



Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Federatis

HIGH COUNCIL • READING SYLLABUS

CHRISTIANITY THE FIRST THREE THOUSAND YEARS

By Dairmaid MacColloch

The following reading syllabus divides Dr. MacCulloch's excellent book into manageable sections of approximately 20 to 30 pages per week. This is done with mind to the busy schedules many of our members maintain and to encourage participation. The date listed is the date when the section is to be *finished*. Discussion is encouraged: however, please focus your discussion on the relevant section for each week.

DATE	READING	PAGES
Jan. 17	INTRODUCTION PART I. A MILLENNIA OF BEGINNINGS (1000 BCE - 100 CE). 1. GREEK AND ROME (1,000 BCE -100 CE)	I - 47
Jan. 24	2. ISRAEL	47 - 77
Jan. 31	PART II. ONE CHURCH, ONE FAITH, ONE LORD? (4 BCE - 451 CE) 3. A CRUCIFIED MESSIAH (4 BCE - 100 CE) Beginnings; The Adult Jesus: A Public Campaign; Crucifixion and Resurrection	77 - 97
Feb. 7	New Directions: Paul of Tarsus; The Gospel of John and Revelation; The Jewish Revolt and the End of Jerusalem 4. BOUNDARIES DEFINED (50 CE - 300) Shaping the Church	97-121
Feb. 14	Alternative Identities: Gnosticism, Marcionism; Canon, Creed, Ministry, Catholicity; Monatism: Prophecy Renewed and Suppressed	121 - 141
Feb. 21	Justin, Irenaneus, Tertullian; Alexandrian Theologians: Clement and Origen 5. THE PRINCE: ALLY OR ENEMY? (100 - 300) The Church and the Roman Empire (100 - 200); Third Century Imperial	141 - 166

	Crisis	
Feb. 28	From Persecution to Persecution (250 – 300); Kings and Christians: Syria, Armenia 6. THE IMPERIAL CHURCH (300 – 451) Constantine and the God of Battles	166 - 200
Mar. 7	The Beginnings of Monasticism; Constantine, Arius and the One God (306-25); Councils and Dissidents from Nicaea to Chalcedon; Miaphysites and Nestorius	200 -231
Mar. 14	PART III. VANISHING FUTURES: EAST AND SOUTH (451 – 1500) 7. DEFYING CHALCEDON: ASIA AND AFRICA (451 – 622) Miaphysite Christianity and Its Missions; Ethiopia: The Christianity of ‘Union’; The Church of the East (451 – 622)	231 - 255
Mar. 21	8. ISLAM: THE GREAT REALIGNMENT (622 – 1500) Muhammad and the Coming of Islam; Islam and the East; The Church in China; The Mongols: New Hope and Catastrophe; Islam and the African Churches	255 - 289
Mar. 28	PART IV. THE UNPREDICTABLE RISE OF ROME (300 – 1300) 9. THE MAKING OF LATIN CHRISTIANITY (300 – 500) The Rome of the Popes (300 – 400); A Religion Fit for Gentlemen (300 – 400); Augustine: Shaper of the Western Church; Early Monasticism in the West (400 – 500)	289 - 319
Apr. 4	10. LATIN CHRISTENDOM: NEW FRONTIERS (500 – 1000) Changing Allegiances: Rome, Byzantium and Others; Missions in Northern Europe (500 – 600); Obedient Anglo-Saxons and Other Converts (600 – 800)	319 - 346
Apr. 11	Charlemagne, Carolingians and a New Roman Empire (800 – 1000). 11. THE WEST: UNIVERSAL EMPEROR OR UNIVERSAL POPE? (900 – 1200) Abbots, Warriors and Popes: Cluny’s Legacy	346 - 371

Apr. 18	The Vicar of Christ: Marriage, Celibacy and Universal Monarchy; The Age of the Crusades (1060 - 1200); Cistercians, Carthusians and Mary (1100 - 1200)	371 - 396
Apr. 25	12. A CHURCH FOR ALL PEOPLE? (1100 - 1300) Theology, Heresy, Universities (1100 - 1300); A Pastoral Revolution, Friars and the Fourth Lateran Council (1200 - 1260); Thomas Aquinas: Philosophy and Faith; Love in a Cold Climate; Personal Devotion after 1200	396 - 427
May 2	PART V. ORTHODOXY: THE IMPERIAL FAITH (451 - 1800) 13. FAITH IN A NEW ROME (451 - 900) A Church to Shape Orthodoxy: Hagia Sophia; Byzantine Spirituality: Maximus and the Mystical Tradition; Smashing Images: The Iconoclastic Controversy (726 - 843)	427 - 457
May 9	Photios and New Missions to the West (850 - 900) 14. ORTHODOXY: MORE THAN AN EMPIRE (900 - 1700) Crises and Crusaders (900 - 1200); The Fourth Crusade and Its Aftermath (1204 - 1300)	457 - 482
May 16	Orthodox Renaissance, Ottomans and Hesychasm Triumphant (1300 - 1400); Hopes Destroyed: Church Union, Ottoman Conquest (1400 - 1700)	482 - 503
May 23	15. RUSSIA: THE THIRD ROME (900 - 1800) A New Threat to Christendom: Norsemen, Rus' and Kiev (900 - 1240); Tatars, Lithuania and Muscovy (1240 - 1448); Muscovy Triumphant (1448 - 1547)	503 - 528
May 30	Ivan the Terrible and the New Patriarchate (1547 - 98); From Muscovy to Russia (1598 - 1800)	528 - 551
Jun. 6	PART VI. WESTERN CHRISTIANITY DISMEMBERED (1300 - 1800) 16. PERSPECTIVES ON THE TRUE CHURCH (1300 - 1517) The Church, Death and Purgatory (1300 - 1500); Papal Monarchy Challenged (1300 - 1500); Nominalists, Lollards and Hussites (1300 - 1500); Old Worlds Bring New: Humanism (1300 - 1500)	551 - 584

