THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about catechumens?

Asked by a THF member on May 21, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 10 numbered quotations · the 15 early Christian passages and 172 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-christians-believe-about-catechumens

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Catechumens were people preparing for baptism. The early writers say they were first tested and taught the basics of the faith, prepared with prayer and fasting, and prayed for by the church. They left before the holy mysteries, since only the baptized shared the Eucharist. A catechumen killed for the faith was counted as baptized in blood.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 7

Catechumens were taught first, then baptized

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions tell church leaders to teach catechumens the basic elements of the faith and then baptize them. Origen says Christians first tested those who wanted to hear them and taught them in private before bringing them into the community.

1 “Instruct the catechumens in the basic elements of religion, and then baptize them.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** **Source 14, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

2 “Christians, however, first test, as much as possible, the souls of those who want to become their hearers, and first instruct them in private.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 51 **Source 7, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 215–254 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Their lives were examined before they joined

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen describes a class of beginners who had not yet received full purification. He says some were appointed to look at how these people lived, so that those living shamefully were kept out of the public assembly.

3 “They privately form one class of those who are beginners and are being admitted, but who have not yet received the mark of complete purification; and another class of those who have shown, as far as they can, their intention to desire nothing except what Christians approve.”

later in the same passage

“Among these, certain persons are appointed to examine the lives and conduct of those who join them, so that they may keep those who commit shameful acts from entering their public assembly.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 51 **Source 7, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 215–254 AD)
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POINT 3 OF 7

They prepared with prayer, fasting and confession

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache asks the one being baptized to fast one or two days beforehand. Tertullian says those about to be baptized should pray often, fast, kneel, keep night vigils and confess their past sins.

4 "And you shall instruct the one being baptized to fast one or two days beforehand."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 7 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

5 "Those who are about to enter baptism ought to pray with repeated prayers, fasts, bendings of the knee, and vigils through the whole night. They should also confess all their past sins, so that they may express the meaning even of John's baptism."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 20 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

The whole church prayed for them

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

In the Apostolic Constitutions, the deacon leads the faithful in praying for the catechumens. They ask God to teach them, unite them to His flock and grant them the washing of new birth.

6 "And let the deacon lead the prayers for them, saying: Let us all pray to God for the catechumens, that He who is good, He who loves mankind, will mercifully hear their prayers and their requests, and accept their petitions in such a way as to help them and give them those desires of their hearts that are for their good, and reveal to them the Gospel of His Christ."

later in the same passage

"May He strengthen them in piety, unite them to His holy flock and number them with it, grant them the laver of regeneration and the garment of incorruption, which is the true life, deliver them from all ungodliness, and give no place to the adversary against them."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 13, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 5 OF 7

They left before the Eucharist

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Liturgy of St. James sends out the catechumens and the unbaptized before the holy prayers continue. The Didache explains why: only those baptized into the Lord's name may eat or drink of the Eucharist.

7 “Let none of the catechumens remain, none of the unbaptized, and none of those who are unable to join us in prayer.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 6, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

8 “But let no one eat or drink of your Thanksgiving, or Eucharist, except those who have been baptized into the name of the Lord.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 9 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 2, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Tertullian faults groups that blur the line

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian criticizes groups outside the Church where no one can tell a catechumen from a believer. He says their catechumens are treated as mature before they are fully taught, which shows he expected a clear stage of learning first.

9 “To begin with, it is uncertain who is a catechumen and who is a believer. They all have the same access, they all hear the same things, and they all pray alike—even pagans, if any happen to come among them.”

later in the same passage

“Their catechumens are fully mature before they are fully taught.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Prescription Against Heretics* 41 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 5, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 7 OF 7

A martyred catechumen is baptized in blood

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian answers the question of a catechumen killed for confessing Christ before baptism. He says such a person holds the Church's sound faith and is not deprived of baptism, because he receives the baptism of blood.

