

Justin Martyr

Characters in History

Justin Martyr

~110 - 165 AD

Gentile born in Samaria

Philosopher traveling
extensively studying and
searching for truth

One of earliest *extant*
apologies of Christianity
addressed to Antoninus
Pius & Marcus Aurelius.



*Justin was especially prominent in those days.
In the guise of a philosopher he preached the
divine word, and contended for the faith in his
writings*

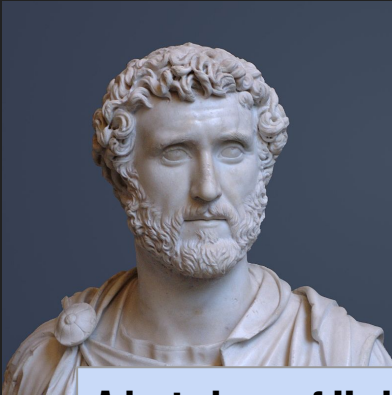
(Eccl His Book 4.11)

Justin's World: Rome ruled by Antonius Pius

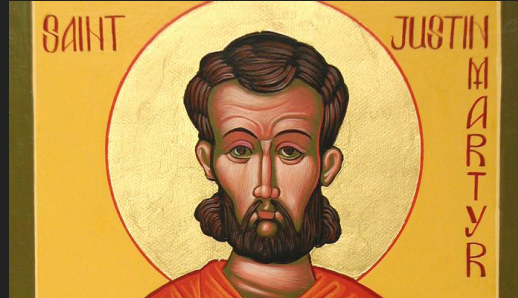
Hadrian (117-138)

Antonius Pius (138-161)

Marcus Aurelius (161-180)



Adopted son of Hadrian
Promoted arts & science
Honored philosophers
Peaceful reign



**1st & 2nd
 Apology (150)**

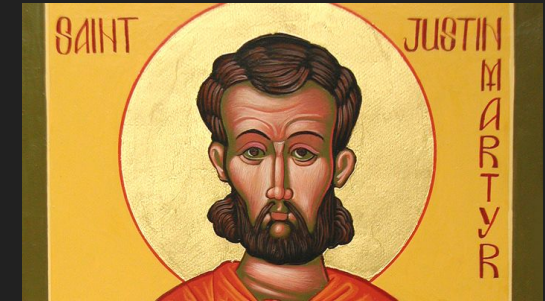
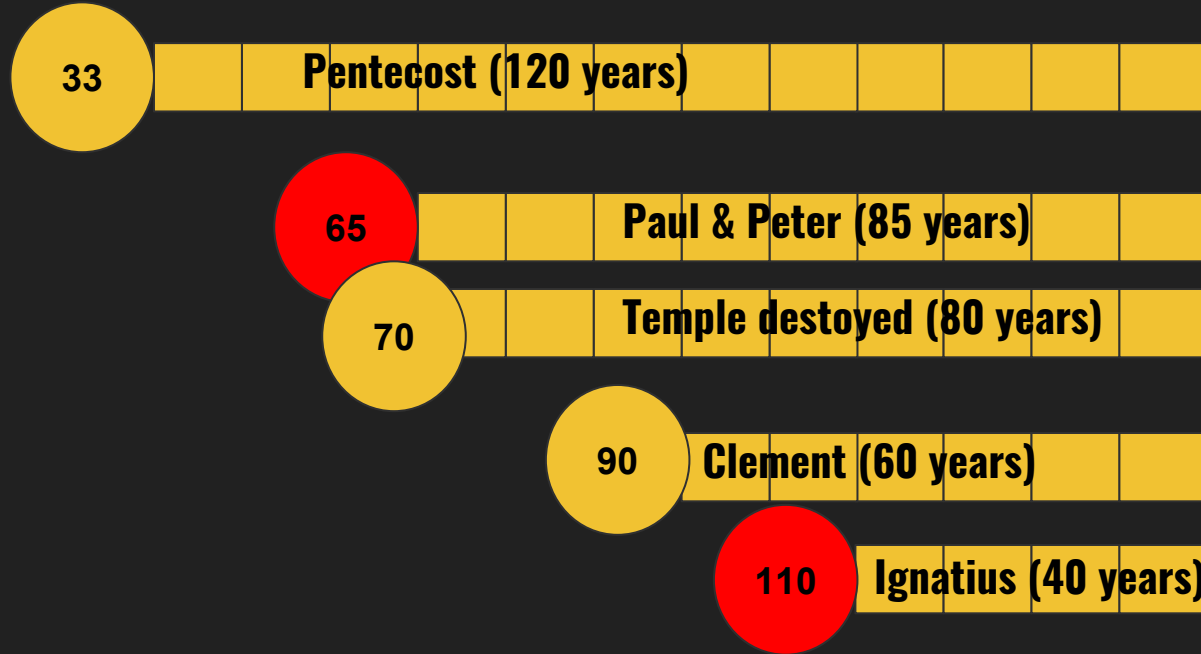
Trypho (160)