Jun. 13	Reforming the Church in the Last Days (1500); Erasmus: New Beginnings? 17. A HOUSE DIVIDED (1517-1660) A Door in Wittenberg	584 - 614
Jun. 20	The Farmers' War and Zwingli; Reformations Radical and Magisterial: Anabaptists and Henry VIII; Strassburg, England and Geneva (1540 - 60)	614 - 637
Jun. 27	Reformed Protestants, Confessionalization and Toleration (1560 - 1660); Reformation Crises: The Thirty Years War and Britain 18. ROME'S RENEWAL (1500- 1700) Cross-Currents in Spain and Italy: Valdesians and Jesuits (1500 - 1540)	637 - 662
Jul. 4	Regensburg and Trent: A Contest Resolved (1541 - 59); Counter- Reformations after Trent: England, Spain and the Mystics; Trent Delayed: France and Poland-Lithuania; Lives Separated: Saints, Splendor, Sex and Witches	662 - 689
Jul. 11	19. A WORLDWIDE FAITH (1500 - 1800) Iberian Empires: The Western Church Exported; Counter-Reformation in a New World; Counter-Reformation in Asia: Empires Unconquered; Counter-Reformation in Africa: The Blight of the Slave Trade	689 - 716
Jul. 18	20. PROTESTANT AWAKENINGS (1600 - 1800) Protestants and American Colonization; The Fight for Protestant Survival (1660 - 1800)	716 - 738
Jul. 25	Pietism and the Moravians; The Evangelical Revival: Methodism; The Great Awakenings and the American Revolution	738 - 769
Aug. 1	PART VII. GOD IN THE DOCK (1492 - PRESENT) 21. ENLIGHTENMENT: ALLY OR ENEMY? (1492 - 1815) Natural and Unnatural Philosophy (1492 - 1700); Judaism, Scepticism and Deism (1490 - 1700); Social Watersheds in the Netherlands and England (1650 - 1750); Gender Roles in the Enlightenment; Enlightenment in the Eighteenth Century	769 - 806
Aug. 8	The French Revolution (1789 - 1815); Aftermath of the Revolution: A Europe of Nation-states	806 - 830

	22. EUROPE RE-ENCHANTED OR DISENCHANTED? (1815 – 1914) Catholicism Ascendant: Mary’s Triumph and the Challenge of Liberalism; Protestantism: Bibles and ‘First-wave’ Feminism	
Aug. 15	A Protestant Enlightenment: Schleiermacher, Hegel and Their Heirs; British Protestantism and the Oxford Movement; Orthodoxy: Russia and Ottoman Decay; Masters of Suspicion: Geology, Biblical Criticism and Atheism	830 - 866
Aug. 22	23. TO MAKE THE WORLD PROTESTANT (1700 – 1914) Slavery and Its Abolition: A New Christian Taboo; A Protestant World Mission: Oceania and Australasia; Africa: An Islamic or a Protestant Century?; India: The Great Rebellion and the Limits of Colonial Mission; China, Korea, Japan	866 -902
Aug. 29	America: The New Protestant Empire 24. NOT PEACE BUT A SWORD (1914 – 60) A War That Killed Christendom (1914 – 18); Catholics and Christ the King: The Second Age of Catholic Missions	902 - 931
Sep. 5	The Churches and Nazism: The Second World War; World Christianity Realigned: Ecumenical Beginnings; World Christianity Realigned: Pentecostals and New Churches	931 - 967
Sep. 12	25. CULTURE WARS (1960 TO PRESENT) The Second Vatican Council: Half a Revolution; Catholics, Protestants and Liberation; A Cultural Revolution from the Sixties	967 - 990
Sep. 19	Old-time Religion: Affirmations; Freedom: Prospects and Fears	990 - END