10 “Then let them know that such people are certainly not deprived of the sacrament of baptism, since they are baptized with the most glorious and greatest baptism of blood.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 9, page 6 **Read it in the library ›**

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not say how long a person stayed a catechumen before baptism.
- They do not settle what happens to a catechumen who dies naturally before baptism; Cyprian says only that such a one had not received the completion of grace.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 15 early Christian passages and 172 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–15, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 16–152, in Bible order), then 35 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

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EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *15 passages from 8 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · sources 1–2*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 7 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “before the baptism let the baptizer fast, and the baptized, and whatever others can… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 9 **Quote 8, page 4** “about the Thanksgiving, or Eucharist, give thanks in this way. First, about the cup: "We thank You, our Father, for the holy vine of David Your Servant, which You made… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 3*

3 *Shepherd* (1885 English) “are they who have heard the word, and wish to be baptized in the name of the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 4–5*

4 *On Baptism* 20 **Quote 5, page 3** “who are about to enter baptism ought to pray with repeated prayers… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *On Prescription Against Heretics* 41 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “catechumens are perfect before they are full-taught… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · source 6*

6 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “Let none remain of the catechumens, none of the unbaptized, none of those who are unable to join with us in prayer. Look at one another. The door… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 7–8*

7 *Against Celsus* 51 (1885 English) **Quotes 2, 3, page 2** “another of those who have manifested to the best of their ability their intention to desire no other things than are approved by Christians… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Against Celsus* 59 (1885 English; on point 2) “when those who have been turned towards virtue have made progress, and have shown that they have been purified by the word, and have led as far as they can… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 9–11*

9 *Epistles* **Quote 10, page 5** to cancel out the truth of the Gospel statement. They object to us by bringing up the case of catechumens. They ask whether, if one of them should be arrested… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 7) “and teaching that this is a baptism greater in grace, more lofty in power, more precious in honour— a baptism wherein angels baptize— a baptism in which God and His… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Epistles* (1885 English) “they who still abide in life should be baptized with the baptism of the Church, that they may obtain remission of sins, lest by the presumption of others they remain… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 12–14*

12 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) of the Lord. After this, let all rise up with one consent, and looking toward the east, after the catechumens and penitents have gone out, pray to God eastward, who… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 6, page 3** “You catechumens, pray, and let all the faithful pray… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 1, page 2** “the penitent, for this is the will of God in Christ. Instruct the catechumens in the basic elements of religion, and then baptize them. Avoid the atheistical heretics, who are… [continues online] **read ›**

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Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 15*

15 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 1) “These mysteries, which the Church now declares to you who have been moved from the group of catechumens, it is not her custom to declare to the Gentiles. For we… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *137 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

16 **Exodus 24:7** Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will listen.” **read ›**

17 **Leviticus 8:3** and assemble all the congregation at the door of the tabernacle of witness.” **read ›**

18 **Leviticus 13:54** the priest shall give orders, and one shall wash the thing on which the plague is, and the priest shall set the plague apart seven days a second time. **read ›**

19 **Numbers 8:7** And thus you shall perform their purification: you shall sprinkle them with water of purification, and a razor shall pass over their whole body, and they shall wash their garments and be clean. **read ›**

20 **Numbers 10:13** They set out first by the voice of the Lord, by the hand of Moses. **read ›**

21 **Numbers 19:17** And for the unclean they shall take some of the burnt ashes of the purification, and they shall pour running water over them into a vessel. **read ›**

22 **Numbers 19:20** But the man who is defiled and does not purify himself, that person shall be utterly destroyed from the midst of the congregation, because he has defiled the holy place of the Lord, because the water of sprinkling was not sprinkled on him; he is unclean. **read ›**

23 **Numbers 31:23** everything that passes through fire shall be clean; yet it shall be purified with the water of purification. And whatever does not pass through fire shall pass through water. **read ›**

24 **Deuteronomy 4:10** about the day that you stood before the Lord our God in Horeb, on the day of the assembly, when the Lord said to me, “Assemble the people to me, and let them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and they shall teach their sons.” **read ›**

25 **Deuteronomy 5:27** You go near and hear all that the Lord our God says; and you shall speak to us all that the Lord our God speaks to you, and we will hear and do it.” **read ›**

