

THE EPISTLE OF POLYCARP

Polycarp Prologue:

Polycarp and the Elders that are with him unto the Congregation of Yahweh/Yahuah which sojourneth at Philippi; mercy unto you and peace from Yahweh/Yahuah Almighty and Yahshuah/Yahushah Mashiach our Savior be multiplied.

Polycarp 1:

- 1 I rejoiced with you greatly in our Elohim Yahshuah/Yahushah Mashiach, for that ye received the followers of the true love and escorted them on their way, as befitted you--those men encircled in saintly bonds which are the diadems of them that be truly chosen of Yahweh/Yahuah and our Elohim;
- 2 and that the steadfast root of your faith which was famed from primitive times abideth until now and beareth fruit unto our Elohim Yahshuah/Yahushah Mashiach, who endured to face even death for our sins, whom Yahweh/Yahuah raised, having loosed the pangs of Sheol; on whom,
- 3 though ye saw Him not, ye believe with joy unutterable and full of glory; unto which joy many desire to enter in; forasmuch as ye know that it is by grace ye are saved, not of works, but by the will of Yahweh/Yahuah through Yahshuah/Yahushah Mashiach.

Polycarp 2:

- 1 Wherefore gird up your loins and serve Yahweh/Yahuah in fear and truth, forsaking the vain and empty talking and the error of the many, for that ye have believed on Him that raised our Elohim Yahshuah/Yahushah Mashiach from the dead and gave unto him glory and a throne on His right hand; unto whom all things were made subject that are in heaven and that are on the earth; to whom every creature that hath breath doeth service; who cometh as judge of quick and dead; whose blood Yahweh/Yahuah will require of them that are disobedient unto Him.
- 2 Now He that raised Him from the dead will raise us also; if we do His will and walk in His commandments and love the things which He loved, abstaining from all unrighteousness, covetousness, love of money, evil speaking, false witness; not rendering evil for evil or railing for railing or blow for blow or cursing for cursing;
- 3 but remembering the words which the Elohim spake, as He taught; judge not that ye be not judged. Forgive, and it shall be forgiven to you. Have mercy that ye may receive mercy. With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again; and again blessed are the poor and they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Yahweh/Yahuah.

Polycarp 3:

- 1 These things, brethren, I write unto you concerning righteousness, not because I laid this charge upon myself, but because ye invited me.
- 2 For neither am I, nor is any other like unto me, able to follow the wisdom of the blessed and glorious Paul, who when he came among you taught face to face with the men of that day the word which concerneth truth carefully and surely; who also, when he was absent, wrote a letter unto you, into the which if ye look diligently, ye shall be able to be built up unto the faith given to you,
- 3 which is the mother of us all, while hope followeth after and love goeth before--love toward Yahweh/Yahuah and Mashiach and toward our neighbor. For if any man be occupied with these, he hath fulfilled the commandment of righteousness; for he that hath love is far from all sin.

Polycarp 4:

- 1 But the love of money is the beginning of all troubles. Knowing therefore that we brought nothing into the world neither can we carry anything out, let us arm ourselves with the armor of righteousness, and let us teach ourselves first to walk in the commandment of the Elohim;
- 2 and then our wives also, to walk in the faith that hath been given unto them and in love and purity, cherishing their own husbands in all truth and loving all men equally in all chastity, and to train their children in the training of the fear of Yahweh/Yahuah.
- 3 Our widows must be sober-minded as touching the faith of the Elohim, making intercession without ceasing for all men, abstaining from all calumny, evil speaking, false witness, love of money, and every evil thing, knowing that they are Yahweh/Yahuah's altar, and that all sacrifices are carefully inspected, and nothing escapeth Him either of their thoughts or intents or any of the secret things of the heart.

Polycarp 5:

- 1 Knowing then that Yahweh/Yahuah is not mocked, we ought to walk worthily of His commandment and His glory.
- 2 In like manner deacons should be blameless in the presence of His righteousness, as deacons of Yahweh/Yahuah and Mashiach and not of men; not calumniators, not double-tongued, not lovers of money, temperate in all things, compassionate, diligent, walking according to the truth of the Elohim who became a minister (deacon) of all. For if we be well pleasing unto Him in this present world, we shall receive the future world also, according as He promised us to raise us from the dead, and that if we conduct ourselves worthily of Him we shall also reign with Him, if indeed we have faith.
- 3 In like manner also the younger men must be blameless in all things, caring for purity before everything and curbing themselves from every evil. For it is a good thing to refrain from lusts in the world, for every lust warreth against the Spirit, and neither whoremongers nor effeminate persons nor defilers of themselves with men shall inherit the kingdom of Yahweh/Yahuah, neither they that do untoward things. Wherefore it is right to abstain from all these things, submitting yourselves to the Elders and deacons as to Yahweh/Yahuah and Mashiach. The virgins must walk in a blameless and pure conscience.

Polycarp 6:

- 1 And the Elders also must be compassionate, merciful towards all men, turning back the sheep that are gone astray, visiting all the infirm, not neglecting a widow or an orphan or a poor man: but providing always for that which is honorable in the sight of Yahweh/Yahuah and of men, abstaining from all anger, respect of persons, unrighteous judgment, being far from all love of money, not quick to believe anything against any man, not hasty in judgment, knowing that we all are debtors of sin.
- 2 If then we entreat the Elohim that He would forgive us, we also ought to forgive: for we are before the eyes of our Elohim and Yahweh/Yahuah, and we must all stand at the judgment-seat of Mashiach, and each man must give an account of himself.
- 3 Let us therefore so serve Him with fear and all reverence, as He himself gave commandment and the Apostles who preached the Gospel to us and the prophets who proclaimed beforehand the coming of our Elohim; being zealous as touching that which is good, abstaining from offenses and from the false brethren and from them that bear the name of the Elohim in hypocrisy, who lead foolish men astray.

