

# The Plumbline

Scriptures to use for Searching your Soul

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)  
Vol. XV.08

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Amo 7:7 Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall [made] by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand.

## How is it with your soul?

I cannot fathom, cannot begin to comprehend what the many, many men and women, servants of the Lord Jesus Christ have gone through in their taking a stand for the Lord. I cannot begin to know the pain and sorrow they have experienced, but let me hasten to say, I believe the time will soon be that there are those who will suffer for their love for Jesus Christ.

My prayer is that the body of Christ will come together to pray one for another in earnest prayer for the strength of all who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, that we shall each one prepare for what is coming, and be able to stand – come what may. O let us pray one for another as the body of Christ, Christ's Holy Church.

Our Lord suffered on a cruel Cross – all because of His love for each one of us. There is a hymn, "I Gave My Life for Thee, **what hast thou given for Me?**"

### Plumbline: Luke 9.23-25

And he said to [them] all, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

Perhaps there needs to be some soul searching as King David prayed:

Psa 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

Psa 139:24 And see if [there be any] wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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**Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ**

*Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31)*

# Walking in the Light

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Rom 10:17 So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Polycarp was Bishop of Smyrna (today known as Izmir), a city on the west coast of Turkey. The letters to the "seven churches in Asia" at the beginning of the book of Revelation include a letter to the church in Smyrna, identifying it as a church undergoing persecution.

Polycarp is said to have known the Apostle John, and to have been instructed by him in the Christian faith. Polycarp, in his turn, was known to [Irenaeus](#), who later became Bishop of Lyons in what is now France. We have (1) [Irenaeus](#)'s brief memoir of Polycarp; (2) a letter to Polycarp from [Ignatius of Antioch](#), written around 115 AD when Ignatius was passing through Turkey, being sent in chains to Rome to be put to death; (3) a letter from Polycarp to the church at [Philippi](#), written at the same time; and (4) an account of the arrest, trial, conviction, and martyrdom of Polycarp, written after his death by one or more members of his congregation.

Polycarp was denounced to the government, arrested, and tried on the charge of being a Christian. When the proconsul urged him to save his life by cursing Christ, he replied: "Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?" The magistrate was reluctant to kill a gentle old man, but he had no choice.

Polycarp was sentenced to be burned. As he waited for the fire to be lighted, he prayed:

Lord God Almighty, Father of your blessed and beloved child Jesus Christ, through whom we have received knowledge of you, God of angels and hosts and all creation, and of the wholerace of the upright who live in your presence: I bless you that you have thought me worthy of this day and hour, to be numbered among the martyrs and share in the cup of Christ, for resurrection to eternal life, for soul and body in the incorruptibility of the Holy Spirit. Among them may I be accepted before you today, as a rich and acceptable sacrifice, just as you, the faithful and true God, have prepared and foreshown and brought about. For this reason and for all things I praise you, I bless you, I glorify you, through the eternal heavenly high priest Jesus Christ, your beloved child, through be glory to you, with him and the Holy Spirit, now and for the ages to come. Amen.

The fire was then lit and shortly thereafter a soldier stabbed Polycarp to death by order of the magistrate. His friends gave his remains honorable burial, and wrote an account of his death to other churches. See the Penguin volume, *Ancient Christian Writers.*

Psa 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.