26 **Deuteronomy 31:12** when you have assembled the people—the men, the women, the children, and the resident foreigner who is in your cities—so that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God; and they shall listen so as to do all the words of this law. **read ›**

27 **Joshua 22:6** So Jesus blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their homes. **read ›**

28 **2 Chronicles 30:19** “May the good Lord be merciful toward every heart that is directed to seek the Lord God of their fathers, though not according to the purity of the sanctuary.” **read ›**

29 **Ezra 9:6** and I said, “O Lord, I am ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to you, my God; for our acts of lawlessness have multiplied over our head, and our trespasses have grown great, up to heaven. **read ›**

30 **Proverbs 5:16** Do not let waters from your spring be spilled over for you, but let your waters go through your streets. **read ›**

31 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

32 **Ecclesiastes 1:12** I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. **read ›**

33 **Ecclesiastes 4:14** For he will come out of the house of the prisoners to reign, for even in his kingdom he became poor. **read ›**

34 **Ecclesiastes 8:13** But it will not be good for the ungodly man, and he will not prolong his days in a shadow, he who does not fear before God. **read ›**

35 **Song of Solomon 7:8** I said, “I will go up to the palm tree; I will take hold of its heights.” And now your breasts shall be like clusters of the vine, and the fragrance of your nose like apples, (Septuagint Song of Solomon 7:9 (Song of Solomon 7:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

36 **Song of Solomon 7:13** The mandrakes have given a fragrance, and at our doors are all choice fruits, new and old; my kinsman, I have kept them for you. (Septuagint Song of Solomon 7:14 (Song of Solomon 7:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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37 **Isaiah 1:12** not even if you come to appear before me; for who has required these things from your hands? You shall no longer tread my court. **read ›**

38 **Isaiah 1:17** learn to do good; seek out judgment; rescue the one who is wronged; judge for the orphan, and do justice for the widow. **read ›**

39 **Isaiah 5:24** Therefore, as stubble shall be burned by a coal of fire and be consumed by a flame let loose, their root shall be like chaff, and their blossom shall go up like dust; for they did not desire the law of the Lord of hosts, but provoked the oracle of the Holy One of Israel. **read ›**

40 **Isaiah 13:22** and donkey-centaurs will dwell there, and hedgehogs will make their nests in their houses. It comes quickly and will not delay. **read ›**

41 **Isaiah 14:3** And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will give you rest from your anguish and your anger, and from your hard slavery, in which you served them. **read ›**

42 **Isaiah 14:8** and the trees of Lebanon have been glad over you, and the cedar of Lebanon: 'Since you were laid to rest, no one has come up to cut us down.' **read ›**

43 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

44 **Jeremiah 33:12** Thus said the Lord of hosts: In this place that is desolate, because there is no man and no beast, and in all its cities, there shall yet be places to stay for shepherds resting their sheep, (Septuagint Jeremiah 40:12 (Jeremiah 33:12 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

45 **Jeremiah 49:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

46 **Lamentations 1:7** Zain. Jerusalem remembered the days of her humiliation and of her rejection, all her desirable things that were from days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the oppressor, and there was none to help her; her enemies saw it and laughed at her dwelling. **read ›**

47 **Ezekiel 33:33** And when it comes, they shall say, "Behold, it has come," and they shall know that a prophet was in their midst. **read ›**

48 **Ezekiel 44:19** And when they go out into the outer court to the people, they shall take off their garments in which they minister and lay them in the rooms of the sanctuary, and they shall put on other garments; and they shall not sanctify the people with their garments. **read ›**

49 **Amos 3:9** Proclaim it to the regions among the Assyrians, and to the regions of Egypt, and say, "Gather yourselves on the mountain of Samaria, and see the many marvels in her midst, and the oppression that is in her." **read ›**

50 **Habakkuk 1:9** Destruction will come upon the ungodly, resisting with their faces set against him, and he will gather captives like sand. **read ›**

