



On-Campus Course Syllabus
THS421
Apostolic Father's Faith and Practice
Fall 2022

Class Information

Day and Time: Thursdays, 4:45–7:15 p.m.

Room Number: E207

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Caroline Buie

Instructor Email: cbuie@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 972-816-4181

Instructor Office Hours: Call for Appointment

Course Description and Prerequisites

An intensive examination of a select period of historical theology that studies the emerging voices of the leaders of the church after the apostles died. The course examines the problems in local churches, the development of the canon, and the theological understanding of the churches in the late first to early second-century church finding several parallels between the modern and the early church. This syllabus represents the major course requirements. The instructor may change it slightly on the first day of the course.

Course Objectives

- The student will explore the historical-cultural background of the post-apostolic church, determining how the culture influenced the writings of the leaders of the church.
- The student will examine the major theological expression of the post-apostolic leaders.
- The student will survey the influences of the Apostolic Fathers on the development of doctrine during this period of the church.
- The student will apply the knowledge of the church to current trends in ecclesiological Christian ministry through class discussion and written assignments.

Required Textbooks

Grant, Robert M. Grant. *The Apostolic Fathers: A New Translation and Commentary: An Introduction*. Vol. 1. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2020. ISBN-10: 172527423X, ISBN-13: 978-1725274235.

Holmes, Michael W. *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008. ISBN13: 9780801034688; ISBN10: 080103468X.

Class Articles and Files: Various Articles and Files will be available in the Files Section of Canvas and assigned in the Modules Page.

Recommended Reading

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York: Basic Books, 1981.

Aune, David E. *Apocalypticism, Prophecy, and Magic in Early Christianity: Collected Essays*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Bauer, Walter. *Orthodoxy and Heresy in Earliest Christianity*. Edited by Robert A. Kraft and Gerhard Krodel. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1971.

Ferguson, Everett. *Early Christians Speak: Faith and Life in the First Three Centuries*. Abilene, Tex.: ACU Abilene Christian University Press, 2002. The first volume can be found in the Open JSTOR Collection and will be provided in class via .pdf in Canvas Files. Volumes one or two can be purchased on Amazon if the student so chooses. ISBN-10: 0891120459, ISBN-13: 978-0891120452.

Jefford, Clayton N. *The Apostolic Fathers: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.

Jefford, Clayton N., Kenneth J. Harder, and Louis D. Amezaga, Jr., *Reading the Apostolic Fathers: An Introduction*. Hendrickson, 1996.

Gregory, Andrew F., and Christopher M. Tuckett, eds. *Trajectories through the New Testament and the Apostolic Fathers*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Gregory, Andrew F., and Christopher M. Tuckett, eds. *The Reception of the New Testament in the Apostolic Fathers*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrines*, rev. ed. New York: HarperCollins, 1978.

Ong, Walter J. *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word*. New Accents. London: Routledge, 1991.

Osiek, Carolyn. "The Oral World in Early Christianity in Rome: The Case of Hermas." In *Judaism and Christianity in First-Century Rome*, edited by Karl P. Donfried and Peter Richardson, 151–74. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2003.

Osiek, Carolyn. *Rich and Poor in the Shepherd of Hermas: An Exegetical-Social Investigation*. The Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series 15. Washington, DC: Catholic Biblical Association of America, 1983.

Osiek, Carolyn. *Shepherd of Hermas: A Commentary*. Hermeneia—A Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999.

Presley, Stephen O. "The Doctrine of the Future in the Apostolic Fathers, Justin Martyr, and Irenaeus of Lyons." In *Eschatology: Biblical, Historical, and Practical Approaches*, edited by Craig A. Blaising, D. Jeffrey Bingham, and Glenn R. Kreider, 265–80. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2016.

Rhoads, David. "Performance Event in Early Christianity: New Testament Writings in an Oral Context." In *The Interface of Orality and Writing: Speaking, Seeing, Writing in the Shaping of New Genres*, edited by Annett Weissenrieder, and Robert B. Coote, 166–93. *Biblical Performance Criticism*, 11. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2015.

Robinson, J. A., *Barnabas, Hermas, and the Didache*. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1920.

Skarsaune, Oskar. *In the Shadow of the Temple: Jewish Influences on Early Christianity*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.

Course Requirements and Assignments

A. Reading and Reading Reports (45%)

The student is expected to accomplish the designated reading in preparation for the weekly discussion. See the due dates in the Course Outline/Calendar of the course (see below). A guided reading report will be available on Canvas for the student to prepare for the weekly discussion. The Reading Report will include pertinent questions that will help stimulate class discussion. Late submissions will receive a 0%.

