

Inheriting Wisdom: Readings for Today from Ancient Christian Writers

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Collected wisdom crossing time to engage current issues. . .

So many concerns of today's world require nuanced consideration and a sensitive response. Yet human nature and spiritual need remain remarkably constant. Practical, moral, and spiritual struggles are not peculiar to modern life.

Early Christians looked at all things through the lens of God and Christ, including those that today we would consider secular in nature, as the wide range of subjects these writers addressed clearly demonstrates. The words of Christian writers such as Tertullian, Jerome, John Chrysostom, Basil of Caesarea, and Clement of Alexandria are organized around familiar, everyday themes. In study, reflection, or devotional reading, use this book to look through their eyes at our issues — and, perhaps, find a deepened and sharpened awareness of what it means to choose the Christian life.

Introduced, organized, and translated by Everett Ferguson, these quotes are arranged to allow the ancient authors to speak for themselves. Inheriting Wisdom will refresh modern readers with the rich resources of early Christianity and provide direction and guidance for the twenty-first century.

"Ancient Christian wisdom applies so readily to contemporary living that we have to realize, with a kind of shock, that the problems and temptations humans face today are far from new under the sun. The idea that new moral challenges require new solutions is an illusion. What's required is humility, as we listen to the wisdom of older brothers and sisters who trod this same road, presented here in this beautiful and very accessible book." —Frederica Mathewes-Green, Author of The Illumined Heart: The Ancient Christian Path of Transformation and At the Corner of East and Now: A Modern Life in Ancient Christian Orthodoxy

"A trip to the local Christian bookstore can occasionally be a discouraging experience, particularly for readers longing to go deeper in their devotion to Christ and Christ's kingdom. Much of the fluff being produced by modern writers has a shelf life of only a few months and fails to assuage the thirst and hunger of readers eager for a more substantial meal. Everett Ferguson has done

us all a great service by presenting a banquet from the thought and life of the early church in accessible, lively translations across a broad range of topics and concerns. Social existence, early Christian ethical concerns, conversion and salvation, key doctrines, and central themes of Christian living are engagingly addressed by early Christian writers in this wide-ranging text. Here is a book that readers unfamiliar with the early church will come to treasure. Those more familiar with the terrain of early Christian thought will also find gems here worth pondering and praying through." —Christopher A. Hall, Dean of the Templeton Honors College at Eastern University, author of Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers, and associate editor of the Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture

"It is always a temptation for us to assume that the past has little to teach us. This rich and ordered collection of excerpts from early Christians is an excellent exercise in correcting such arrogance and in demolishing foolish stereotypes. Christians, especially, will find here many links with spiritual forebears, as we listen in on their efforts to live and reflect upon their faith and its implications for many sectors of life in their times." —Larry W. Hurtado, Professor of New Testament Language, Literature, and Theology, School of Divinity, New College, University of Edinburgh, and Director of the University of Edinburgh Centre for the Study of Christian Origins

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Pastors will appreciate this well-organized book of quotations drawn from the writings of ancient and medieval church fathers such as John Chrysostom, Tertullian, Origen, Gregory of Nyssa, Jerome, Ambrose and Irenaeus. Arranged topically, the book deals first with "social existence," a catch-all category that includes family, marriage, education, caring for the body and dealing with the government. The second section addresses ethics—justice, sexual morality, negative emotions, sin and virtue—while the third (and shortest) section takes up the issues of conversion and salvation. The final two parts deal with spiritual questions (the nature of God, angels, revelation through scripture) and the vicissitudes of Christian living. Many readers will enjoy the book’s user-friendly accessibility and topically relevant window into patristics. There are some small quibbles; translator/editor Ferguson draws from a very small sampling of the church fathers and shows a decided preference for the teachings of Clement of Alexandria. It would also have been helpful to have at least some historical context for each quotation, even the birth and death dates of the man in question, since some of them are separated by centuries. Still, this is a useful compendium of some early church leaders’ reflections on important issues.
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About the Author
Everett Ferguson is the Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Abilene Christian University. He has authored numerous texts including Early Christians Speak and Backgrounds of Early Christianity and lectures on patristics throughout the world.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jimmy Robertson:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or even their experience. Not only situation that share in the books. But also they write about the data about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some research before they write with their book. One of them is this Inheriting Wisdom: Readings for Today from Ancient Christian Writers.

Michael Dennison:

Why? Because this Inheriting Wisdom: Readings for Today from Ancient Christian Writers is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will shock you with the secret it inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such remarkable way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This

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Phyllis Tucker:

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David Baxter:

A number of people said that they feel weary when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt it when they get a half parts of the book. You can choose the particular book Inheriting Wisdom: Readings for Today from Ancient Christian Writers to make your personal reading is interesting. Your skill of reading proficiency is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the idea about book and examining especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to start a book and go through it. Beside that the book Inheriting Wisdom: Readings for Today from Ancient Christian Writers can to be your new friend when you're feel alone and confuse in what must you're doing of this time.

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