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significant Christian theological texts in history. Through these works—each written prior to the end of the sixteenth century—contemporary readers are able to engage the ideas that have shaped Christian theology and the church through the centuries. Evangelism in the Early Church Michael Green 2004-05-17 Provides a comprehensive look at the ways the first Christians—from the New Testament period until the middle of the third century—worked to spread the good news to the rest of the world. This book will both show contemporary readers what can be learned from the past and help renew their own evangelistic vision.

The Early Christians in Their Own Words Eberhard Arnold 1997 In these firsthand accounts of the early church, the spirit of Pentecost burns with prophetic force through the fog enveloping the modern church. A clear and vibrant faith lives on in these writings, providing a guide for Christians today. Its stark simplicity and revolutionary fervor will stun those lulled by conventional Christianity. The Early Christians is a topically arranged collection of primary sources. It includes extra-biblical sayings of Jesus and excerpts from Origen, Tertullian, Polycarp, Clement of Alexandria, Justin, Irenaeus, Hermas, Ignatius, and others. Equally revealing material from pagan contemporaries—critics, detractors, and persecutors—is included as well.

Christian Persecution, Martyrdom, and Orthodoxy Geoffrey de Ste. Croix 2006-09-28 This volume brings together seven seminal papers by the great historical scholar Geoffrey de Ste. Croix, who died in 2006, on early Christian topics, with an especial focus on persecution and martyrdom. Christian martyrdom is a topic which conjures up ready images of inhumane persecutors confronted by Christian heroes who perish for the instant but win the long-term battle for reputation. In five of these essays Ste. Croix scrutinizes the evidence to reveal the significant role of Christian themselves, first as volunteer martyrs and later, after the triumph of Christianity in the early fourth century, as organizers of much more effective persecutions. A sixth essay pursues the question of the control of Christianity through a comprehensive study of the context for one of the church's most important and divisive doctrinal decisions, at the Council of Chalcedon (AD 451), the key role of the emperor and his senior secular officials is revealed, contrary to the prevailing interpretation of Church historians. Finally the attitudes of the early Church towards property and slavery are reviewed, to show the divide between the Gospel message and actual practice.

The Formation of the Early Church, 30 BC – AD 140: Theological and Ecclesiastical Sources E. A. Helms 2014-05-09 *Formation of the Early Church* is an essential resource for anyone interested in the development of the institution of the church. This book caters to a wide audience of students, general readers, and scholars interested in the church’s formation and development. The book's themes and topics are both historically accurate and easy to understand, making it a valuable resource for students and scholars alike. The book is divided into three major sections: **Theological Foundations**, **Ecclesiastical Developments**, and **Theological and Ecclesiastical Sources**. Each section contains a comprehensive overview of the development of the church and its theological and ecclesiastical foundations. The book is written in a clear and accessible style, making it easy for readers to follow the arguments presented. The author includes a wealth of primary sources and citations, allowing readers to explore the historical and theological context of the church's development. Overall, *Formation of the Early Church* is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the development of the institution of the church.