Brief Timeline of Early Church:

60-135?	Papias
64	Great Fire of Rome
64-8	Nero's punishment of the Christians
70	Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem
70-135	*Letter of Barnabas*
95?	*1 Clement*
96?	*2 Clement*
100?	*The Didache*
100-165	Justin Martyr
110	Martyrdom of Ignatius
110-40?	*The Shepherd of Hermas*
130-200	Irenaeus of Lyons
150-90	*Letter to Diognetus*
155?	Martyrdom of Polycarp
160-225	Tertullian
303-312	The "Great Persecution"
312	Conversion of emperor Constantine
325	Council of Nicea

Further Reading:

- Michael Reeves, *Breeze Through the Centuries*
- Henry Chadwick, *The Early Church*
- Andreas Kostenberger and Michael Kruger, *The Heresy of Orthodoxy: How Contemporary Culture's Fascination with Diversity Has Reshaped Our Understanding of Early Christianity*

If you have any questions please email

Core Seminars—Church History

Class 2: Early Church: Gathering Saints & Defending the Faith (until AD 325)

The Development of Scripture, Worship, and Leadership in the Early Church

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering…not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near." Hebrews 10: 23, 2

"They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang an anthem to Christ as God, and bound themselves by a solemn oath not to commit any wicked deed, but to abstain from all fraud, theft and adultery, never to break their word, or deny a trust when called upon to honor it." –Pliny the Younger, Letter to Trajan

I. Practice of Early Christian Gatherings

A. Baptism

B. The Lord's Supper

II. Forming the Canon

a) Marcion

b) Montanists

c) Establishing the Canon.

III. Leadership

IV. Church Fathers

1. Apostolic Fathers – taught by the Apostles

a. Ignatius of Antioch

b. Polycarp of Smyrna (*Letter to the Philippians*, *Martyrdom of Polycarp*)

2. Apologetic Fathers

a. Justin Martyr (*Dialogue with Trypho*, *First* and *Second Apologies*)

b. Athenagoras of Athens

c. Irenaeus of Lyons (*Against Heresies*)

d. Tertullian (*Apology*, *On Patience*, *On Prayer*, *To The Martyrs*, *On the Spectacles*, *On Idolatry*, *On the Flesh of Christ*)

e. Clement of Alexandria

f. Origen