51 **Habakkuk 2:16** You also, drink your fill of dishonor instead of glory; be shaken, O heart, and quake; the cup of the right hand of the Lord has come round upon you, and dishonor has gathered upon your glory. **read ›**

52 **1 Esdras 5:39** When the record of the descent of these men was sought in the register and was not found, they were excluded from serving as priests. **read ›**

53 **1 Esdras 5:40** And Nehemiah and Attharias told them not to share in the holy things until a high priest should arise clothed with the Manifestation and the Truth. **read ›**

54 **1 Esdras 9:6** All the multitude sat together in the open square of the temple, trembling because of the stormy weather of the time. **read ›**

55 **1 Esdras 9:38** And the whole multitude gathered together in the open square before the gate of the temple toward the east, **read ›**

56 **1 Esdras 9:55** because they had been filled with understanding by the words in which they had been instructed, and they had been gathered together. **read ›**

57 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:25** Turn back to the Lord and forsake your sins; make your prayer before his face and lessen your offense. **read ›**

58 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:21** Before you fall sick, humble yourself, and in the time of sins, show your turning back. **read ›**

59 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:17** The mouth of the man of sound judgment will be sought in the assembly, and they will ponder his words in their heart. **read ›**

60 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:19** Instruction is shackles on the feet of the foolish, and like manacles on the right hand. **read ›**

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61 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:4** Prepare your word, and so you will be heard; bind up instruction, and then answer. **read ›**

62 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:16** Enoch pleased the Lord and was taken away, an example of repentance to the generations. **read ›**

63 **Baruch 1:5** And they wept and fasted and prayed before the Lord. **read ›**

64 **Baruch 1:17** because we have sinned before the Lord, **read ›**

65 **1 Maccabees 3:44** And the congregation gathered together to be ready for battle, and to pray and to ask for mercy and compassion. **read ›**

66 **1 Maccabees 4:43** and they cleansed the sanctuary and carried the stones of defilement out to an unclean place. **read ›**

67 **1 Maccabees 5:16** When Judas and the people heard these words, a great assembly gathered to decide what they should do for their brothers who were in trouble and were being attacked by them. **read ›**

68 **1 Maccabees 5:64** and people gathered to them, acclaiming them. **read ›**

69 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

70 **2 Maccabees 1:12** For he himself cast out those who drew up for battle in the holy city. **read ›**

71 **2 Maccabees 4:14** that the priests were no longer eager for the services of the altar; but despising the temple and neglecting the sacrifices, they hurried to take part in the lawless exhibitions in the wrestling arena after the signal for the discus-throwing. **read ›**

72 **2 Maccabees 8:13** those who were cowardly and who distrusted the justice of God ran away and went elsewhere. **read ›**

73 **2 Maccabees 8:29** When they had done this, they made a common plea and begged the merciful Lord to be fully reconciled with his slaves. **read ›**

74 **2 Maccabees 13:12** When they had all done this together and had pleaded with the merciful Lord with weeping and fasting and lying facedown for three days without ceasing, Judas encouraged them and ordered them to stand ready. **read ›**

75 **2 Maccabees 13:20** And Judas sent in what they needed to those inside. **read ›**

76 **3 Maccabees 5:34** Each of the friends slipped away gloomily, and they dismissed those who had gathered, each to his own occupation. **read ›**

77 **3 Maccabees 6:31** Then those who before had been held in disgrace and near to Hades, or rather had already set foot in it, instead of a bitter and lamentable death held a drinking feast of salvation; and, full of joy, they divided the place prepared for their fall and their tomb into couches for feasting. **read ›**

78 **3 Maccabees 7:8** And we have given each one orders that all should return to their own homes, and have ordered that in every place no one should harm them at all or blame them unreasonably for what has happened. **read ›**

79 **3 Maccabees 7:13** Then their priests, as was fitting, acclaimed him, and all the multitude shouted the Alleluia, and they departed with joy. **read ›**

80 **4 Maccabees 1:12** But I will also be able to speak of this shortly. I will begin with the general proposition, as I am accustomed to do, and then turn to the account of them, giving glory to the all-wise God. **read ›**

