The Third Century
History: The Early Church
September 29, 2021

"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense [Greek *apologia] to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you."*
1 Peter 3:15

Theme: Six Highlights of the Third Century

1. The Rise of **Persecution and Apostacy**
    - Notable **Persecutors**
        - Emperor **Severus** (202-211).
        - Emperor **Decius** (249-251).
    - Notable **Persecuted**
        - Those who **Died:** *Martyrs and Saints*
            - **Perpetua** and **Felicitas** (c. 203).
            - **Fabian,** Bishop of Rome (250).

        - Those Who **Suffered:** *Confessors*

        - Those Who **Lapsed**: *Apostates*

2. The Rise of **Roman Catholic Christianity**
    - **Salvation** in the Church: *Baptism*
        - The Rise of **Infant Baptism**

        - The Rise of **Baptismal Regeneration**

        - The Rise of **Lent**

    - **Authority** in the Church: *The Papacy*
        - The Rise of **Apostolic Succession**

        - The Rise of **Synods**

        - The Rise of **the Bishop of Rome**

    - **Forgiveness** by the Church: *Penance*
        - Rejected by **Novatian:** *The Church is a Society of Saints*

        - Affirmed by **Cornelius:** *The Church is a School of Sinners*

3. The Rise of **More Heresies**

    - Concerning **God**: *Monarchianism*

    - Concerning **Christ**: *Adoptionism*

    - Concerning **the Trinity**: *Sabellianism (Modalism)*

4. The Rise of **Apologists**

    - **Clement of Alexandria** *(c. 150-211): An Unhelpful Harmonizer*

    - **Tertullian of Carthage** (c. 160-225): *A Trinitarian Attorney*

    - **Origen of Alexandria** (c. 185-253): *An Influential Interpreter*

    - **Cyprian of Carthage** (c. 205-258): *An Innovative Bishop*

5. The Rise of **Seminary:** *Catechetical School of Alexandria*

6. The Rise of the **New Testament:** *The Developing Canon*

The Third Century:
A Timeline

- 202 Emperor Severus Begins Persecution
- 215 Origen Begins Writing
- C.220 Tertullian Dies
- 235 Emperor Maximus Begins Persecution
- 248 Cyprian Elected Bishop of Carthage
- 249 Emperor Decius Begins Persecution
- 254 Death of Origen
- 257 Emperor Valerian Begins Persecution
- 269 Council of Antioch: Paul of Samosata
- 271 St. Anthony Becomes First Monk
- 284 Emperor Diocletian Enters Power