**Martyred
 (165))**

Antoninus is said to have been of an enquiring mind and not to have held aloof from careful investigation of even small and commonplace matters. ... Antoninus is admitted by all to have been noble and good, neither oppressive to the Christians nor severe to any of his other subjects.

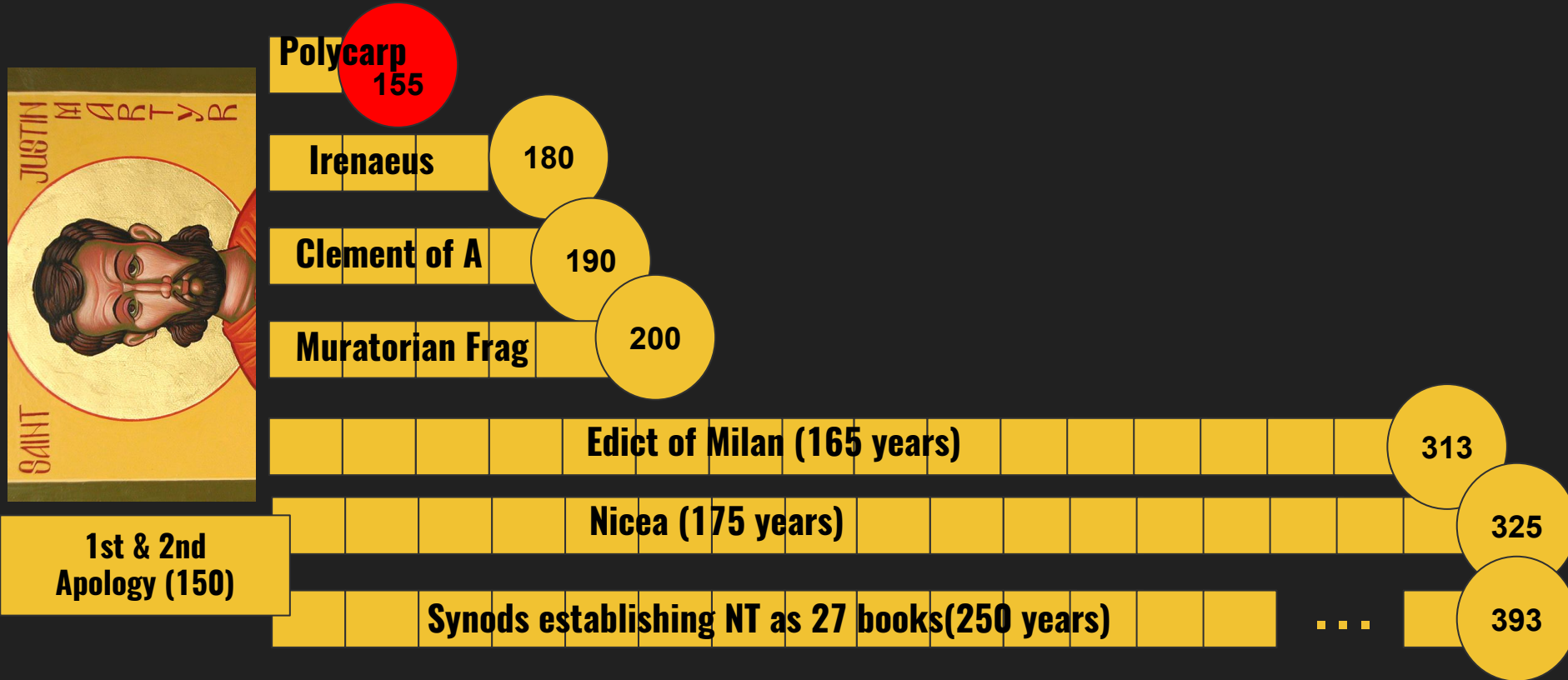
- Cassius Dio

Justin Martyr in relation to NT & earlier events

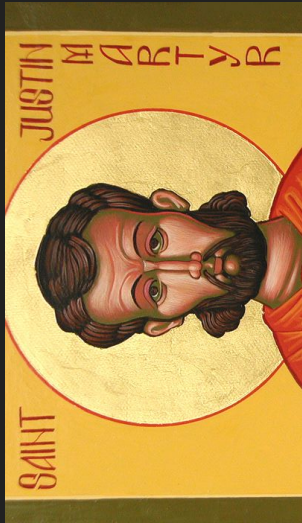


**1st & 2nd
Apology (150)**

Justin Martyr in relation to subsequent events



Justin's Quest for Truth



Traveled looking for truth and settled on Plato after studying Stoic, Aristotle, & Pythagorean views until he met an old man on a walk who approached him as Paul did those on Mars Hill