B. Research Paper (35%)

The student will compose a 10 to 12-page paper addressing a topic of their choice. Use at least 4-6 sources. The paper will follow proper formatting requirements including proper citation through footnotes and a bibliography. A list of possible topics can be found in Canvas under the heading, **Possible Paper Topics found in the Files and Modules section**. *The student will compose a title and short description of the chosen topic which will be turned in during the sixth week on Canvas according to the course dates.*

C. Creative Project Presentation (15%)

Using your paper as a guide, you will prepare a creative project to present in class on the last day of the semester. The presentation medium is up to the student. You can choose to create a movie, write a book review, a short story, or develop a PowerPoint presentation. The student will strive to portray the complexities of theological thought found in the *Apostolic Fathers*. Poems, artwork, or music are disallowed because these mediums tend to be more abstract and harder to grade. Try to make the presentation project accessible for a lay audience. Check with the instructor concerning your topic and medium prior to beginning the project.

D. Weight Given to Assignments:

Reading Reports	45%
Research Paper	30%
Creative Project Presentation	<u>25%</u>
	100%

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

A student gets from a class what they choose to put into it since this class will be conducted in seminar style. The student will read the appropriate readings and fill out the Reading Report. The Reading Report will become the basis for the discussion, which will occur during the first hour that we meet. The second hour will comprise a lecture.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Campus Closure

To ensure the health and safety of students and employees, college administrators may decide it is necessary on rare occasions to close the campus. Once this decision is announced, instructors will contact students to provide further details regarding the campus closure's impact on those courses. Students are responsible to watch for communication from their instructors and respond appropriately. (Unless otherwise specified by the instructor in this syllabus, this communication will be sent to the student's Criswell College e-mail account.)

In order to make progress toward the courses' objectives, instructors have the freedom during most campus closures to require students to participate in activities as alternatives to meeting on campus. An instructor may, for example, hold class remotely (through Zoom) at the scheduled time, provide a recording of a class or presentation for students to watch independently, or assign other activities that students are to accomplish before returning to campus. Students are responsible for accomplishing these alternative activities as well as any course requirements listed in this syllabus during the period of the campus closure. If, during the period of the campus closure, personal circumstances prohibit a student from accomplishing these alternative activities or course requirements and assignment listed in the syllabus during the campus closure, the student is responsible for communicating with the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors will not penalize students who do not have the means to accomplish the alternative activities during the period of the campus's closure and will work with students whose circumstances during the campus closure prohibited their timely completion of course requirements and assignments in the syllabus.

Grading Scale

Assigning grade definitions (i.e., above average, average, below average) is optional. Please delete the last column below if not assigning definitions. Additionally, delete these instructions when completing syllabus.

			Grade Definitions (optional)
A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour	
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour	
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour	
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour	
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour	
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour	
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour	
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour	
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour	
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour	
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour	
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour	

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their instructors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Assessment

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college's academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student's course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student's work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the instructor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Supports

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. The Student Services Office also works with local counseling centers to ensure that every student has access to helpful mental health resources. More

information is located on the college website at [Criswell College Mental Health Resources](#), and students may contact the Director of Student Services if they have any questions.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu. Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing tutoringcenter@criswell.edu or by calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

Week	Date	Topics Covered	Assignment Due
1	8/18	Explanation of Assignments & Overview of the Apostolic Fathers	
	8/19	Late Registration Ends	
2	8/25	Cultural Setting of the Apostolic Fathers	Read: Holmes, pp 3–29 Jefford, xvii–xxvi. OPT.Grant, Chapter 1; 87–109 Report Reading in Canvas Week 2
	8/26	Last Day to Drop Courses	
3	9/1	The Didache	Read: Holmes, pp 334–369 Jefford, 23–31 Opt Grant, Chapter 71-76; VI 133-189 Report Reading in Canvas Week 3
4	9/8	Barnabas	Read: Holmes, pp 370–441 Jefford 1–19 OPT. Grant, 76-79; 96-98 Report Reading in Canvas Week 4

