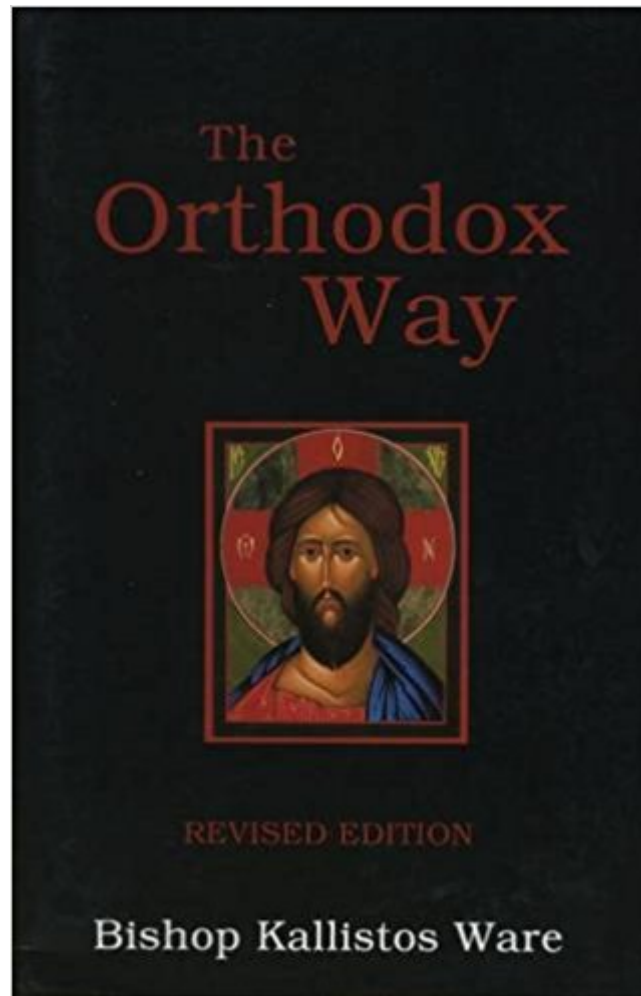




The book was found

The Orthodox Way



Synopsis

This book is a general account of the doctrine, worship and life of Orthodox Christians by the author of the now classic *The Orthodox Church*. It raises the basic issues of theology: God is hidden yet revealed; the problem with evil; the nature of salvation; the meaning of faith; prayer; death and what lies beyond. In so doing, it helps to fill the need for modern Orthodox catechism. Yet this book is not a mere manual, a dry-as-dust repository of information. Throughout the book, Bishop Kallistos Ware shows the meaning of Orthodox doctrine for the life of the individual Christian. Doctrinal issues are seen not as abstract propositions for theological debate but as affecting the whole of life. A wealth of texts drawn from theologians and spiritual writers of all ages accompanies Bishop Kallistos' presentation. They, too, reveal Orthodoxy not just as a system of beliefs, practices and customs but indeed as the Way.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A teacher at the University of Oxford who lectures around the world, Bishop Kallistos speaks equally to laypeople and specialists, on both timeless mysteries and urgent contemporary concerns.

Orthodoxy can be a difficult subject for Protestants and Catholics to understand. This is due to the Western, compared to the Eastern approach in viewing Christianity. While the west generally likes things in neat rational-concrete categories, the east is generally able to accept the mystery of God and focus their efforts in that area. Bishop Kallistos Ware, a Protestant Convert to Orthodoxy, has written this book in a very easy-to-read style. He writes concisely (maybe at times too concise) which

does not overburden the average Western reader. I would have personally like a little more in-depth analysis in certain areas, but this was not his purpose. It has caused me to study some ideas even more and I think that may have been the purpose. To give a clear meaning about this cherished religion, and for those who desire further study, to do so. All the chapters are well written: God as Trinity, creation, man, spirit, prayer, and eternity. At times trying to understand the view point may be difficult, but this is due to a cultural make-up in approaching philosophy and theology. An outstanding text.

I recommend reading his first book *The Orthodox Church* first, but then this is a great one that really delves into some basic things that everyone learning about Orthodoxy should learn. Some of it is pretty deep, so may reading some of the sections once or twice to get a good understanding. Regardless of whether you are Eastern or Oriental Orthodox this is a great book.

Very deep read, worthy of more thought than I have given it. Though my opinion may be clouded by unknowing, so to speak, I wish that Bishop Ware had used fewer quotes and distilled his message on the subjects that he addressed. Many of the quotes he used require a great deal of unpacking that cannot be done while trying to understand his apophatic theological approach to the Trinity, a subject that, if I am not mistaken, requires as much standing on principle as knowing that one knows nothing. I could come back to the book thirty years from now and find that I am wrong. I was very happy to see that he drew on both Greek and Latin patristic literature.

Every Christian, not just Orthodox, should read. I could not put it down. Excellent challenging work.

This book is extraordinary. It should be required reading for Seminary Classes that introduce the depth and breadth of Christian Tradition. This book is short yet has penetrating depth of insight. Any Protestant or Catholic that wants an intimate window into the vast and luminous world of Eastern Orthodox Christianity would do well to read this! Kallistos Ware is the best Western interpreter of Eastern Orthodoxy that I know. His quotations at the end of each chapter are exquisite. The thing about Ware's writing style that appeals to me most is his consistent emphasis on experience, as opposed to mere belief or belonging. This brief masterpiece makes my top ten of Christian books available today. -Amos Smith (author of *Healing The Divide: Recovering Christianity's Mystic Roots*)

Excellent presentation

Christianity is, first, a Way. It is a progression, a movement of the soul and the body. Today this image is often forgotten, even though it has been with Christian Tradition from the beginning--the Didache, the 1st century "manual" of Christian living, starts out by describing Christianity as "the Way." It is enormously helpful, therefore, to go on this way with Met. Kallistos Ware of Diokleia. Correctly, Met. Kallistos introduces us to Christianity not as a body of doctrines, but as a road we go on, hand in hand with the Spirit. This book is therefore not merely an introduction to the Christian Eastern Orthodox faith, but to Christian faith period. It is therefore highly useful to all: to the Orthodox, no-doubt, but also to non-Orthodox Christians who wish to deepen their understanding of the faith, and to non-Christians who are curious about Christianity, they will learn a lot. Obviously, Met. Kallistos gives an Orthodox "spin" on the many features of the faith, but this is good, just like all non-Orthodox can benefit from Dostoevsky's Christianity (and non-Russians can appreciate his view of human nature). The vast majority of the points of doctrine that Met. Kallistos explains are compatible with other forms of Christianity; and on the ones where Orthodoxy seriously disagrees with other Christians, Met. Kallistos presents the disagreement fairly, allowing the non-Orthodox readers to exercise discernment. This Roman Catholic reader found almost nothing to object to. For those with an academic interest in Christianity or Orthodoxy, this book will be helpful, but first and foremost it is a wonderful guidebook on the most exciting journey anyone can take.

Good book on Orthodoxy, there isn't a whole ton of good English orthodox books but Bishop Ware does a good job of explaining the theology and practice in English using great quotes from Church Father's, Confessors, theologians and the Desert Fathers .

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