Philosophy then, said I is the knowledge of that which really exists, and a clear perception of the truth; and happiness is the reward of such knowledge and wisdom

*What then is
philosophy?*

*What do you
call God?*

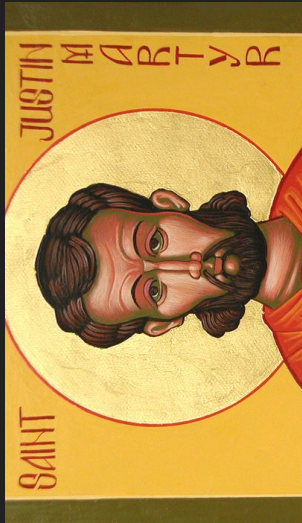
*What is the
advantage of this?*



*Are you a
practical
man &
lover of
deeds or
only a
sophist?*

*You have not
answered correctly...*

Justin's Conversion



*But straightway a flame was kindled in my soul;
and a love of the prophets, and of those men who
are friends of Christ, possessed me; and while
revolving his words in my mind, I found this
philosophy alone to be safe and profitable. Thus,
and for this reason, I am a philosopher.*

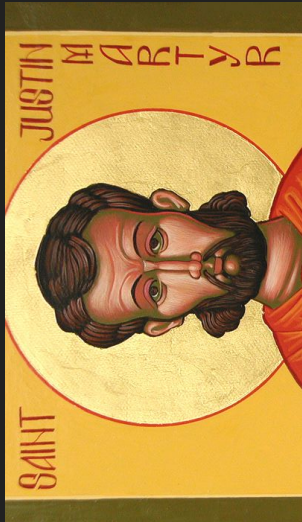
Justin's Conversion based on:

Scripture: *the words of the Saviour ... possess a terrible power in themselves, and are sufficient*

Logic: *without right reason, prudence would not be present to any man*

Prophecy: *testimonies published before He came ... things that happened accordingly*

Spirit: *these things perceived only by the man to whom God and His Christ have imparted wisdom.*



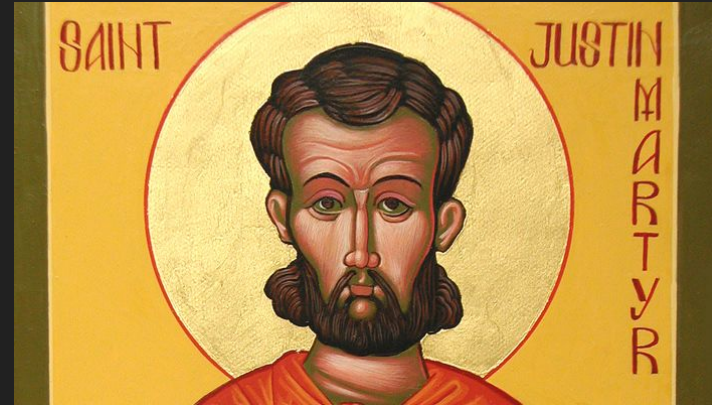
Justin follows in steps of Paul and the Old Man

Paul reasoned with them from the Scriptures

- dialogue, logic, questions

Men of Athens I see that you are religious ... I found an altar to an unknown God ... even your own poets

- observe and know who talking with



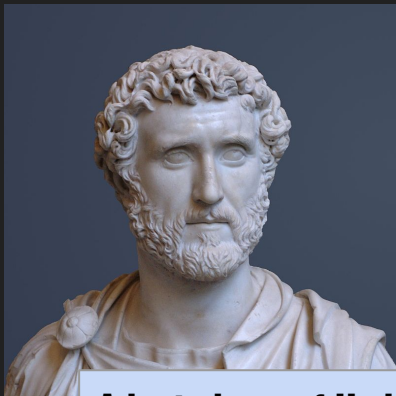
**1st & 2nd
Apology (150)**

Why write an Apology to the Emperor?

