

ON THE STEADFASTNESS
OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH



St. Raphael of Brooklyn

On the Steadfastness of the Orthodox Church

Saint Raphael of Brooklyn



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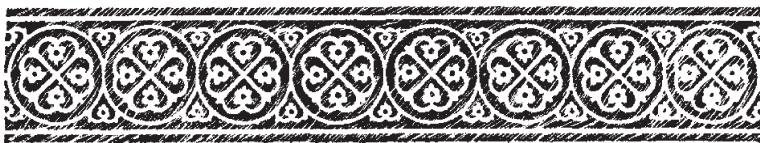
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CHAPTER I

A Historical Perspective on the Steadfastness of the Orthodox Church of Christ¹

If we skim through reliable history, we come to know that the Church of Christ, since its foundation until now, that is, in the course of about nineteen centuries, did not rest in any century from the great struggle against the many who war against Her and the numerous who resist Her, both Jews, pagans, heretics and atheists. At the same time, however, we also recognize that victory, in every place and time, was the ally of the Church's luminaries and will accompany Her until the end of days, according to the witness of Her divine founder, our Lord and God Jesus Christ, who built Her on the rock of faith in Him and said: "The gates of Hades shall not prevail against Her."

During the first three Christian centuries, the Jews and all pagan nations rose against the Church of Christ throughout the whole Roman Empire and stirred against Christians a terrible, intermittent war, such that the blood of thousands

1 *The Word*, Number 23, December 1, 1909, Year 5, pp. 441-444.

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FOR ALL THINGS**

AMEN.