



## JUSTIN MARTYR

### Justin Martyr

d. 167

June 1

Philosopher and Theologian

- ✠ Apologist to Rome
- ✠ Turned to Christianity after studying with a Stoic, a Peripatetic, a Pythagorean, and a Platonist
- ✠ Author of *First Apology*, *Second Apology*, and *Dialogue with Trypho*
- ✠ Made an enemy of Cynic philosopher Crescens
- ✠ Earnest and ardent, but not brilliant
- ✠ Precursor of philosophical & systematic theology
- ✠ Beheaded in Rome under Prefect Rusticus

I prayed and strove with all my might that I might prove a Christian: not because Plato's teachings are contrary to Christ's, but because they are not in all respects identical with them: as is the case with the doctrines of the others, the Stoics, the poets and prose authors. For each, through his share in the divine generative Logos, spoke well, seeing what was akin to it.

*Second Apology*, xiii

We are taught that Christ is the first-born of God, and we have explained above that he is the Word of whom all mankind have a share, and those who lived according to reason are Christians, even though they were classed as atheists.

*First Apology*, xlvi