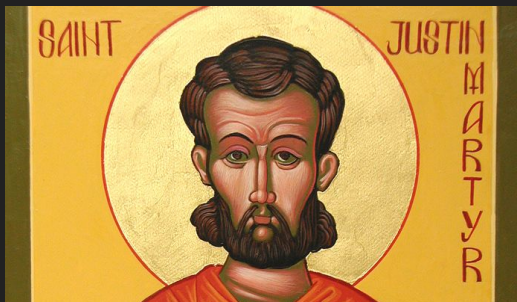
Hadrian (117-138)

Antonius Pius (138-161)

Marcus Aurelius (161-180)



Adopted son of Hadrian
Promoted arts & science
Honored philosophers
Peaceful reign



1st & 2nd
Apology (150)

Trypho (160)

Martyred
(165))

Antoninus is admitted by all to have been noble and good, neither oppressive to the Christians nor severe to any of his other subjects.

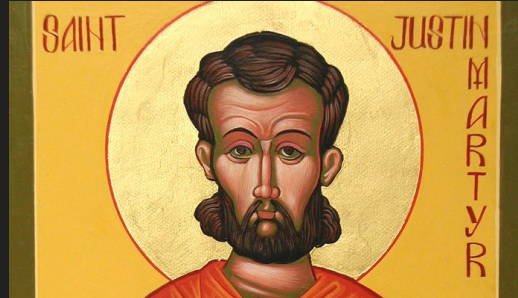
- Cassius Dio

Justin's World: Persecution is localized

Hadrian (117-138)

Antonius Pius (138-161)

Marcus Aurelius (161-180)



Trypho (160)

Martyred
(165))

1st & 2nd
Apology (150)

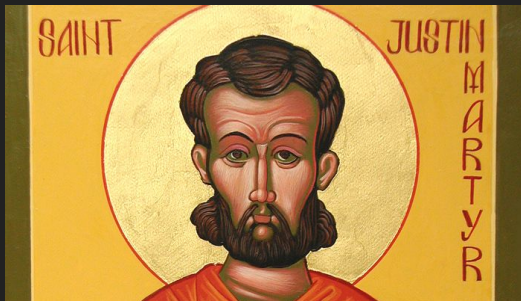
I do not know what offenses it is the practice to punish or investigate, and to what extent [Christians]. ... whether the name itself, even without offenses, or only the offenses associated with the name are to be punished. - Pliny the Younger to Trajan (113 AD)

Justin's World: Condemned for being Christian

Hadrian (117-138)

Antonius Pius (138-161)

Marcus Aurelius (161-180)



1st & 2nd
Apology (150)

Trypho (160)

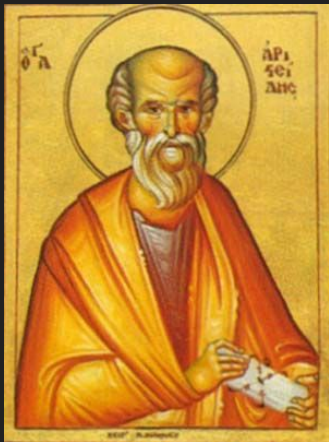
Martyred
(165))

For it is not possible to lay down any general rule to serve as a kind of fixed standard. They are not to be sought out ... whoever denies that he is a Christian ... shall obtain pardon
- Trajan to Pliny (113 AD)

Quadratus & Aristides of Athens write to Hadrian

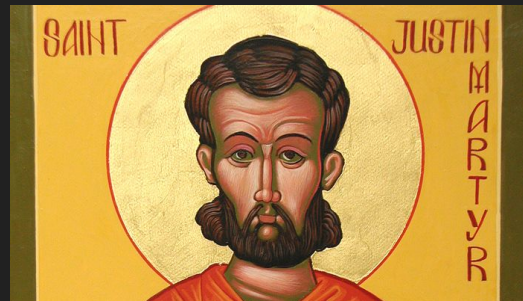
Hadrian (117-138)

Antonius Pius (138-161)



**Apology
(125)**

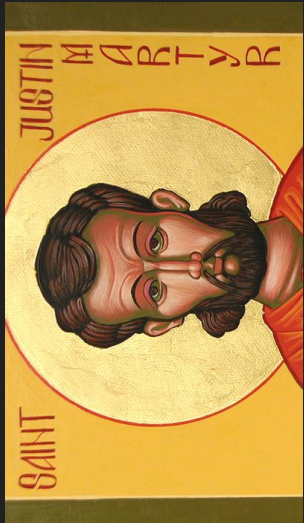
Quadratus addressed a discourse containing an apology for our religion, because certain wicked men had attempted to trouble the Christians. ... Aristides also, a believer earnestly devoted to our religion, left, like Quadratus, an apology for the faith, addressed to Adrian
(Eccl His Book 4.3)



