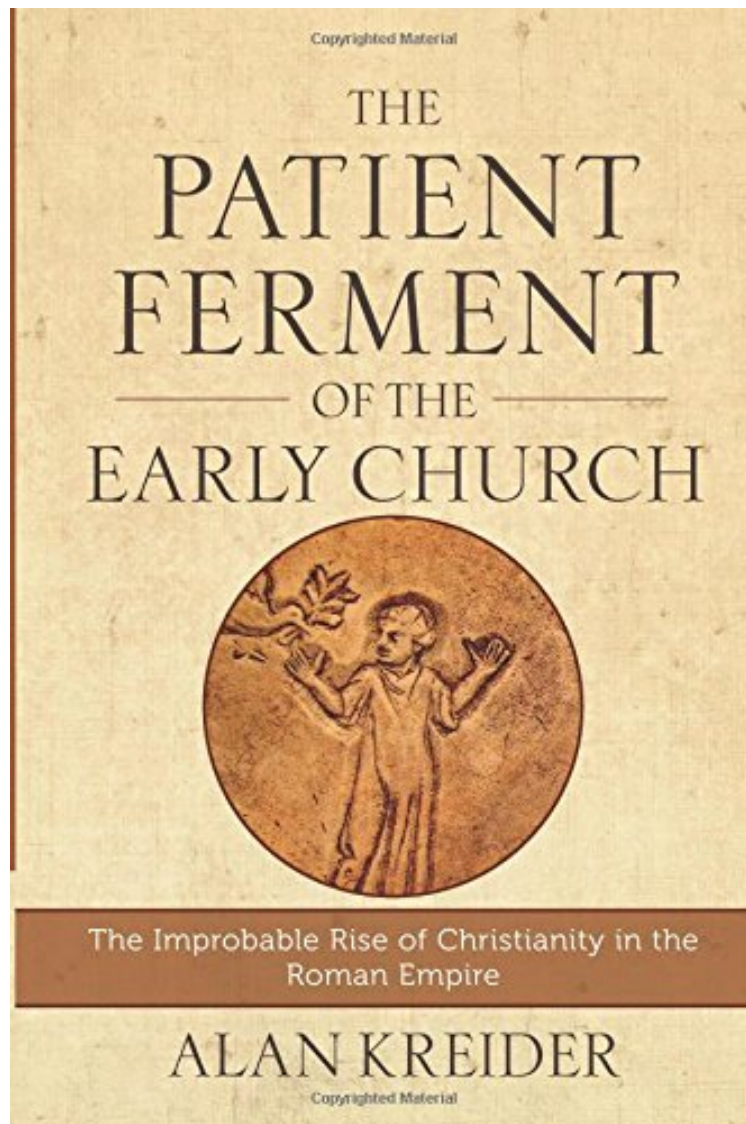


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The Patient Ferment of the Early Church: The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire

Alan Kreider

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#37969 in Books Kreider Alan 2016-03-29 2016-03-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .84 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 0801048494336 pages The Patient Ferment of the Early Church The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire | File size: 69.Mb

Alan Kreider : The Patient Ferment of the Early Church: The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Patient Ferment of the Early Church: The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Worth ReadingBy Jose SoplaCertainly worth the read. The main theme is how the character of a community, in this case the community of Christians of the Roman Empire, changes when it becomes a major tool of government, in this case from one of growth through patience and free will to one of growth through waning patience and often force. People should realize that western European Christians are only one portion of Christian communities, and other Christian communities to the east are as important, if not more important, and have subsisted, even flowered, for by now millennia as a minor tool of government, and even often treated as an enemy body by a hostile government. Certainly exciting time to be Christian in a western civilization country, whose governments by now view Christians with hostility as a minority body, certainly a challenge for Christians who once again may have to put patience at the forefront of their character. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A well researched and excellent read. A dearly needed antidote to the promotional ...By Scott PursleyA well researched and excellent read. A dearly needed antidote to the promotional numbers driven obsession of the Western Christian Church. Book should be required reading at every seminary in the United States. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. In today's atmosphere of the Great Commission being so importantBy MtnugletWell researched book. In today's atmosphere of the Great Commission being so important, which I agree it is, this book brings up the attitude that it seems as though the early church had a patient, long view towards growth. As Kreider points out, part of this was due to potential threat of persecution that the early church had to deal with on a day to day basis, which led them towards greater caution. However, that was not the only motive behind their slower growth strategy. Want to learn more, then buy the book and read it.

How and why did the early church grow in the first four hundred years despite disincentives, harassment, and occasional persecution? In this unique historical study, veteran scholar Alan Kreider delivers the fruit of a lifetime of study as he tells the amazing story of the spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire. Challenging traditional understandings, Kreider contends the church grew because the virtue of patience was of central importance in the life and witness of the early Christians. They wrote about patience, not evangelism, and reflected on prayer, catechesis, and worship, yet the church grew--not by specific strategies but by patient ferment.

From the Back Cover "A timely history for the church in our secular age" Alan Kreider has done it again. Here he utilizes his immense grasp of early Christian sources, texts, and scholarship to illuminate for us the virtue of Christian patience and its formative nature in articulating an approach to worship and life. Highly recommended."--Maxwell Johnson, University of Notre Dame; author of *Praying and Believing in Early Christianity* "In this lively and insightful study, Kreider draws on deep learning to offer a picture of the early Christian communities at a time when their future was anything but certain. Ancient men and women come to light as people whose improbable success in winning converts was the direct result of their own struggle to live with--and live up to--the powerful ideals of patience and humility. Kreider has the rare ability to read ancient sources from a fresh perspective. A marvelous and inspiring book."--Kate Cooper, University of Manchester; author of *Band of Angels: The Forgotten World of Early Christian Women* "At a time when many scholars interpret the rise of Christianity in terms of power, Kreider provides a refreshing and warranted scenario of early Christian growth from the 'inside.' The reader is invited to discover the slower and more subtle processes that have been neglected in arguments for the rapid rise of Christianity. Herein one will find a means to better balance the scholarly dialogues prevalent today."--D.H. Williams, Baylor University "In this remarkable book, Kreider refocuses our attention on patience, the cardinal virtue of the early church's witness, with rich attention to how this was cultivated in worship and catechesis. I can't imagine a more timely history for the church in our secular age."--James K.A. Smith, Calvin College; author of *Desiring the Kingdom and You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* "Time is greater than space. Pope Francis has been urging this principle on both the church and movements for peaceful social change. As he wrote in *The Joy of the Gospel*, 'This principle enables us to work slowly but surely, without being obsessed with immediate results' or 'trying to possess all the spaces of power and of self-assertion.' Kreider's thoroughly researched yet marvelously readable book demonstrates that Francis is actually calling Christians back to the nonviolent patience and winsome witness of the church's first centuries."--Gerald W. Schlabach, University of St. Thomas About the Author Alan Kreider (1941-2017; PhD, Harvard University) was professor emeritus of church history and mission at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. For many years he lived in England, where he was director of the London Mennonite Centre and later director of the Centre for Christianity and Culture at Regent's Park College, Oxford University. Kreider authored several books.