

12 - The Alexandrian School: Clement and Origen

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
~ 2 Timothy 2:15 ~*

Introductory Comments

I. The Alexandrian School

A. Location

B. Beginnings

II. Clement (c150-215)

A. Life

B. Work

1. Instruction

2. Writings

III. Origen (c185-254)

A. Early Life

B. Career

C. Influence

1. Textual

2. Theological

a. Development of Theological Categories and Discussions

b. Negatives

c. Generational Influence

3. Exegetical

a. Allegorical Method of Interpretation

b. Threefold Sense of Scripture

1) Literal (body)

2) Moral (soul)

3) Mystical/allegorical (spirit)

IV. Some Reflections for the Church Today

A. Assessing and Utilizing the Work of Early Fathers

B. The Influence of non-pastoral Scholars and Academics upon the Church's Doctrine

C. Utilizing Unbelieving Thought/Categories

“Whoever, therefore, would seek to penetrate into properties of things to which our faculties are not adjusted, overlooks a fundamental condition of the possibility of knowledge, and his conclusions are entitled to no more respect than the speculations of a blind man upon colours or of a deaf man upon sounds.”

- JH Thornwell, *Whatsoever Things are True*, 45

D. The Importance of Faithfully Adhering to the Word of God