**1st & 2nd
Apology (150)**

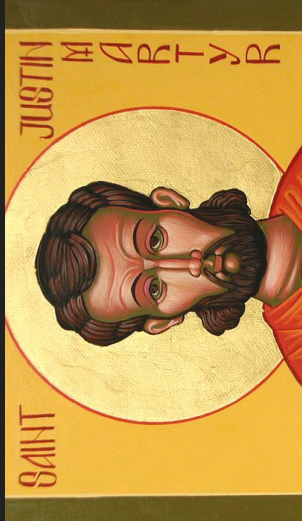
Appeal to new leaders
who love philosophy

Appeal to Reason



Reason directs those who are truly pious and philosophical to honour and love only what is true, declining to follow traditional opinions, if these be worthless. For not only does sound reason direct us to refuse the guidance of those who did or taught anything wrong, but it is incumbent on the lover of truth, by all means, and if death be threatened, even before his own life, to choose to do and say what is right.

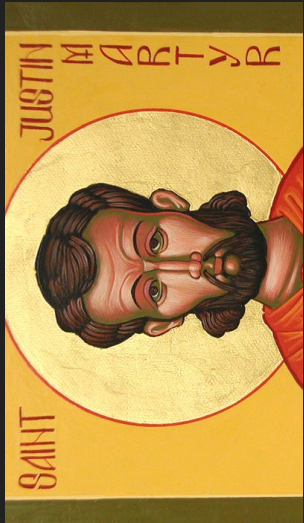
Punish Wrongdoers based on actions not labels



we demand that the charges against the Christians be investigated, and that, if these be substantiated, they be punished as they deserve;

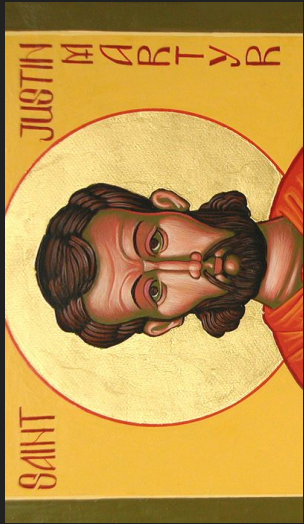
... from a name neither praise nor punishment could reasonably spring, unless something excellent or base in action be proved. ... in our case you receive the name as proof against us,

Punish Wrongdoers based on actions not labels



Wherefore we demand that the deeds of all those who are accused to you be judged, in order that each one who is convicted may be punished as an evil-doer, and not as a Christian; and if it is clear that any one is blameless, that he may be acquitted, since by the mere fact of his being a Christian he does no wrong.

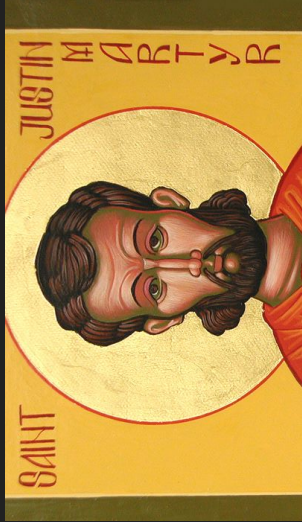
We want you to know what we believe...



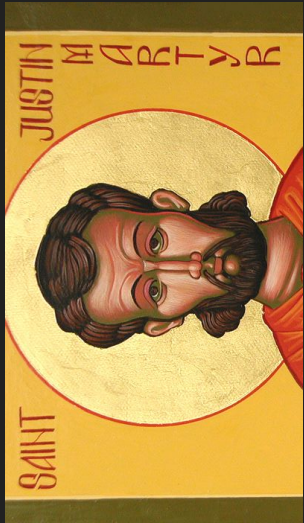
It is our task, therefore, to afford to all an opportunity of inspecting our life and teachings, lest, on account of those who are accustomed to be ignorant of our affairs, we should incur the penalty due to them for mental blindness; and it is your business, when you hear us, to be found, as reason demands, good judges.

Rejecting our beliefs is not worthy of conviction

And if any one say that this is incredible or impossible, this error of ours is one which concerns ourselves only, and no other person, so long as you cannot convict us of doing any harm.



Why we don't reject Christ or Christian beliefs?



