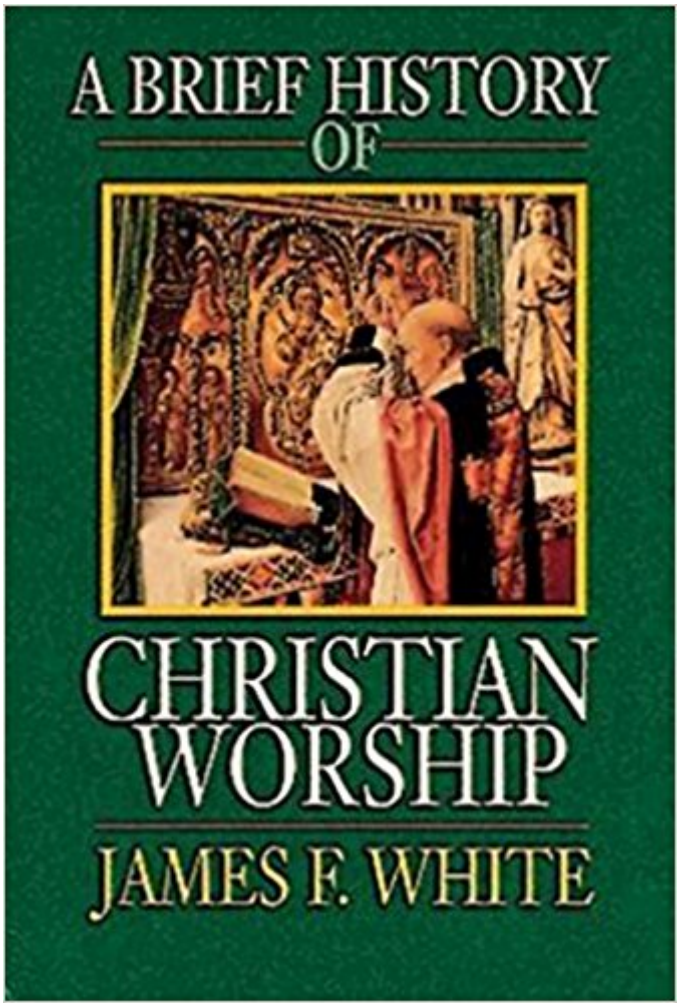
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A Brief History Of Christian Worship



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Synopsis

Most histories of Christian worship are written as if nothing significant in liturgical history ever happened in North America, as if cultural diversities were insignificant in the development of worship, and as if most of what mattered were words the priest or minister addressed to God. This book is a revisionist work, attempting to give new direction to liturgical history by treating the experience of worship of the people in the pews as the primary liturgical document. It means liturgical history written facing the other way--that is, looking into the chancel rather than out of it. Relishing the liturgical diversity of recent centuries as firm evidence of Chritianity's ability to adapt to a wide variety of peoples and places, Professor White shows that this tendency has been apparent in Chrisitian worship since its inception in the New Testament churches. Instead of imposing one tradition's criteria on worship, he tries to give a balanced and comprehensive approach to the development of the dozen or more traditions surviving in the modern world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

James F. White holds the Bard Thompson Chair of Liturgical Studies at Drew University. He previously taught at the Perkins School of Theology for twenty-two years and was professor of liturgy at the University of Notre Dame until 1999. He has served as president of the North American Academy of Liturgy and received its Berakah Award. He also chaired the editorial committee of the Section on Worship of the Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church. Dr. White holds an A.B. from Harvard, a B.D. from Union Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. from Duke University.

I feel like you have to either be Catholic or have some understanding and or interest in/of the catholic tradition, to get a good read out of this book. It simply is not holding my interest, therefore I am fighting to grasp some understanding in order to do well in my class. We are in chapter IV and I am still struggling with this text. I am not a bad student! The book just has not been an effective read for me. I see all the great comments, so I feel a little out of place writing this, but it's my experience with the book. I purchased it by kindle initially but the page numbers were not in order, so I had to purchase the paperback book. It is a required text for my class on Christian Worship. For the most part I think my disinterest is mostly due to the fact that I just have no interest in the catholic tradition as a practice; and this book is filled with catholic terms and references so far; perhaps if you practice the catholic tradition you may have a much better experience.

White does an excellent job tracking several spiritual themes through the various Christian epochs. He compares things as what was the process of becomming a Christian and other themes that most consider timeless, but instead shows the changing in what was considered normative from the early church, patristic period, medieval ages, enlightenment period and modern Christianity. I have read many many books on worship, and this one is definately worth reading and White's analysis is honest, reasonable and very informative.

Useful reference. Helpful in ordination studies,

More detailed but a good starter book

excellent conditon and text

Excellent book, very informative on Theology and the History of Worship of the Church, defintely worth the purchase, handy to have as a study guide with the Bible.

It gave me much to consider in planning a worship service. This is helpful in sending to the cvongregation that we are there to WORSHIP.

Very lucidly written account which manages to combine brevity with scholarship. Well referenced throughout. This is an ideal introduction for students beginning study in this area.

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