

8 - The Didache and Epistle of Barnabas

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
~ Acts 2:42 ~

Why do this together?

I. Didache: "The Lord's Teaching through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations,"

A. Ways of Life and Death (ch 1-6)

2:1 - Thou shalt do no murder, thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not corrupt boys, thou shalt not commit fornication, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not deal in magic, thou shalt do no sorcery, thou shalt not murder a child by abortion nor kill them when born

B. Liturgical Considerations (ch 7-10)

7 - Baptism

8 - Fasting and Prayer

9-10 - Lord's Supper

Remember, Lord, Thy Church to deliver it from all evil and to perfect it in Thy love; and gather it together from the four winds—even the Church which has been sanctified—into Thy kingdom which Thou hast prepared for it; for Thine is the power and the glory for ever and ever.

C. Discerning True and False Prophets (ch 11-15)

Whosoever therefore shall come and teach you all these things that have been said before, receive him; but if the teacher himself be perverted and teach a different doctrine to the destruction thereof, hear him not; but if to the increase of righteousness and the knowledge of the Lord, receive him as the Lord.

D. Closing Admonition Concerning the Return of Christ (ch 16)

And ye shall gather yourselves together frequently, seeking what is fitting for your souls; for the whole time of your faith shall not profit you, if ye be not perfected at the last season. For in the last days the false prophets and corrupters shall be multiplied, and the sheep shall be turned into wolves, and love shall be turned into hate.

II. Epistle of Barnabas

A. Positives

1. Urging and pleading for Christians NOT to go back to Jewish ways

2. Calling for a line of Distinction between the Christians and the Jews

...He manifested Himself to be the Son of God. For if He had not come in the flesh, how could men have been saved by beholding Him? Since looking upon the sun which is to cease to exist, and is the work of His hands, their eyes are not able to bear his rays. The Son of God therefore came in the flesh with this view, that He might bring to a head the sum of their sins who had persecuted His prophets to the death. For this purpose, then, He endured.

3. Urging to Holiness

4. Emphasizing the Spiritual Temple

5. Focus upon Typology of Christ, finding Him in the OT

B. Negatives

1. Ordinance of the Red Heifer

2. Abraham's Men

3. Dietary Laws

4. Creation, Sabbath, and Christ's Coming

“As far as was possible, and could be done with perspicuity, I cherish the hope that, according to my desire, I have omitted none of those things at present [demanding consideration], which bear upon your salvation. For if I should write to you about things future, ye would not understand, because such knowledge is hid in parables. These things then are so.”