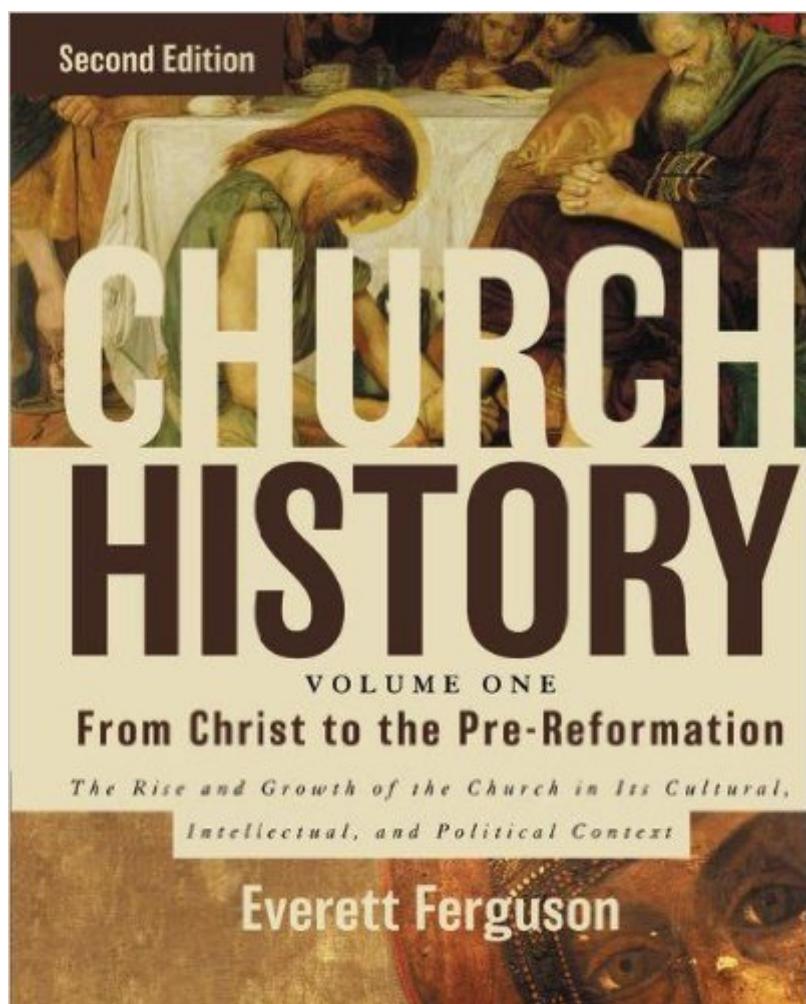


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# Church History, Volume One: From Christ To The Pre-Reformation: The Rise And Growth Of The Church In Its Cultural, Intellectual, And Political Context



## Synopsis

Church History offers a unique contextual view of how the Christian church spread and developed. It did so, not in a vacuum, but in a setting of times, cultures, and events that both influenced and were influenced by the church. Church History looks closely at the integral link between the history of the world and that of the church. Volume One explores the development of the church from the days of Jesus to the years prior to the Reformation. Filled with maps, charts, and illustrations, it offers overviews of the Roman, Greek, and Jewish worlds; insights into the church's relationship to the Roman Empire, with glimpses into pagan attitudes toward Christians; the place of art and architecture, literature and philosophy, both sacred and secular; and much more, spanning the time from the first through the thirteenth centuries.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Use the knowledge of the past to help navigate the present toward the future. This is the underlying conviction of authors of history books and historians at large. This comprehensive Church history textbook, now into its second edition, is no different. Ferguson is Distinguished Scholar at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas as well as an author of numerous books especially on Church history. As an experienced historian, he wisely advises students to adopt these perspectives which I paraphrase as follows:1) Big Picture Understanding: Know the data and details, but notice more the religious life of the people and the perspectives during that era;2) Imitating the Good: For the periods and moments of faithfulness in the past, rejoice and reaffirm the imitation of them;3) Avoid Repeating the Bad: For the periods and moments of unfaithfulness, learn from them and avoid

repeating mistakes of the past;4) Storying the Greatest Event in History: That Church history is to be studied because it is about the greatest thing ever to happen to mankind through the coming of Christ;5) Compass for the Road Ahead: With historical consciousness of the past, one is better equipped to deal with the present and the future.Like many Church history textbooks, most of the "narrative thread" in this book will be on Western Christianity. Compressing the time of Christ to the Pre-Reformation means trying to frame nearly 1400 years into a 544 pages volume. This is a tough mountain to climb but having climbed it, Ferguson provides readers a bird's eye view from the summit.

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