5	9/15	Problems in the <i>Shepherd of Hermas</i>	<p>Read: Holmes, pp 442–501 (Visions 1–4) Jefford, 141–164 Grant, 79–85</p> <p>Read Wilson, “Five Problems” In Canvas Files</p> <p>Report Reading in Canvas Week 5</p>
6	9/22	<i>The Shepherd’s</i> Anthropology/Soteriology/Eschatology	<p>Read: Holmes: 501–525 (Vis 5; Mandates 1–6)</p> <p>Read The Shepherd’s Eschatology in Canvas Files</p> <p>Report Reading in Canvas Week 6</p>
7	9/29	<i>The Shepherd’s</i> Pneumatology	<p>Read: Holmes, pp 525–555 (Mandates 7–12)</p> <p>Report Reading in Canvas Week 7</p>
8	10/6	<i>The Shepherd’s</i> Christology	<p>Read: Holmes, pp 557–597 (Parables 1–7)</p> <p>Read The Shepherd’s Christology excerpt in Canvas Files</p> <p>Report Reading in Canvas Week 8</p> <p>Turn in Project/Paper Proposal</p>
9	10/13	Student Development Week (No Class)	
10	10/20	<i>The Shepherd’s</i> Ecclesiology	<p>Review: Vision 3 & Similitude 9</p> <p>Read: Holmes, 597–685 (Parables 8–10)</p> <p>Report Reading in Canvas Week 10</p>
	10/21	Last Day to Withdraw	
11	10/27	1 & 2 Clement	<p>Read: Holmes, pp 33–69; Skim 70–129; Read 132–165 Jefford, 103–140</p> <p>OPT. Grant, 36–47; 116–120</p> <p>Report Reading in Canvas Week 11</p>

12	11/3	Ignatius Letters to the Ephesians/Romans/Polycarp	<p>Read: Holmes, pp 166–201; 225–235; 263–271</p> <p>Jefford, 43–62., Opt. Grant, 47–64; 121–130</p> <p>Read Backgrounds to the Ephesian and Romans Church in Canvas Files</p> <p>Report Reading in Canvas Week 12</p>
	11/7	WI-21 and SP-22 Registration Begins	
13	11/10	The Letter of Polycarp to the Philippians Papias	<p>Read:</p> <p>Holmes, 272-- 297, 722-773 Grant, 64–71, 85-86 Jefford, 73–86</p> <p>Report Reading in Canvas Week 13</p> <p>Turn in Term Paper</p>
14	11/17	Martyrdom of Polycarp	<p>Read: Holmes, pp 398–323 Jefford, 87–102</p> <p>Report Reading in Canvas Week 14</p>
	11/24	Fall Break (No Class)– Happy Thanksgiving!	
15	12/1	Presentations	
16	12/8		No Final Exam. Enjoy studying for your other exams

Selected Bibliography

(See the Bibliographies in Grant and Holmes for further study per Father)

Aune, David E. *The Cultic Setting of Realized Eschatology in Early Christianity*. Leiden: Brill, 1972.

Aune, David E. *Prophecy in Early Christianity and the Ancient Mediterranean World* Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2003.

Barnard, L. W. "The Shepherd of Hermas in Recent Study." *Heythrop Journal* 9 (1968): 29–36.

Bauckham, R. J. "The Delay of the Parousia." In *The Jewish World Around the New Testament: Collected Essays I*, 65–88. *Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament* 233. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008.

Bauckham, R. J. "The Great Tribulation in the Shepherd of Hermas." *Journal of Theological Studies* 25 (1974): 27–40.

Bingham, D. Jeffrey. "Senses of Scripture in the Second Century: Irenaeus, Scripture, and Noncanonical Christian Texts." *Journal of Religion* 97 (2017): 26–55.

Brox, Norbert. *Der Hirt des Hermas*. Kommentar zu den Apostolischen Vätern 7, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1991.

