

## Course Outline

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### **Irenaeus of Lyons (b. 140/161); the Last of the Church Writers Using Greek**

- I. His writing
  - a. *The Detection and Overthrow of the Pretended but False Gnosis*
  - b. *The Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching*
- II. His teaching
  - a. His abundant use of Scripture
  - b. The theory of recapitulation: i.e., Christ recapitulated all the stages of human life, requiring an age of 50 years.
  - c. Called the father of Biblical theology
- III. His exegetical method
  - a. Use of Scripture
  - b. Use of a simpler passage to understand a more complex passage
  - c. His appeal to tradition to combat the gnostics
  - d. His appeal to the whole Scripture instead of isolated passages to refute heresies

### **Western Writers of the Third Century**

- I. Tertullian (155-220? A.D.), born in Carthage
  - a. Prodigious writer, writing between 195-220 A.D.
  - b. Head of the Montanists (later called Tertullianists)
  - c. First significant writer in Latin
    - i. Apologetical work

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- ii. Controversial treaties
    - iii. Moral works
  - d. Analysis
    - i. A brilliant man
    - ii. Extreme in some teaching
    - iii. Perceptive in analyzing the culture of his time
    - iv. Drew distinctions between Christianity and Greek philosophy
    - v. Gave some places for errors in the Middle Ages

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