

Epistle of Polycarp to the Philippians Please help support the mission of New Advent and get the full contents of this website as an instant download. Includes the Catholic Encyclopedia, Church Fathers, Summa, Bible and more... for only \$19.99... Greeting Polycarp, and the presbyters with him, to the Church of God sojourning at Philippi: Mercy and peace from God Almighty, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, be multiplied. Chapter 1. Praise of the Philippians I have greatly rejoiced with you in our Lord Jesus Christ, because you have followed the example of His love [as displayed by God], and have accompanied, as became you, those who were bound in chains, the fitting conduct of saints, and which are indeed the diadems of the true elect of God and our Lord; and because the strong root of your faith, spoken of in days long gone by, endures even until now, and brings forth fruit to our Lord Jesus Christ, who for our sins suffered even unto death, [but] whom God raised from the dead, having loosed the bars of the grave. In whom, though now you see Him not, you believe, and believing, rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. 1 Peter 1:8 into which joy many desire to enter, knowing that by grace you are saved, not of works, Ephesians 2:8 by the will of God through Jesus Christ. Chapter 2. An exhortation to virtue Wherefore, girding up your loins, 1 Peter 1:13; Ephesians 6:14 serve the Lord in fear and truth, as those who have forsaken the vain, empty talk and error of a multitude, and believed in Him who raised up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, and gave Him glory, 1 Peter 3:22; He sits on His throne at His right hand. To Him all things in heaven and on earth are subject. His spirit serves. He comes as the Judge of the living and the dead. Acts 17:31 His blood will God require of those who do not believe in Him. But He who raised Him up from the dead will raise us up also, if we do His will, and walk in His commandments, and love what He loved, keeping ourselves from all unrighteousness, covetousness, love of money, false speaking, false witness; not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing, 1 Peter 3:9 or blow for blow, or cursing for cursing, but being mindful of what the Lord said in His teaching: Judge not, that you be not judged; Matthew 7:12 forgive, and it shall be forgiven unto you; be merciful, that you may obtain mercy; Luke 6:36 with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again; Matthew 7:2; Luke 6:38 and once more, Blessed are the poor, and they are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God. Chapter 3. Expressions of personal unworthiness These things, brethren, I write to you concerning righteousness, not because I take anything upon myself, but because you have invited me to do so. For neither I, nor any other such one, can come up to the wisdom of the blessed and glorified Paul. He, when among you, accurately and steadfastly taught the word of truth in the presence of those who were then alive. And when absent from you, he wrote you a letter, which, if you carefully follow, you will find to be the means of building you up in that faith which has been given you, and which, being followed, leads to hope, and preceded by love towards God, and Christ, and our neighbour, is the mother of us all. Galatians 4:22 any one be inwardly possessed of these graces, he has fulfilled the command of righteousness, since he that is thus is far from all sin. Chapter 4. Various exhortations But the love of money is the root of all evils. 1 Timothy 6:10 Knowing, therefore, that as we brought nothing into the world, so we can carry nothing out, 1 Timothy 6:7 let us adorn ourselves with the armour of righteousness; Ephesians 6:11 and let us teach, first of all, ourselves to walk in the commandments of the Lord. Next, [teach] your wives [to walk] in the faith given to them, and in love and purity, loving their own husbands in all truth, and loving all [others] equally in all chastity; and to train up their children in the knowledge and fear of God. Teach the widows to be discreet as respects the faith of the Lord, praying continually 1 Thessalonians 5:17 for all, being far from all slandering, evil-speaking, false-witnessing, love of money, and every kind of evil; knowing that they are the altar of God, that He clearly perceives all things, and that nothing is hid from Him, neither reasonings, nor reflections, nor any one of the secret things of the heart. Chapter 5. The duties of deacons, youths, and virgins Knowing, then, that God is not mocked, Galatians 6:7 we ought to walk worthy of the commandment and glory. In like manner should the deacons be blameless before the face of His righteousness, as