Polycarp 7:

- 1 For every one who shall not confess that Yahshuah/Yahushah Mashiach is come in the flesh, is anti-Mashiach: and whosoever shall not confess the testimony of the stake, is of the devil; and whosoever shall pervert the oracles of the Elohim to his own lusts and say that there is neither resurrection nor judgment, that man is the firstborn of Satan.

- 2 Wherefore let us forsake the vain doing of the many and their false teachings, and turn unto the word which was delivered unto us from the beginning, being sober unto prayer and constant in fastings, entreating the all-seeing Yahweh/Yahuah with supplications that He bring us not into temptation, according as the Elohim said, The Spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.

Polycarp 8:

- 1 Let us therefore without ceasing hold fast by our hope and by the earnest of our righteousness, which is Yahshuah/Yahushah Mashiach who took up our sins in His own body upon the tree, who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth, but for our sakes He endured all things, that we might live in Him.
- 2 Let us therefore become imitators of His endurance; and if we should suffer for His name's sake, let us glorify Him. For He gave this example to us in His own person, and we believed this.

Polycarp 9:

- 1 I exhort you all therefore to be obedient unto the word of righteousness and to practice all endurance, which also ye saw with your own eyes in the blessed Ignatius and Zosimus and Rufus, yea and in others also who came from among yourselves, as well as in Paul himself and the rest of the Apostles;
- 2 being persuaded that all these ran not in vain but in faith and righteousness, and that they are in their due place in the presence of the Elohim, with whom also they suffered. For they loved not the present world, but Him that died for our sakes and was raised by Yahweh/Yahuah for us.

Polycarp 10:

- 1 Stand fast therefore in these things and follow the example of the Elohim, being firm in the faith and immovable, in love of the brotherhood kindly affectioned one to another, partners with the truth, forestalling one another in the gentleness of the Elohim, despising no man.
- 2 When ye are able to do good, defer it not, for pitifulness delivereth from death. Be ye all subject one to another, having your conversation unblamable among the gentiles, that your good works both ye may receive praise and the Elohim may not be blasphemed in you.
- 3 But woe to him through whom the name of the Elohim be blasphemed. Therefore teach all men soberness, in which ye yourselves also walk.

Polycarp 11:

- 1 I was exceedingly grieved for Valens, who aforetime was a elder among you, because he is so ignorant of the office which was given unto him. I warn you therefore that ye refrain from covetousness, and that ye be pure and truthful. Refrain from all evil.
- 2 But he who cannot govern himself in these things, how doth he enjoin this upon another? If a man refrain not from covetousness, he shall be defiled by idolatry, and shall be judged as one of the Gentiles who know not the judgment of the Elohim, Nay, know we not, that the saints shall judge the world, as Paul teacheth?
- 3 But I have not found any such thing in you, neither have heard thereof, among whom the blessed Paul labored, who were his letters in the beginning. For he boasteth of you in all those Congregations which alone at that time knew Yahweh/Yahuah; for we knew Him not as yet.
- 4 Therefore I am exceedingly grieved for him and for his wife, unto whom may the Elohim grant true repentance. Be ye therefore yourselves also sober herein, and hold not such as enemies but restore them as frail and erring members, that ye may save the whole body of you. For so doing, ye do edify one another.

Polycarp 12:

- 1 For I am persuaded that ye are well trained in the sacred writings, and nothing is hidden from you. But to myself this is not granted. Only, as it is said in these scriptures, Be ye angry and sin not, and Let not the sun set on your wrath. Blessed is he that remembereth this; and I trust that this is in you.
- 2 Now may the Yahweh/Yahuah and Father of our Elohim Yahshuah/Yahushah Mashiach, and the eternal High-priest Himself the [Son of Yahweh/Yahuah Yahshuah/Yahushah Mashiach, build you up in faith and truth, and in all gentleness and in all avoidance of wrath and in forbearance and long suffering and in patient endurance and in purity; and may He grant unto you a lot and portion among His saints, and to us with you, and to all that are under heaven, who shall believe on our Elohim and Yahweh/Yahuah Yahshuah/Yahushah Mashiach and on His Father that raised him from the dead.
- 3 Pray for all the saints. Pray also for kings and powers and princes and for them that persecute and hate you and for the enemies of the stake, that your fruit may be manifest among all men, that ye may be perfect in Him.

Polycarp 13:

- 1 Ye wrote to me, both ye yourselves and Ignatius, asking that if any one should go to Syria he might carry thither the letters from you. And this I will do, if I get a fit opportunity, either I myself, or he whom I shall send to be ambassador on your behalf also.
- 2 The letters of Ignatius which were sent to us by him, and others as many as we had by us, we send unto you, according as ye gave charge; the which are subjoined to this letter; from which ye will be able to gain great advantage. For they comprise faith and endurance and every kind of edification, which pertaineth unto our Elohim. Moreover concerning Ignatius himself and those that were with him, if ye have any sure tidings, certify us.

Polycarp 14:

- 1 I write these things to you by Crescens, whom I commended to you recently and now commend unto you: for he hath walked blamelessly with us; and I believe also with you in like manner. But ye shall have his sister commended, when she shall come to you. Fare ye well in the Elohim Yahshuah/Yahushah Mashiach in grace, ye and all yours. Amen.