

How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire

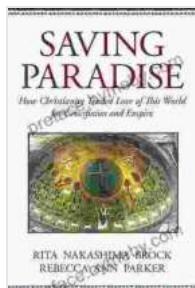
Christianity, one of the world's major religions, has a long and complex history. From its humble beginnings in the first century CE, it has grown to become a global religion with over 2 billion followers. However, the history of Christianity is not without its dark chapters. One of the most significant turning points in Christian history came in the fourth century CE, when the Roman emperor Constantine converted to Christianity. This event marked the beginning of a new era for Christianity, one in which it would become closely aligned with the Roman Empire.

The consequences of Constantine's conversion were far-reaching. Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, and its doctrines and practices were increasingly influenced by the values and priorities of the Roman state. This led to a number of significant changes in Christian thought and practice, including:

- **The development of a more hierarchical and authoritarian church structure.**
- **The adoption of a more triumphalist and militant attitude towards other religions.**
- **The increasing emphasis on the afterlife and the judgment of God.**

These changes had a profound impact on the way that Christians understood their faith. They also laid the foundation for the rise of

Christendom, a period of Christian dominance in Europe that lasted for over a millennium.



Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire by Rita Nakashima Brock

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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In the early centuries of Christianity, there was a strong emphasis on the love of this world. Jesus taught his followers to love their neighbors as themselves, and to care for the poor and the marginalized. He also taught that the Kingdom of God was not something that would be realized in the future, but something that was already present in the here and now.

However, as Christianity became more closely aligned with the Roman Empire, this emphasis on the love of this world began to fade. The Roman Empire was a violent and oppressive regime, and its values were often at odds with the teachings of Jesus. As a result, Christians began to focus more on the afterlife and the judgment of God. They believed that this world was a place of sin and suffering, and that the only way to escape it was through death.

This shift in emphasis had a number of negative consequences. It led to a decline in Christian compassion and social concern. It also made Christians more willing to tolerate violence and oppression, as they believed that the ultimate goal of their faith was to escape this world and enter the Kingdom of God.

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is one of the most important events in Christian history. It is the central event of the Christian faith, and it is the basis for the Christian belief in salvation. However, the crucifixion of Jesus was also a political event. It was an act of Roman state violence, and it was intended to send a message to those who would oppose the Roman Empire.

The crucifixion of Jesus was a watershed moment in Christian history. It marked the end of the period of Christian pacifism and the beginning of a new era of Christian militancy. Christians now believed that they were called to fight against the forces of evil in this world, and that they could use violence to achieve their goals.

This new militancy was reflected in the writings of the early Church Fathers. Augustine of Hippo, one of the most influential Christian thinkers of the fourth century, argued that it was sometimes necessary to use violence to defend the faith. He also argued that the Roman Empire was a Christian empire, and that it was the duty of Christians to support the emperor.

The alliance between Christianity and the Roman Empire had a profound impact on the development of Christian thought and practice. It led to the development of a more hierarchical and authoritarian church structure, the adoption of a more triumphalist and militant attitude towards other religions,

and the increasing emphasis on the afterlife and the judgment of God. These changes had a lasting impact on the way that Christians understood their faith, and they laid the foundation for the rise of Christendom.

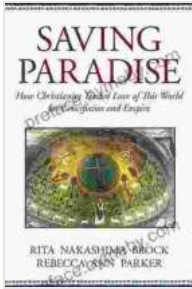
Constantine's conversion to Christianity was a major turning point in Christian history. It marked the beginning of a new era for Christianity, one in which it would become closely aligned with the Roman Empire. This alliance had a profound impact on the development of Christian thought and practice, and it laid the foundation for the rise of Christendom.

The legacy of Constantine is still felt today. The hierarchical and authoritarian structure of the Catholic Church, the triumphalist and militant attitude of many Protestant churches, and the emphasis on the afterlife and the judgment of God in many Christian traditions are all rooted in the changes that took place in the fourth century CE.

Constantine's conversion to Christianity was a complex event with far-reaching consequences. It is an event that continues to be debated and discussed by historians and theologians today.

The history of Christianity is a complex and fascinating one. It is a history of love and compassion, but it is also a history of violence and oppression. The alliance between Christianity and the Roman Empire was a major turning point in Christian history, and it had a profound impact on the way that Christians understood their faith. The legacy of Constantine is still felt today, and it is an event that continues to be debated and discussed by historians and theologians.

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