

The History of Christianity

(taken from Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity)

Vol. 1, Issue 9

Introduction: The Christian Centuries, Part 7

(excerpts from Robert D. Linder's introduction)

Challenges for the church. Renewal and reform in the 10th century gave rise to a great new missionary thrust into northern and eastern Europe, which resulted in the conversion of the Scandinavians, Poles, and Magyars. Later, in the 12th century, Francis of Assisi mounted a serious mission among the Muslims. Earlier, in the 9th century, the Eastern Orthodox church had sent missionaries into eastern Europe who succeeded in converting many of the Slavic peoples of that region to faith. In the 10th century, Orthodox missionaries reached Kievan Russia with the Christian gospel. This marked the beginning of the Russian Orthodox church, which eventually claimed to be the true successor of Rome and Constantinople. In the same way, the 15th and 16th century Russian Czars insisted that they were the heirs of the Caesars and that Moscow was 'the Third Rome.'

The Christian faith was strengthened and enriched after the 10th century by challenges, the greatest being anti-clerical and anti-hierarchical movements which the institutional church branded as heresies. One of two largest and influential was the Albigensians (they called themselves the Cathari or 'pure ones') who were vigorously evangelistic but persecuted so successfully that it is difficult to be certain about what they really believed. However, they were clearly heretical in rejecting the Christian doctrine of creation. They differentiated sharply between flesh and spirit, and this formed the basis for most of their other beliefs and practices. They emphasized the desirability of the life of the spirit and denounced the growing worldliness of the church.

The other large movement were the Waldensians, who were orthodox in their beliefs and stressed a return to apostolic Christianity based upon biblical teaching. They had much opposition and persecution at the beginning of the 13th century, but at the end of the century similar emphases were made by the friars with approval of the church authorities. The Waldensians escaped eradication by fleeing to virtually inaccessible alpine valleys in northern Italy, Savoy, Switzerland and Austria. There, especially in Italy, they have survived to the present day.



"Fear Not"

Trusted Psalms

August 3, 2025

Hartford Bible Church, Elder Bob Cobleigh

Fear starts back in Genesis 3:9-10 Naked and Afraid

1 Samuel 17 David vs Goliath (Fear of King Saul & troops)

1 Samuel 17:32 David steps up.

Verse 40 - A Divine throw

Verse 47 - The battle belongs to the Lord !

1 Samuel Chapters 20-22 - Tables turn / David on the run / Fear

1 Samuel 21:12 - David's goes to Gath / David becomes afraid

David's act of madness / released and goes to Adulam cave

Psalms 56:3 - When I am afraid I will trust in you

Psalms 34:1-10 - Bless the Lord / Exalt the Lord / Rescued / Radiant

Psalms 27:1 - The Lord is my Light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 34:8-10 - Taste and see

Release Fear to the Lord and Taste HIS Goodness

Fear Not

Fear NOT through the Psalms

Psalm 3:6

I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people
Who have set themselves against me all around.

Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through
the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation,
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life,
of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:3

If an army encamps against me,
My heart will not fear;
If war arises against me,
In *spite of* this I am confident.

Psalm 46:2

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth shakes
And the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;

Psalm 56:3

When I am afraid I will put my trust in you.

Psalm 56:11

In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid.
What can mankind do to me?

Psalm 91:5

You will not fear the terror by night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day.

Psalm 118:6

The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?