

Acts 1

F. A Short History of "Testimony"

John 13

I am not sure I can define this in a good way but the idea is a record of Gospel witness through the ages. There is no consistent church group that has continuously existed since Pentecost...although there are some that claim to be such in spite of the lack of concrete evidence, but there has been no time when the totality of the Gospel was lost! I am going to be very sketchy again and do more talking than usual...well, maybe not! I will work with the definition, however, orally.

*Ephesians
John
Polycarp*

1. The New Testament martyrs and those who followed
2. The consistent witness in the book of Acts and the actual establishing of churches
3. Some unknown sources that may have been deeply oriented to the testimony or may not have been....the total material is slight. Consider
 - the Paulicians (10th century)
 - the Albigensians (13th century) (the Cathari)
 - the Boskoi (12th century)

These are shadow figures. What we do know of them arouses our suspicions. That they were persecuted is also clear...and the dates are generalized...when one does not have an exact history citing one does as well as one can.

1176

4. Peter Waldo (the Waldensians) This is a different matter. We know who they were, what their doctrines were and how they proceeded with their ministry. Strongly evangelical and suspicious of liturgy (12th century onward) they moved through southern France ,northern Italy, etc. on a two by two basis preaching the saving message.

1300's

5. The German mystics (Brethren of the Common Life) in the pre-Reformation years bore a strong testimony. They were on the ascetic side but their writings and data provide good insights on the witness of the companies/

1375

6. Wyckliff...I will talk more about him and the Lollards..a great movement in England that suffered a lot of persecution but proved to be a winner.

Reformation