

Message: "Learning From Ancestors" *1 John 2:12-14*

Nov. 1 is "All Saint's Day". While the traditional day to memorialize Christians was in the Spring of the year May 13, during the Middle Ages the Christian church in Europe moved the celebration to November 1 to challenge the pagan holidays. For Northern European Christians Nov. 1 came after the traditional Oct. 31 date associated with pagan holidays celebrating an end to the growing season. It was believed that the separation between the realm of the living and the realm of the dead was at its narrowest at this time of year.

Garrison COG - Nov. 1, 2020



Roke Church Sweden [Evangelical Lutheran Church] AllHallowTide [Oct. 31-Nov. 2]. On these days the graves of church members are decorated with flowers and candles to reflect their continuity with local church. This practice goes back to 835 when Louis the Pious at Pope Gregory IV's insistence established the date for the Frankish Empire.

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12 I write to you, **little children**, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. 13 I write to you, **fathers**, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, **young men**, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, **little children**, Because you have known the Father. 14 I have written to you, **fathers**, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, **young men**, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

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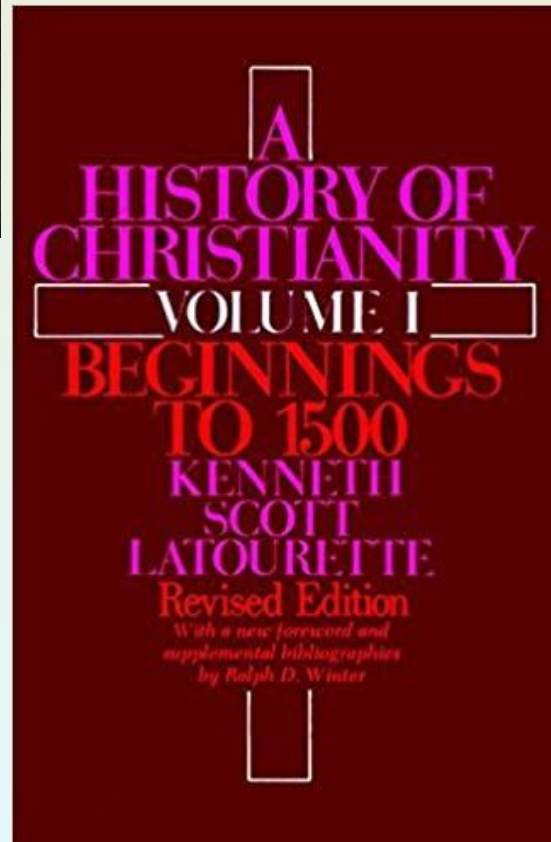


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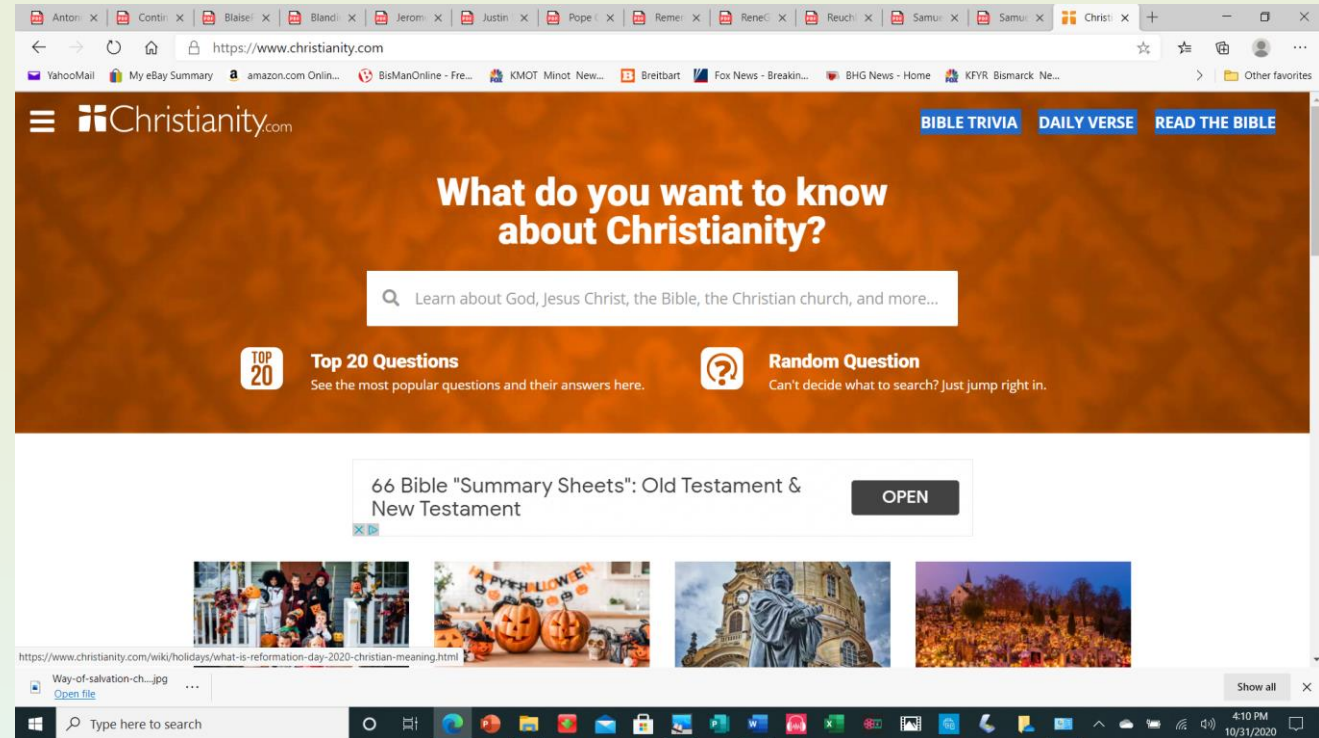
Kenneth Scott Latourette, 1884-1968. Missionary to China, author, Yale professor, leader in the American Baptist Organization

