

# Early Church Today

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### JESUS said:

***“Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than raiment?”***

***Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they.***

Mathew 6:25-27

## World Wide Economic Meltdown?

No work, no food, no money, no home, no hope, utter despair! The end of life as we have known it. If these predictions are correct, the “American dream” is about to end.

***Praise GOD!!!*** Why? Because we who are His sons and daughters are not of this world, and have nothing to fear .

David said, ***“I have not seen the righteous foresaken, nor his seed begging bread.”*** (Psalm 37:25) It is written, ***“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy ways.”*** (Proverbs 3:5-6) We are admonished to ***“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to GOD; and the peace of GOD, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through CHRIST JESUS.”*** (Philippians 4:6-7)

So, what is there for *us* to fear or be anxious about? If these predictions are true, we know that our LORD will provide for *our* needs, and there will be wonderful opportunities to share the Good News of GOD's Kingdom with all those who will be in despair. What a blessed time it will be when we see souls saved from the *real* wrath to come.

“Oh, how great peace and quietness would he possess who should cut off all vain anxiety and place all his confidence in GOD.”

Thomas a'Kempis

## Wisdom From The Past

by Cyprian (c. 250, W), 5.279

***The one peaceful and trustworthy tranquility, the one solid, firm, and constant security is this: for a man to withdraw from this whirlpool of a distracting world and to lift his eyes from earth to heaven, anchored on the ground of the harbor of salvation. . . . He who is actually greater than the world can crave nothing or desire nothing from the world. How stable, how free from all shocks is that safeguard. How heavenly . . . to be loosed from the snares of this entangling world and to be purged from earthly dregs and be fitted for the light of eternal immortality.***

\* From *A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs*, © 1998 by David W. Bercot, editor. Hendrickson Publishers.

## Help!

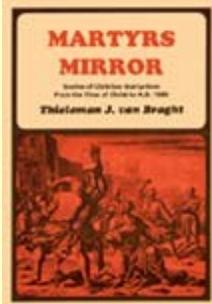
We need *your* help at *Early Church Today*.

If you have an article, or a favorite quotation, or a Scripture to share, please send it to: [editor@earlychurch.com](mailto:editor@earlychurch.com)

*We have no country on earth. Therefore, we can disdain earthly possessions.*

Clement of Alexandria  
(c. 195, E), 2.374) \*

## We Recommend



This is the most-widely read Anabaptist (Mennonite) book of all time. This massive work contains three early Mennonite confessions of faith, accounts of Christian martyrs from the days of the apostles up to the time of the Reformation, and accounts of Anabaptist martyrs up through the early 17th century. 1157 pp. Large hardback.

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## The Method of Missions

by Oswald Chambers

Submitted by Bob Apadodaca

***Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations . . .*** (Matthew 28:19)

Jesus Christ did not say, "Go and save souls" (the salvation of souls is the supernatural work of God), but He said, "***Go . . . make disciples of all the nations . . .***" Yet you cannot make disciples unless you are a disciple yourself. When the disciples returned from their first mission, they were filled with joy because even the demons were subject to them. But Jesus said, in effect, "Don't rejoice in successful service—the great secret of joy is that you have the right relationship with Me" (see Luke 10:17-20). The missionary's great essential is remaining true to the call of God, and realizing that his one and only purpose is to disciple men and women to Jesus.

Remember that there is a passion for souls that does not come from God, but from our desire to make converts to our point of view.

The challenge to the missionary does not come from the fact that people are difficult to bring to salvation, that backsliders are difficult to reclaim, or that there is a barrier of callous indifference. No, the challenge comes from the perspective of the missionary's own personal relationship with Jesus Christ— "***Do you believe that I am able to do this?***" (Matthew 9:28). Our Lord unwaveringly asks us that question, and it confronts us in every individual situation we encounter. The one great challenge to us is— do I know my risen Lord? Do I know the power of His indwelling Spirit? Am I wise enough in God's sight, but foolish enough according to the wisdom of the world, to trust in what Jesus Christ has said? Or am I abandoning the great supernatural position of limitless confidence in Christ Jesus, which is really God's only call for a missionary? If I follow any other method, I depart altogether from the methods prescribed by our Lord— "***All authority has been given to Me . . . . Go therefore. . .***" (Matthew 28:18-19).

## Our Greatest Need

Thanks to Godthoughts <[bradkaren@comcast.net](mailto:bradkaren@comcast.net)>

***"But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern between good and evil."*** Hebrews 5:14

The greatest need in the body of Christ today is discernment.

***"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment."*** Philippians 1:9

DISCERNMENT: "aisthesis," The ability to make judgments.

The Bible clearly warns that in these last days (see Hebrews 1:2) the ability to discern between what is of God...and what is NOT OF GOD, will be critical.

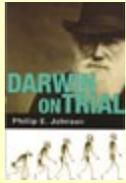
***"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."*** 1 John 4:1

In my 30+ years of involvement in church leadership and ministry I have found that the average church-goer (Christian or no) is one of the most gullible and easily influenced and manipulated people on the earth.

***"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."*** 2 Corinthians 11:13-14

The Bible warns that in these last days, "***False prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect***" (Matthew 24:24).

***"Many will be misled"*** (see also Matthew 24:11).



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**“If you have not chosen the Kingdom of GOD first, it will in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead.”**

William Law

***And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.***

Revelation 18:4