81 **4 Maccabees 1:17** This, then, is the education of the Law, by which we learn divine things reverently and human things to our profit. **read ›**

82 **4 Maccabees 5:24** and it instructs us in righteousness, so that in all our ways we act with fairness; and it teaches godliness, so that with due reverence we worship only the God who is. **read ›**

83 **4 Maccabees 13:22** and they grow more strongly through being reared together, and through daily companionship, and through the rest of their education, and through our training in the Law of God. **read ›**

84 **4 Maccabees 14:3** O sacred and harmonious unity of the seven brothers for godliness! **read ›**

85 **4 Maccabees 14:8** so the youths, dancing around the number seven, encircled it, dissolving the fear of the tortures. **read ›**

86 **4 Maccabees 15:3** loved more the godliness that saves to eternal life according to God. **read ›**

87 **4 Maccabees 18:10** While he was still with you, he used to teach you the Law and the Prophets. **read ›**

88 **4 Maccabees 18:23** But the children of Abraham, with their victorious mother, are gathered together into the chorus of the fathers, having received immortal souls from God. **read ›**

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89 **1 Enoch 1:7** The earth shall be split apart, torn by a crack, and all that is on the earth shall perish, and there shall be judgment upon all. **read ›**

90 **1 Enoch 5:8** Then light and grace shall be given to the chosen ones, and they shall inherit the earth. Then wisdom shall be given to all the chosen ones, and they shall all live and shall never sin again, neither through ungodliness nor through pride; and in an enlightened man there shall be light, and in a man of knowledge, understanding. **read ›**

91 **1 Enoch 8:2** And there was much ungodliness, and they committed sexual immorality and were led astray and were ruined in all their ways. **read ›**

92 **1 Enoch 13:2** and you shall have no relief and no petition granted, because of the unrighteous deeds that you showed, and because of all the works of ungodliness and unrighteousness and sin that you showed to men." **read ›**

93 **1 Enoch 13:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

94 **1 Enoch 22:10** And so this one was created for sinners, when they die and are buried in the earth and judgment has not come upon them in their lifetime. **read ›**

95 **1 Enoch 38:1** The first Parable. When the congregation of the righteous shall appear, and sinners shall be judged for their sins, and shall be driven from the face of the earth, **read ›**

96 **1 Enoch 60:6** And when the day, and the power, and the punishment, and the judgment come, which the Lord of Spirits has prepared for those who do not worship the righteous law, and for those who deny the righteous judgment, and for those who take his name in vain, that day is prepared: for the chosen ones a covenant, but for sinners an inquiry." **read ›**

97 **1 Enoch 62:8** And the congregation of the chosen and holy shall be sown, and all the chosen ones shall stand before him on that day. **read ›**

98 **1 Enoch 93:10** At its close the chosen righteous of the eternal plant of righteousness shall be chosen, to receive sevenfold instruction concerning all his creation. **read ›**

99 **1 Enoch 94:9** You have committed blasphemy and unrighteousness, and have become ready for the day of slaughter, and the day of darkness, and the day of the great judgment. **read ›**

100 **1 Enoch 95:4** Woe to you who pronounce curses which cannot be reversed: healing shall therefore be far from you because of your sins. **read ›**

101 **1 Enoch 108:11** And now I will summon the spirits of the good who belong to the generation of light, and I will transform those who were born in darkness, who in the flesh were not repaid with such honor as their faithfulness deserved. **read ›**

102 **1 Enoch 108:15** And the sinners shall cry aloud and see them shining brightly, and they indeed shall go where days and seasons are prescribed for them." **read ›**

103 **Matthew 3:6** They were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. **read ›**

104 **Matthew 11:15** He who has ears to hear, let him hear. **read ›**

105 **Matthew 13:9** He who has ears to hear, let him hear." **read ›**

106 **Matthew 18:17** If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **read ›**

107 **Mark 1:4** John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. **read ›**

108 **Mark 1:5** All the country of Judea and the people of Jerusalem went out to him, and they were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. **read ›**

109 **Luke 3:3** He came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins, **read ›**

