly with respect to his understanding of the Word.

1. How Polycarp Regards the Scriptures in His Letter to the Philippians
 - A. His letter is dense with Old and New Testament Scriptures.
 - B. He refers to a verse in Ephesians as "Holy Scripture."
 - C. He also gives reverence to the Word through quoting the OT and NT as truth and showing specific respect for the writings of Paul.
2. How Polycarp's Near Contemporaries Spoke of the Scriptures in Their Writings
 - A. The Revelation of God's Word
 - B. The Authority of God's Word
 - C. The Inspiration of God's Word