



SESSION 8: DECIUS, ORIGIN, ARIANISM & MONASTICISM – READINGS

“There is no salvation outside the Church...He can no longer have God for his Father who has not the Church for his Mother...There is One God, and Christ is One, and there is one chair founded upon the rock by the Word of the Lord...To depart from the bishop is to depart from the Church, the Ark of Salvation.” – Cyprian of Carthage

“I wish to be a man of the Church, not the founder of heresy; I want to be named with Christ’s name and bear the name which is blessed on earth. It is also my desire to do this in deed as well as in spirit...O Church! If I who seem to be your right hand, bearing the name of priest and preaching the word of God, should ever offend against your canon and your rule of faith, thus giving scandal: Let then the Universal Church in unanimous accord cut off me, her right hand, and cast me away from her.”

- Origen

“Although he maintained that the only standard for any theology must be the rule of faith – meaning the tradition of the Church – he did not in fact discover a way to combine revelation and Hellenistic philosophy so that the basic idealism of the Greek outlook might be overcome. On the contrary, his system was an abrupt Hellenization of Christianity itself.”

- Fr. Alexander Schmemmann on Origen

“We acknowledge one God, Who is alone ingenerate [that is, self-existent], alone eternal, alone without beginning, alone true, alone possessing immortality, alone wise, alone good, alone sovereign, alone judge of all... If the Father begot the Son, he that was begotten had had a beginning of existence; hence it is clear that there was when the Son was not. It follows then of necessity that he had his existence from the non-existent...The Church should honor Jesus, but not consider Him in terms reserved for the Father. He must have been begotten by the Father and therefore not know the innermost recesses of the divine mind.” - Arius