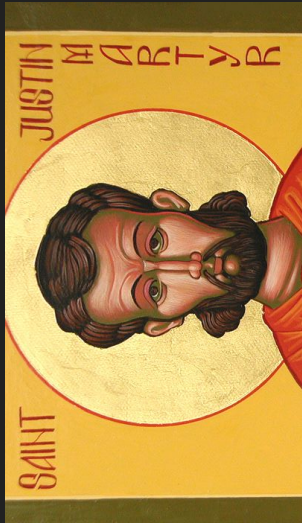
for it is in our power, when we are examined, to deny that we are Christians; but we would not live by telling a lie. ... [we] hasten to confess our faith, persuaded and convinced as we are that they who have proved to God by their works that they followed Him, and loved to abide with Him ... can obtain [the eternal and pure life].

Enduring Faith results in eternal life

The doctrine of the early church



The Gospels and Sunday Service

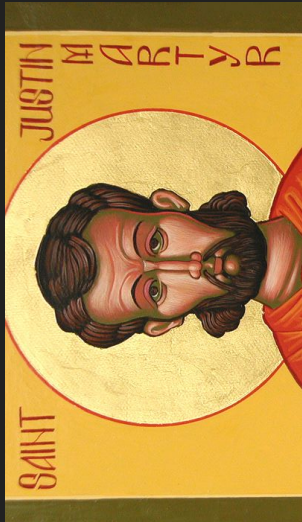


For the apostles, in the memoirs composed by them, which are called Gospels, have thus delivered unto us... (1 Apol 66)

And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read... (1 Apol 67)

Salvation (All are sinners)

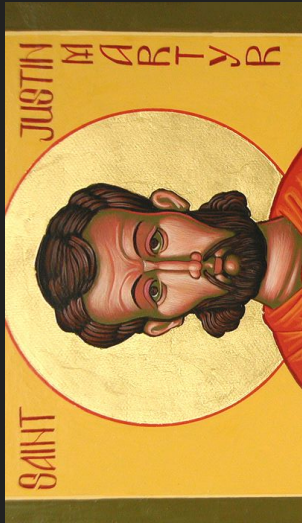
Trypho chap 95



For the whole human race will be found to be under a curse. For it is written ...‘Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things that are written in the book of the law to do them.’ And no one has accurately done all, nor will you venture to deny this; ... But if those who are under this law appear to be under a curse for not having observed all the requirements, how much more shall all the nations appear to be under a curse ...

Salvation (died for all)

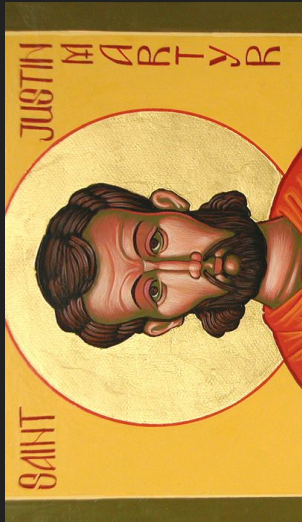
Trypho chap 95



If, then, the Father of all wished His Christ for the whole human family to take upon Him the curses of all, knowing that, after He had been crucified and was dead, He would raise Him up, why do you argue about Him, ..., as if He were accursed, and do not rather bewail yourselves?

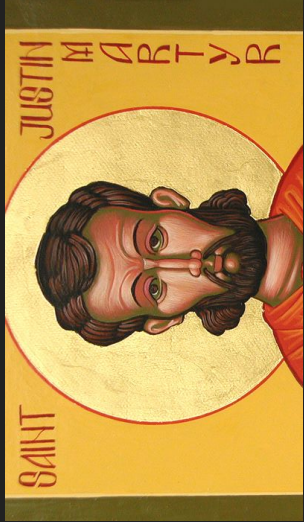
Salvation (faith and repentance)

Trypho chap 95



If, indeed, you repent of your sins, and recognize Him to be Christ, and observe His commandments, then ... remission of sins shall be yours.

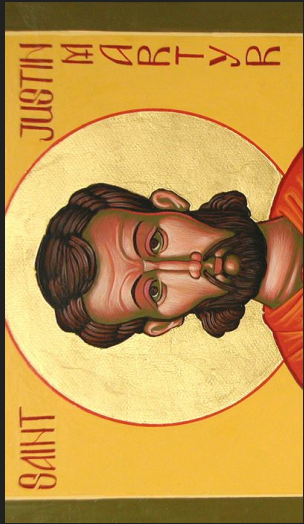
Salvation (faith and repentance) *Trypho chap 119*



For as [Abraham] believed the voice of God, and it was imputed to him for righteousness, in like manner we having believed God's voice spoken by the apostles of Christ ... have renounced ... all the things of this earth