110 **Luke 21:38** All the people came early in the morning to him in the temple to hear him. **read ›**

111 **John 6:66** At this, many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him. **read ›**

112 **Acts 1:16** "Brothers, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. **read ›**

113 **Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

114 **Acts 2:41** Then those who gladly received his word were baptized. There were added that day about three thousand souls. **read ›**

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115 **Acts 2:42** They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **read ›**

116 **Acts 8:6** The multitudes listened with one accord to the things that were spoken by Philip when they heard and saw the signs which he did. **read ›**

117 **Acts 8:12** But when they believed Philip as he preached the gospel concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. **read ›**

118 **Acts 10:41** not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen before by God, to us, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **read ›**

119 **Acts 10:48** He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay for some days. **read ›**

120 **Acts 13:3** Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. **read ›**

121 **Acts 13:24** after John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to Israel before Jesus' coming. **read ›**

122 **Acts 14:27** When they arrived and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. **read ›**

123 **Acts 15:12** All the multitude kept silence, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul reporting what signs and wonders God had done among the nations through them. **read ›**

124 **Acts 15:30** So, when they were sent off, they came to Antioch. Having gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. **read ›**

125 **Acts 18:25** He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. **read ›**

126 **Acts 19:3** He said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." **read ›**

127 **Acts 19:4** Paul said, "John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus." **read ›**

128 **Acts 19:5** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **read ›**

129 **Acts 19:9** But when some were hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and separated the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. **read ›**

130 **Acts 19:41** When he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly. **read ›**

131 **Romans 6:4** We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. **read ›**

132 **Romans 6:10** For the death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. **read ›**

133 **Romans 7:2** For the woman that has a husband is bound by law to the husband while he lives, but if the husband dies, she is discharged from the law of the husband. **read ›**

134 **Romans 10:17** So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. **read ›**

135 **1 Corinthians 1:5** that in everything you were enriched in him, in all speech and all knowledge, **read ›**

136 **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power. **read ›**

137 **1 Corinthians 11:29** For the one who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks judgment on himself, not discerning the Lord's body. **read ›**

138 **1 Corinthians 11:34** But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you do not come together for judgment. I will put the rest in order when I come. **read ›**

139 **1 Corinthians 14:23** If therefore the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and unlearned or unbelieving people come in, will they not say that you are mad? **read ›**

140 **Ephesians 4:5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **read ›**

141 **Ephesians 4:21** if indeed you heard him and were taught in him, even as truth is in Jesus: **read ›**

142 **1 Timothy 5:12** having condemnation, because they have abandoned their former faithfulness. **read ›**

143 **Hebrews 4:2** For we too have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the word they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who heard. **read ›**

144 **Hebrews 6:2** of the teaching of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. **read ›**

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145 **Hebrews 9:10** These gifts and sacrifices concern only foods and drinks, various washings, and ordinances of the flesh, imposed until a time of reformation. **read ›**

146 **Hebrews 10:25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. **read ›**

147 **1 Peter 3:21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now also saves us—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but the appeal of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **read ›**

148 **1 John 2:19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us. But they went out so that it might be made manifest that none of them belong to us. **read ›**

149 **Revelation 2:29** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **read ›**

150 **Revelation 3:6** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **read ›**

151 **Revelation 3:13** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **read ›**

152 **Revelation 3:22** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *35 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Psalms 23:1

Isaiah 40:11 · 55:1

Ezekiel 34:13

Matthew 4:1 · 7:6 · 7:7 · 12:32 · 13:19 · 24:12 · 24:24 · 26:29 · 26:41 · 28:19

Mark 5:9 · 5:15 · 14:25

Luke 11:9 · 18:8 · 22:28

John 3:5 · 15:1

Acts 20:28

Romans 16:21

1 Corinthians 2:6 · 3:13 · 10:2 · 12:4

2 Corinthians 6:16 · 7:1

Hebrews 3:12 · 6:8 · 11:3

1 Peter 1:19 · 2:9

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early Christians believe about catechumens?” on May 21, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY