

The Path of Christianity: The First Thousand Years

Available May 2017

\$65, xx + 1209 pages,

hardcover

978-0-8308-4098-4

“John McGuckin is one of the most learned and energetic historians of early Christianity in the world. . . . This spectacular volume covers themes largely untouched in earlier macrohistories of the early church.”

— Paul M. Blowers, Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan College

Milestone Text on the First Thousand Years of Christianity Released

John Anthony McGuckin, one of the world’s leading scholars of ancient Christianity, has synthesized a lifetime of work to produce the most comprehensive and accessible history of the Christian movement during its first thousand years. *The Path of Christianity* takes readers on a journey from the period immediately after the composition of the Gospels, through the building of the earliest Christian structures in polity and doctrine, to the dawning of the medieval Christian establishment. McGuckin explores Eastern and Western developments simultaneously, covering grand intellectual movements and local affairs in both epic scope and fine detail.

The Path of Christianity is divided into two parts of twelve chapters each. Part one treats the first millennium of Christianity in linear sequence, from the second to the eleventh century. In addition to covering key theologians and conciliar decisions, McGuckin surveys topics such as Christian persecution, early monasticism, the global scope of ancient Christianity, and the formation of Christian liturgy. Part two examines key themes and ideas, including biblical interpretation, war and violence, hymnography, the role of women, attitudes to wealth, and early Christian views about slavery and sexuality. McGuckin gives the reader a sense of the real condition of early Christian life, not simply what the literate few had to say.

Written for student and scholar alike, *The Path of Christianity* is a lively, readable, and masterful account of ancient Christian history, conversant with contemporary interpretive methods and able to set in dialogue the demands of history with the claims of Christian theology. It is destined to be the standard for years to come.

McGuckin is the Nielsen Professor in Late Antique and Byzantine Christian History at Union Theological Seminary and professor of Byzantine Christian Studies at Columbia University in New York City. He formerly was the reader in patristic and Byzantine theology at the University of Leeds in England. He is an archpriest of the Romanian Orthodox Church and a fellow of both the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Historical Society of the United Kingdom. He has written twenty-five works of historical theology, including *St. Cyril of Alexandria: The Christological Controversy*, *St. Gregory of Nazianzus: An Intellectual Biography*, *The Westminster Handbook to Patristic Theology*, and *The Ascent of Law*.

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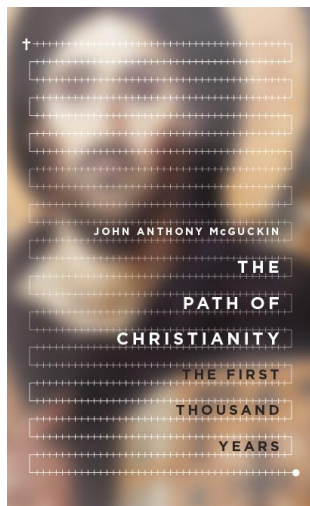


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Christianity's First Thousand Years

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