Salvation (faith w/o works)

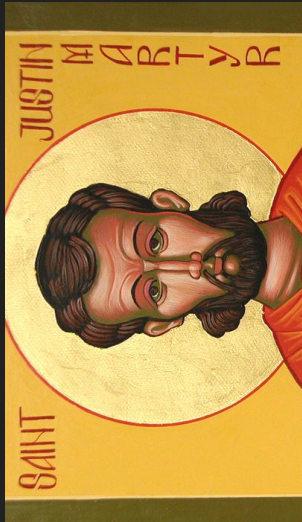
1 Apol chap 16



let those who are not found living as He taught, be understood to be no Christians, even though they profess with the lip the precepts of Christ; for not those who make profession, but those who do the works, shall be saved

Salvation (synergism:spirit)

Trypho chap 7 & 8

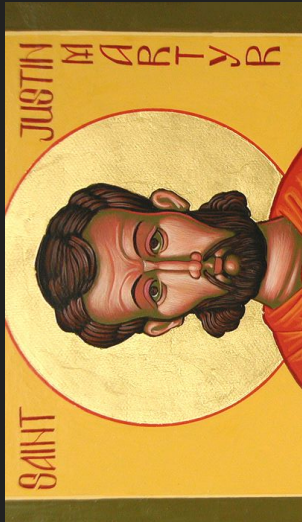


But pray that, above all things, the gates of light may be opened to you; for these things cannot be perceived or understood by all, but only by the man to whom God and His Christ have imparted wisdom.

... a flame was kindled in my soul; and a love of the prophets, and of those men who are friends of Christ, possessed me

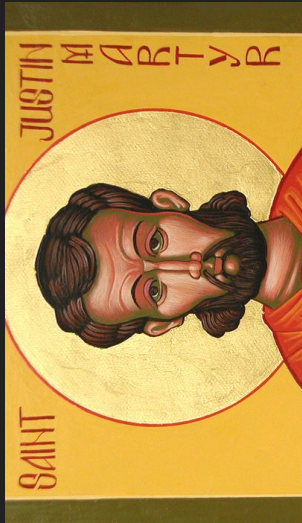
Salvation (synergism:man)

1st Apology chap 43



unless the human race have the power of avoiding evil and choosing good by free choice, they are not accountable ... For not like other things, as trees and quadrupeds, which cannot act by choice, did God make man: for neither would he be worthy of reward or praise did he not of himself choose the good, but were created for this end; ... being able to be nothing else than what he was made.

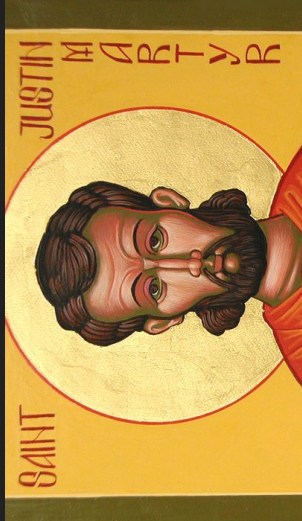
The Trinity & Incarnation (before Nicea)



Trypho: *You endeavour to prove an incredible and nearly impossible thing; [namely], that God endured to be born and become man.*

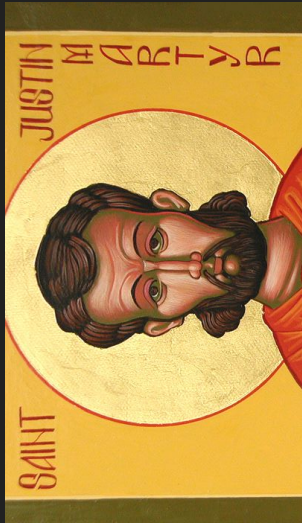
Justin: *If I undertook to prove this by doctrines or arguments of man, you should not bear with me. But if I quote frequently Scriptures, and so many of them, referring to this point, and ask you to comprehend them, you are hard-hearted (Trypho 68)*

The Trinity (Jesus is God and Christ)



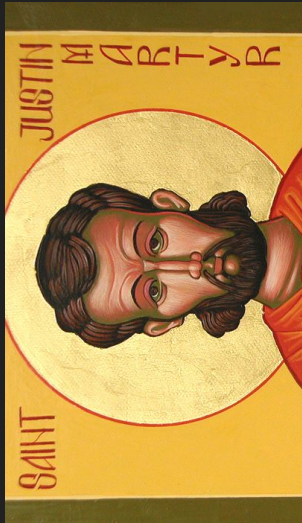
Therefore these words testify explicitly that He is witnessed to by Him who established these things, as deserving to be worshipped, as God and as Christ. (Trypho 63)

