Antinomianism

ant·i·no·mi·an·ism ( n t i n a  m i  m)
in,

Theology. The doctrine or belief that the Gospel frees Christians from required obedience to any law, whether scriptural, civil, or moral, and that salvation is attained solely through faith and the gift of divine grace.

The belief that moral laws are relative in meaning and application as opposed to fixed or universal.

Gnosticism

- Stemmed from the Greek word γνώσις - knowledge
- Incredibly Syncretistic (mish-mash of religions)
- Entailed a search for secret, hidden, knowledge
- There were many different forms of Gnosticism, but most kept three main points
  1. Dualism – The eternal battle of Light v. Dark, Good v. Evil, usu. They are equal and opposite
  2. Demiurgic notion – The separation of the creator of the world (demiurgos) from the proper God
  3. Docetism – the belief that the human element in the person of the redeemer was an illusion

Marcion c.110-160

- Heretic
- Son of a bishop
- Excommunicated for heresy, contempt of authority and maybe seducing a virgin
- Studied under the Gnostic Cerdo
- Wrote Antithesis
- Met Polycarp
Marcion’s Beliefs
1. OT God and Jews were Evil
2. NT God gracious and good
3. Wrote an 11 book Canon including a mangled Luke and 10 of Paul’s epistles

Beliefs of Manichæism
- Signaculum Oris – Purity in word and diet
- Signaculum manuum – Renunciation of material pursuits
- Signaculum sinus – celibacy
- 2 classes – “Perfect” and “Hearers”
- 12 Apostles->72 Bishops->72 Disciples

Montanus
Mid-Late 2nd Century
- Heterodox - Semi Heretic
- From Asia Minor
- Began as a reaction to Gnostic excess, Montanus desired true Christian purity in life
- Somnambulistic Ecstasies
- Inspired organ of the Paraclete the helper and comforter in the time of distress
- Had 2 main Prophetesses Priscilla & Maximilla

Montanists, Phrygians, and Cataphrygians
- The Pneumatics “Spiritual Christians”
- Combated Gnosticism
- Asceticism
- No forgiveness for mortal sin post-baptism
- Miraculous Gifts - especially prophecy
- Universal Priesthood
- Millenarianism

Mani 215-277
- Persian philosopher who began preaching his own religion, originally well received he fell out of favor and fled to India and China
- Wrote several works in Persian, Syriac and a language of his own invention
- Systematized Manichæism including Buddha, whom he discovered while in exile
- Returned to Persia, but was convicted of corrupting the old religion and was martyred in 277 A.D.

Apologists
- Justin Martyr
- Tertullian
### Flavius Justinus c.100-166
**Philosopher and Martyr**
- Grew up as a heathen in Samaria
- Began searching for truth in philosophy, finding Platonism to be the best
- Spoke with a Christian, who pointed him to the OT as seen through the NT as the best philosophy
- After conversion he became an itinerant evangelist, teacher, and philosopher
- Wrote two *Apologia*, defending Christianity to the Emperor Antoninus Pius
- Scourged and beheaded with 6 others ~166 A.D.

### Quintus Septimius Florens Tertullianus
**Tertullian c.155-230**
- Born in Carthage to a Captain of the Roman Legion stationed there
- Was well educated and traveled, but lived a life of debauchery until he was 30 or 40
- After conversion he dedicated his life to defending Christianity
- Strove for Christian purity to the extreme
- Was married and celibate
- Fiery and powerful Theologian/Apologist

### Quintus Septimius Florens Tertullianus
**Tertullian c.155-230**
- 1st to use term Trinity
- Wrote *Apologeticus* during the reign of the Emperor Septimius Severus
- Attacked Gnostics
- Became a Montanist because he was attracted by their purity and was distressed by the lack of purity in the catholic church

### Irenæus c.120-202
- Name means peaceful
- Born in Smyrna, and was discipled by Polycarp during his youth/young manhood
- Began his Christian journey as a missionary then later became the bishop of Lyons
- 1st to quote the entire NT authoritatively
- “The enemy of error and schism” Like Polycarp he was gentle, pastoral, and humble
- Anti-Gnostic – He wrote a 5 volume *Refutation of Gnosticism*
Origenes Adamantius
Origen c.182-251
• Studied under any and everyone even heretics
• 3 level method of scripture interpretation: literal, moral, and spiritual
• The 3rd leader of the Alexandrian School from 202-232
• Started his own school in Caesarea
• Very, Very, VERY Ascetic
• Tortured under Decius then died after release

The Canon
Main Entry: can-on
Pronunciation: 'ka-n&n
Function: noun
Etymology: Greek kanOn rod, measuring line, ruler
1 a : a regulation or doctrine decreed by a church council b : a provision of canon law
2 a : an accepted principle or rule <canons of descent> b : a body of principles, rules, standards, or norms

Muratorian Canon
• Published in 1740 from a Latin text in the Bobbio monastery.
• Dated to the end of the second century
• Includes a list of 21 of the 26 NT books (excluding Hebrews, James, I&II Peter, and III John)
• Only names one non-canonical book, the apocalypse of Peter, but acknowledges it as not universally accepted

Requirements for Canonization
1. Apostolic Authority
2. Antiquity
3. Orthodoxy
4. Catholicity
5. Traditional Use
6. Inspiration