- Bryant, Joseph M. "Wavering Saints, Mass Religiosity, and the Crisis of Post-Baptismal Sin in Early Christianity: A Weberian Reading of the Shepherd of Hermas." *European Journal of Sociology* 39 (1998): 49–77.
- Bucur, Bogdan G. *Angelomorphic Pneumatology: Clement of Alexandria and Other Early Christian Witnesses*. Supplements to *Vigiliae Christianae* 95. Leiden: Brill, 2009.
- Clark, Kenneth Willis. "The Sins of Hermas." In *Early Christian Origins: Studies in Honor of Harold R. Willoughby*, edited by Allen Paul Wikgren, 102–19. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1961.
- Collins, Adela Yarbro. *Cosmology and Eschatology in Jewish and Christian Apocalypticism*. Leiden: Brill, 1996.
- Collins, John J. *The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Daley, Brian. *The Hope of the Early Church: A Handbook of Patristic Eschatology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1991.
- Daniélou, Jean. *The Dead Sea Scrolls and Primitive Christianity*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1979.
- Daniélou, Jean. *The Theology of Jewish Christianity*. History of Early Christian Doctrine before the Council of Nicaea. Vol. 1. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1977.
- De Ste. Croix, G. E. M., Michael Whitby, and Joseph Streeter. *Christian Persecution, Martyrdom, and Orthodoxy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Draper, Jonathan. "The Two Ways and Eschatological Hope: A Contested Terrain in Galatians 5 and the Didache." *Neotestamentica* 45 (2011): 221–51.
- Dunbar, David G. "The Delay of the Parousia in Hippolytus." *Vigiliae Christianae* 37 (1983): 313–27.
- Dunn, James D. G. *The Oral Gospel Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013.
- Ehrman, Bart D. *Lost Christianities: The Battle for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Ehrman, Bart D. *Lost Scriptures: Books That Did Not Make It into the New Testament*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology, and Liturgy in the First Five Centuries*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.
- Frend, W. H. C. *Martyrdom and Persecution in the Early Church: A Study of a Conflict from the Maccabees to Donatus*. Garden City: Anchor Books, 1967.
- Gieschen, Charles A. *Angelomorphic Christology: Antecedents and Early Evidence*. *Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums* 42. Leiden: Brill, 1998.
- Grundeken, Mark. *Community Building in the Shepherd of Hermas: A Critical Study of Some Key Aspects*. Supplements to *Vigiliae Christianae* 131. Leiden: Brill, 2015.
- Hartwig, P. B. "The Obedience of the Church as a Prelude to the Parousia: Ecclesial and Temporal Factors in New Testament Eschatology." *Verbum et Ecclesia* 26 (2005): 382–97.
- Hauck, Robert J. "The Great Fast: Christology in the Shepherd of Hermas." *Anglican Theological Review* 75 (1993): 187–98.

- Havelock, Eric Alfred. *The Literate Revolution in Greece and Its Cultural Consequences*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982.
- Henne, Philippe. *La christologie chez Clément de Rome et dans le Pasteur d'Herma*s. Paradosis 33. Freiburg: Editions universitaires, 1992.
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- Henne, Philippe. "La polysémie allégorique dans le Pasteur d'Hermas." *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* 65 (1989): 131–35.
- Hiers, Richard H. "The Problem of the Delay of the Parousia in Luke–Acts." *New Testament Studies* 20 (1974): 145–55.
- Hill, Charles E. *Patterns of Future Hope in Early Christianity*. New York: Clarendon, 1992.
- Hurtado, Larry W. *One God, One Lord: Early Christian Devotion and Ancient Jewish Monotheism*. Fortress Press, 1988.
- Joly, Robert. *Le pasteur. Introduction, texte critique, traduction et notes*. 2nd ed. Source chrétiennes 53. Paris: Cerf, 1958.
- Lake, Kirsopp. "The Shepherd of Hermas and Christian Life in Rome in the Second Century." *Harvard Theological Review* 4 (1911): 25–46.
- Lampe, Peter. *From Paul to Valentinus: Christians at Rome in the First Two Centuries*. Translated by Michael Steinhauser. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.
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- Moore, George F. *Judaism in the First Centuries of the Christian Era: The Age of Tannaim*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
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- Osiek, Carolyn, and David L. Balch. *Families in the New Testament World: Households and House Churches*. The Family, Religion, and Culture. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997.

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- Stewart-Sykes, Alistair. "The Christology of Hermas and the Interpretation of the Fifth Similitude." *Augustinianum Rome* 37 (1997): 273–84.
- Stewart-Sykes, Stewart. *On the Two Ways: Life or Death, Light or Darkness: Foundational Texts in the Tradition*. St. Vladimir's Seminary Press Popular Patristics Series 41. Yonkers: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2011.
- Svigel, Michael. *The Center and the Source: Second Century Incarnational Christology and Early Catholic Christianity*. Gorgias Studies in Early Christianity and Patristics 66. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias, 2016.
- Svigel, Michael, and Larsen, Matthew. "The First Century Two Ways Catechesis and Hebrews 6:1–6." *The Didache: A Missing Piece of the Puzzle in Early Christianity*, edited by Clayton N. Jefford and Jonathan A. Draper, 470–96. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.
- Svigel, Michael J. "The Passing of the Prophets in the Apostolic Fathers." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 176, no. 704 (October 2019): 459–75.
- Tannen, Deborah. "Oral and Literate Strategies in Spoken and Written Narratives." *Language* 58 (1982): 1–21.
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- Wilson, J. C. *Five Problems in the Interpretation of the Shepherd of Hermas: Authorship, Genre, Canonicity, Apocalyptic, and the Absence of the Name 'Jesus Christ.'* Mellen Biblical Press 34. Lewiston, NY: Mellen, 1995.
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