

without showing they have actually done evil. It is wrong to call Xns atheists because they refuse to worship pagan idols; in fact, they worship the true God. To say that Xns are traitors and cannot be good citizens because they owe allegiance to another kingdom is to fail to distinguish between the kingdoms of this world and the kingdom of God.

The second part (chs 21-60) seeks to demonstrate the superiority of Xy over paganism. The chief evidence given is the fulfillment of OT (esp Messianic) prophecy.

The third part (chs 61-68) attempts to answer the traditional charges against Xns -- cannibalism, incest, and sexual orgies. Such charges arise from misunderstanding the simple and pure Xn worship. The bread and wine is not the flesh and blood of a sacrificed person. Xns do not practice incest, but merely call each other "brother" and "sister." The Lord's Supper is not a sexual orgy. Rather, each Sunday Xns pledge themselves to live righteously and to hate sin. Justin concludes by observing that justice demands that the beliefs of the Xns ought to be respected if they are in accordance with reason and truth; they are to be despised if they are deemed erroneous. But in no case ought death to be inflicted on those who have done no wrong.

In reply to the First Apology (and other petitions) the emperor Antoninus Pius wrote a letter to the Assembly of Asia urging the governors not to punish Xns merely for being Xns, but to let the gods themselves punish those who will not worship them. Only if Xns made attempts against the Roman government should they be punished.

Justin wrote a shorter Second Apology (about 160) which made a request to the emperor to prohibit all illegal persecutions of Xns without evidence that a crime has been committed. Justin himself was martyred in AD 165.

#### 6. Theophilus to Autolytus (about 180)

Theophilus was bishop of Antioch, born a pagan but converted by the study of Scripture. His three-volume apology was written to convince Autolytus, an intelligent pagan who scorned Xy, that the Scriptures are superior in every way to pagan philosophy and poetry, and ought to be accepted and believed. The Scriptures are able to produce trust in their own truthfulness, for they contain predictions that have been and continue to be fulfilled.

The true God is known by His works and can be seen in them, just as by observing a ship sailing into a harbor, we infer a pilot steering it. The gods of the pagans, by contrast -- such as Saturn, Jupiter, Bacchus, and Venus -- are merely human sinners on a large scale. Their deeds -- incest, adultery, lust, drunkenness, partying -- are not the sort we should imitate. It is the peak of foolishness to worship statues and carvings, which when made are of little value, but which on being purchased become objects of worship. Pagan worship of kings is also foolish, for the king is not a god. The Xn, however, is a loyal