IX. A Visit Within

A. Apostolic Fathers - Those taught by the apostles

1. Clement - Rome

2. Hermas - Rome

3. Ignatius – elderly bishop at Antioch, succeeded the apostles, condemned by the Romans and sent to Rome to amuse crowds celebrating a Roman military victory; wrote seven letters en route and was met by a delegation from Ephesus headed up by Onesimus (Paul’s friend?); on hearing that Christians in Rome were talking about an attempt to free him, Ignatius asked that they not do that, but rather that they pray for strength to face every trial ahead of him;

4. Polycarp – Smyrna (Read his story)

5. Barnabas - probably Alexandria

B. Apologists - Defended Christianity against skeptics and pagans

1. Justin Martyr—wrote books defending the Christian faith, founded a school in Rome to teach the “true philosophy”; shortly before being martyred in Rome, he had successfully debated a pagan philosopher and was probably accused by him.

2. Tatian

C. Church Fathers - Important leaders and thinkers in the first couple centuries

1. Irenaeus—pastoral figure; grand view of history as God’s story; lived in “France”

2. Tertullian

3. Origen

D. Struggles against error

1. Gnosticism

2. Montanism