servants of God and Christ, and not of men. They must not be slanderers, double-tongued, 1 Timothy 3:8 or lovers of money, but temperate in all things, compassionate, industrious, walking according to the truth of the Lord, who is the servant Matthew 20:28 of all. If we please Him in this present world, we shall receive also the future world, according as He has promised to us that He will raise us again from the dead, and that if we live worthily of Him, we shall reign together with Him, 2 Timothy 2:12 provided only we believe. In like manner, let the young men also be blameless in all things, being especially careful to preserve purity, and keeping themselves in, as with a bridle, from every kind of evil. For it is well that they should be cut off from the lusts that are in the world, since every lust wars against the spirit; 1 Peter 2:11 and neither fornicators, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

kingdom of God, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 nor those who do things inconsistent and unbecoming. Wherefore, it is n abstain from all these things, being subject to the presbyters and deacons, as unto God and Christ. The virgins must walk in a blameless and pure conscience. Chapter 6. The duties of presbyters and others And let the pre compassionate and merciful to all, bringing back those that wander, visiting all the sick, and not neglecting the the orphan, or the poor, but always providing for that which is becoming in the sight of God and man; Romans Corinthians 8:31 abstaining from all wrath, respect of persons, and unjust judgment; keeping far off from all covetousness, not quickly crediting [an evil report] against any one, not severe in judgment, as knowing that w under a debt of sin. If then we entreat the Lord to forgive us, we ought also ourselves to forgive; Matthew 6:12 we are before the eyes of our Lord and God, and we must all appear at the judgment-seat of Christ, and must give an account of himself. Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10 Let us then serve Him in fear, and with all re even as He Himself has commanded us, and as the apostles who preached the Gospel unto us, and the proph proclaimed beforehand the coming of the Lord [have alike taught us]. Let us be zealous in the pursuit of that w good, keeping ourselves from causes of offense, from false brethren, and from those who in hypocrisy bear the the Lord, and draw away vain men into error. Chapter 7. Avoid the Docetæ, and persevere in fasting and praye whosoever does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, is antichrist; 1 John 4:3 and whosoever c confess the testimony of the cross, is of the devil; and whosoever perverts the oracles of the Lord to his own lu and says that there is neither a resurrection nor a judgment, he is the first-born of Satan. Wherefore, forsaking vanity of many, and their false doctrines, let us return to the word which has been handed down to us from Juo beginning; watching unto prayer, 1 Peter 4:7 and persevering in fasting; beseeching in our supplications the al God not to lead us into temptation, Matthew 6:13; Matthew 26:41 as the Lord has said: The spirit truly is willing the flesh is weak. Matthew 26:41; Mark 14:38 Chapter 8. Persevere in hope and patience Let us then continua in our hope, and the earnest of our righteousness, which is Jesus Christ, who bore our sins in His own body or 1 Peter 2:24 who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth, 1 Peter 2:22 but endured all things for us, th might live in Him. 1 John 4:9 Let us then be imitators of His patience; and if we suffer Acts 5:41; 1 Peter 4:16 fo name's sake, let us glorify Him. For He has set us this example 1 Peter 2:21 in Himself, and we have believed is the case. Chapter 9. Patience inculcated I exhort you all, therefore, to yield obedience to the word of righteousness, and to exercise all patience, such as you have seen [set] before your eyes, not only in the case blessed Ignatius, and Zosimus, and Rufus, but also in others among yourselves, and in Paul himself, and the r apostles. [This do] in the assurance that all these have not run Philippians 2:16; Galatians 2:2 in vain, but in fa and righteousness, and that they are [now] in their due place in the presence of the Lord, with whom also they For they loved not this present world, but Him who died for us, and for our sakes was raised again by God from Chapter 10. Exhortation to the practice of virtue Stand fast, therefore, in these things, and follow the example o Lord, being firm and unchangeable in the faith, loving the brotherhood, 1 Peter 2:17 and being attached to one joined together in the truth, exhibiting the meekness of the Lord in your intercourse with one