

# A Short Bibliography

## General

### Texts

J. Stevenson and W.H.C. Frend, *A New Eusebius: Documents illustrating the history of the Church to AD337* (SPCK, 1987<sup>2</sup>).

J. Stevenson and W.H.C. Frend, *Creeds, Councils and Controversies: documents illustrating the history of the Church AD 337-461* (SPCK, 1989<sup>2</sup>).

Two classic and invaluable collections of original sources.

### History

Henry Chadwick, *The Early Church* (Penguin, 1967)

Still the best short history of Christianity's earliest years

W.H.C. Frend, *The Early Church: From the beginnings to 461* (SCM, 1991<sup>3</sup>)

Another excellent summary

Stephen Tomkins, *A Short History of Christianity* (Lion, 2005)

Funnier, if less detailed.

J.N.D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines* (A & C Black, 1977<sup>5</sup>)

Detailed history of theology, worth the effort.

### Gnosticism

The Nag Hammadi Library

Online at <http://www.gnosis.org/naghamm/nhlalpha.html>

The Gospel of Judas

Online at [http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lostgospel/\\_pdf/GospelofJudas.pdf](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lostgospel/_pdf/GospelofJudas.pdf)

Tom Wright, *Judas and the Gospel of Jesus* (SPCK, 2006)

A short and pointed rejoinder to the contemporary affirmation of Gnosticism.

### Marcionism

Tertullian, *Contra Marcion*

Online at <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0312.htm>

Origen, *De Principiis*

Online at <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0412.htm>

### Pelagianism

Pelagius, *Defense of the Freedom of the Will*

Online at  
[www.seanmultimedia.com/Pie\\_Pelagius\\_Defense\\_Of\\_The\\_Freedom\\_Of\\_The\\_Will.html](http://www.seanmultimedia.com/Pie_Pelagius_Defense_Of_The_Freedom_Of_The_Will.html)

Jerome, *Against the Pelagians*

Online at <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3011.htm>

Henry Chadwick, *Augustine* (Oxford, 1986)

The best short account of Augustine.

James Alison, *The Joy of Being Wrong: Original Sin through Easter Eyes* (Crossroad Herder, 1998).

The most original book on original sin.

Philip Yancey, *What's So Amazing About Grace?* (Zondervan, 1997).

Classic, easy to read and good stuff.

## **Donatism**

(See general bibliography above.) Most writings on the sacraments have to reckon with Augustine's writings against the Donatists at an early stage in the discussion. WHC Frend's *The Early Church: From the beginnings to 461* is a good background summary. Given the complications of the situation, the details very quickly become tortuous! Frend's specialist work in the subject was published some time ago in his *The Donatist Church: A Movement of Protest in Roman North Africa* (OUP, 1952).