The Trinity (before Nicea) 1st Apology chapter 13



Our teacher of these things is Jesus Christ, who also was born for this purpose, and was crucified under Pontius Pilate, ... we reasonably worship Him, having learned that He is the Son of the true God Himself, and holding Him in the second place, and the prophetic Spirit in the third, we will prove. For they proclaim our madness to consist in this, that we give to a crucified man a place second to the unchangeable and eternal God, the Creator of all; for they do not discern the mystery

Eschatology: Historic Premillennialism



But I and others, who are right minded Christians on all points, are assured that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a thousand years in Jerusalem ... and that thereafter the general, and, in short, the eternal resurrection and judgment of all men would likewise take place.(Trypho 80,81)

- Literal 1000 year reign
- Church goes thru Tribulation (which they were in) thus writings also reflect imminency

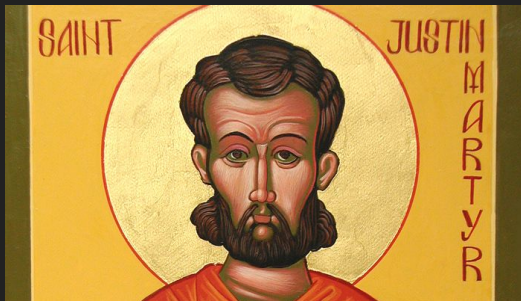
Justin's World: Rome ruled by Marcus Aurelius

Hadrian (117-138)

Antonius Pius (138-161)

Marcus Aurelius (161-180)

Adopted son of Antonius
Stoic Philosopher
Meditations (180)
Austere



Trypho (160)

Martyred
(165))

Co-reigned w/ Lucius
Parthian War (161-166)
Germanic tribes invade

1st & 2nd
Apology (150)

Persecution of Christians
was generally done by local
rulers. It greatly increased
during Aurelius' reign.



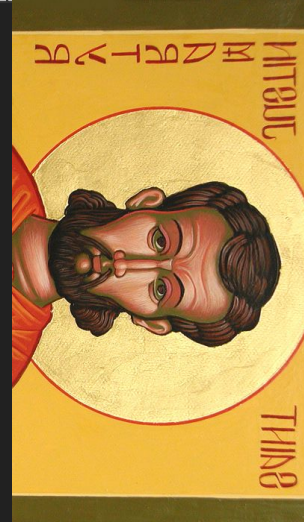
Justin is tried and asked what he believes

Hadrian (117-138)

Antonius Pius (138-161)

Marcus Aurelius (161-180)

*We worship the God of the Christians,
whom we reckon to be one from the
beginning, the maker and fashioner of the
whole creation ... and the Lord Jesus
Christ ... who had been preached
beforehand by the prophets*



Justin is martyred

Rusticus: are you a Christian?

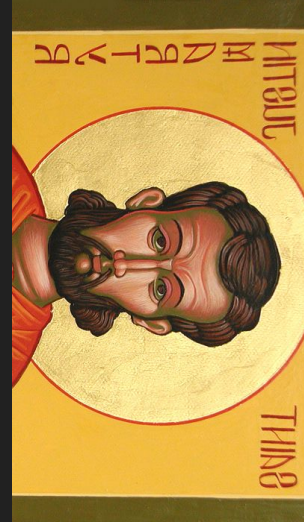
Justin: Yes, I am a Christian

Rusticus: if you are scourged and beheaded do you believe you will ascend into heaven?

Justin: I do not suppose it, but I know and am fully persuaded of it.

Rusticus: unless you obey you will be punished

Justin: Do what you will, for we are Christians and we do not sacrifice to idols.

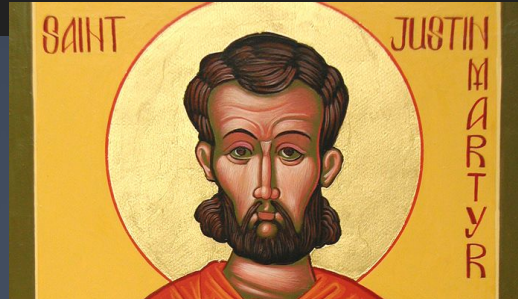


By their works you shall know them...

Hadrian (117-138)

Antonius Pius (138-161)

Marcus Aurelius (161-180)



**1st & 2nd
Apology (150)**

Trypho (160)

**Martyred
(165))**