another, and desp one. When you can do good, defer it not, because alms delivers from death. Tobit 4:10, Tobit 12:9 Be all of yo one to another 1 Peter 5:5 having your conduct blameless among the Gentiles, 1 Peter 2:12 that you may both praise for your good works, and the Lord may not be blasphemed through you. But woe to him by whom the na is blasphemed! Isaiah 52:5 Teach, therefore, sobriety to all, and manifest it also in your own conduct. Chapter Expression of grief on account of Valens I am greatly grieved for Valens, who was once a presbyter among yo so little understands the place that was given him [in the Church]. I exhort you, therefore, that you abstain from covetousness, and that you be chaste and truthful. Abstain from every form of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 For if cannot govern himself in such matters, how shall he enjoin them on others? If a man does not keep himself fro covetousness, he shall be defiled by idolatry, and shall be judged as one of the heathen. But who of us are ign the judgment of the Lord? Do we not know that the saints shall judge the world? 1 Corinthians 6:2 as Paul teach have neither seen nor heard of any such thing among you, in the midst of whom the blessed Paul laboured, an commended in the beginning of his Epistle. For he boasts of you in all those Churches which alone then knew but we [of Smyrna] had not yet known Him. I am deeply grieved, therefore, brethren, for him (Valens) and his v whom may the Lord grant true repentance! And be then moderate in regard to this matter, and do not count su enemies, 2 Thessalonians 3:15 but call them back as suffering and straying members, that you may save your

For by so acting you shall edify yourselves. 1 Corinthians 12:26 Chapter 12. Exhortation to various graces For that you are well versed in the , and that nothing is hid from you; but to me this privilege is not yet granted. It is declared then in these Scriptures, Be angry, and sin not, and, Let not the sun go down upon your wrath. Ephesians 4:26 Happy is he who remembers this, which I believe to be the case with you. But may the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ Himself, who is the Son of God, and our everlasting High Priest, build you up in faith and truth, and in all meekness, gentleness, patience, long-suffering, forbearance, and purity; and may He bestow of His lot and portion among His saints, and on us with you, and on all that are under heaven, who shall believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, and in His Father, who raised Him from the dead. Galatians 1:1 Pray for all the saints. Pray also for kings, 1 Timothy 2:2 and potentates, and princes, and for those that persecute and hate you, Matthew 5:44 and for your enemies of the cross, that your fruit may be manifest to all, and that you may be perfect in Him. Chapter 13. Concerning the transmission of epistles Both you and Ignatius wrote to me, that if any one went [from this] into Syria, he should carry your letter with him; which request I will attend to if I find a fitting opportunity, either personally, or through some other acting for me, that your desire may be fulfilled. The Epistles of Ignatius written by him to us and to all the rest [of his Epistles] which we have by us, we have sent to you, as you requested. They are subjoined to this Epistle, and by them you may be greatly profited; for they treat of faith and patience, and all things that tend to edification in our Lord. Any more certain information you may have obtained respecting both Ignatius himself, and those that were with him, have the goodness to make known to us. Chapter 14. Conclusion These things I have written to you, Crescens, whom up to the present time I have recommended unto you, and do now recommend. For he has a good hope among us, and I believe also among you. Moreover, you will hold his sister in esteem when she comes to you. Fare ye well, the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with you all. Amen. About this page Source. Translated by Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson. From Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 1. Edited by Alexander Roberts, James Donaldson, and A. Cleveland Coxe. (Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Co., 1885.) Revised and edited for New Advent by Kevin Knight. <<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0136.htm>>. Contact information. The editor of New Advent is Kevin Knight. My e-mail address is feedback732 at newadvent.org. (To help fight spam, this address might change occasionally.) Regrettably, I can't reply to every letter, but I greatly appreciate your feedback - especially notifications about typographical errors and inappropriate ads.