His books the History of Christianity vol. 1-2 is one of the most readable church histories. It is generally even handed.



Series: 4 Days That Encourage Us

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This website is "Christianity.com" is excellent if you want to know more about Christian history. It is written in a popular style. In the left corner is the Menu symbol, click and select "Church" from the menu, from the 2nd menu select "Church History".

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It was moved by the Frankish bishops and kings to November to confront pagan celebrations. It indicated that the lives of Christian forerunners had by their testimony conquered the realm of death.

For those of us who have grown up in Protestant traditions, All Saint's Day has become a day we often eschew. The reason is that the later Medieval popes associated the sale of indulgences with All Saint's Day, when they were believed to be the most efficacious. Martin Luther posted his "95 Thesis" challenging the sale of Indulgences on the Door of Wittenberg church on All Saint's Day. Because of this, many Protestants view the 3 days of "All Hallows Eve, All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day" [Oct.31-Nov.2] with suspicion.

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"The Way of Salvation, The Church Militant, The Church Triumphant" by Andrea di Bonaiuto-1365. The Church Triumphant are those Christians who have died and are in the presence of Christ while those who are still living are the Church militant.

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Hebrews 11:39-40

39 And all these, having
obtained a good testimony
through faith, did not receive
the promise,
40 God having provided
something better for us, that
they should not be made
perfect apart from us.



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A church graveyard in Poland festooned for "All Saint's Day"



Most modern Christians believe that the Christian faith suspended with the close of the 1st century and restarted with the generation just before our own. Yet the Christian church has almost 20 centuries of history between ourselves and the Day of Pentecost. One thing we have sacrificed in this belief has been the view of the continuity of Christian brotherhood. Just what can we learn from those who have gone before us in the faith? What do our brothers and sisters over the last 2000 years have to teach us?

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1 Corinthians 4:5-7

5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

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Some Christians and their stories:

Anonymous Armenian Christian around AD125. [Retold by Justin Martyr, around 150]

Agnes of Rome [AD 291-304] a 12-13 year old girl from Rome, AD 304.

Girolamo Savonarola, 1452-1498. Martin Luther looked to him for inspiration.

Johann Reuchlin [1455-1522] Greek and Hebrew scholar who tried to reform preaching.

Blaise Pascal [1623-1662] – Mathematician, Scientist, Philosopher

Samuel Rutherford [1600-1661] Scottish pastor, professor, and patriot.

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Blaise Pascal

Quotes:

What a vast distance there is between knowing God and loving him . . . Human things must be known to be loved: but Divine things must be loved to be known. – Pascal

Believe God's love and power more than you believe your own feelings and experiences. Your rock is Christ, and it is not the rock that ebbs and flows but the sea. – Rutherford



Samuel Rutherford

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