



St. Francis Virtual House of Studies

**Readings In
Eastern Christianity**



***NOTE:** This bibliography contains a representative sampling of general works on Eastern Orthodoxy and the Oriental Churches as well as a few historical treatments.*

1. Scholarly Literature

Betty Jane Bailey and J. Martin Bailey, ***Who Are the Christians in the Middle East?*** Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2003.

This is a useful overview of the early 21st century context of Christianity in the Middle East.

The Blackwell Dictionary of Eastern Christianity, Edited by Ken Perry, *et al.* Oxford: Blackwell, 2001.

The articles in this large reference work are rich and detailed. The coverage includes the Oriental Churches as well as Eastern Orthodoxy.

Carnegie Samuel Calian, ***Theology Without Boundaries: Encounters of Eastern Orthodoxy and the Western Tradition.*** Louisville: Westminster / John Knox, 1992.

Calian achieves a fine balance between celebrating the possibilities and considering the problems in east-west dialogues.

Paul Evdokimov, ***The Art of the Icon: A Theology of Beauty.*** Redondo Beach, CA: Oakwood Publications, 1990.

This theological reflection on our incarnate reality draws upon ethics in service to our spiritual journey.

Judith Herrin, ***Byzantium: The Surprising Life of a Medieval Empire.*** Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.

The interplay between the “New Rome” of Constantinople and the development of Eastern Christianity is one of the dominant themes in this excellent book.

Joan Hussey, ***The Orthodox Church in the Byzantine Empire***. Oxford: Clarendon, 1986.

Hussey offers a fine introduction to the formative period of the Eastern Orthodox tradition.

Bradley Nassif, ***The Westminster Handbook to Eastern Orthodox Theology***. Louisville: Westminster / John Knox, 2007.

This is an excellent introduction for those who have had no prior exposure.

Jaroslav Pelikan, ***The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine, Vol. 2: The Spirit of Eastern Christendom (600-1700.)*** Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977.

This is a detailed but accessible analysis of the doctrinal development of Eastern Christianity for 1100 years.

Michael Prokurat *et al.*, ***Historical Dictionary of the Orthodox Church***. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1996.

This is a useful reference guide for greater detail on specific events, movements and people than will be found in most historical overviews.

Alexander Schmemmann, ***For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy***. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1975.

Schmemmann develops a worldview from the Orthodox perspective on the sacraments, or perhaps more precisely from the perspective of the Church as a sacramental agent.

Alexander Schmemmann, ***The Historical Road of Eastern Orthodoxy***. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1963, 1997.

Schmemmann's treatment is thorough, concise, and probably the best introduction for the general reader.

St. Pachomius Library <http://www.voskrese.info/spl/index.html>

This is a useful on-line encyclopedia of Eastern Orthodoxy.

Kallistos (Timothy) Ware, ***The Orthodox Church***. 2nd Edition. New York: Penguin, 1993.

One of the leading contemporary Eastern Orthodox scholars, Ware wrote this book to explain this tradition to those who have little prior experience with it. It is wonderfully accessible.

Kallistos (Timothy) Ware, ***The Orthodox Way***. Rev. ed. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1995.

Ware offers a meditation on Eastern Orthodoxy as a formation for life.

2. Primary Source Material

Anon., The Way of the Pilgrim and the Pilgrim Continues His Way. New York: Image Books, 1992.

This translation of a nineteenth century Russian novel deals with the meditative and centering power of the Jesus Prayer.

The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Edited by Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson. 10 Volumes. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1999, originally published 1895.

Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers: First Series, Edited by Philip Schaff. 14

Volumes. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1999, originally published 1886.

Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers: Second Series, Edited by Philip Schaff and

Henry Wace. 14 Volumes. Peabody MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1999, originally published 1890.

These facsimile editions make available the 38 volume set of Patristic translations that was generated by a late 19th-century team of scholars at Union Theological Seminary in New York and Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati. The set contains writings from Clement in the first century to Aphrahat in the mid-4th century, plus a final volume containing the complete texts of the Canons of the Seven Ecumenical Councils. One can find the entire set for a very reasonable price on Amazon or from Christian Bookseller Distributors. In addition, one can access all 38 volumes free of cost online at Christian Classics Ethereal Library:

<http://www.ccel.org/>

This is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the History of Early Christianity, including the Eastern traditions.

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