



# CONTINUING WHAT JESUS STARTED

*Responding to the Gospel*

THE  
PATIENT  
FERMENT  
— OF THE —  
EARLY CHURCH

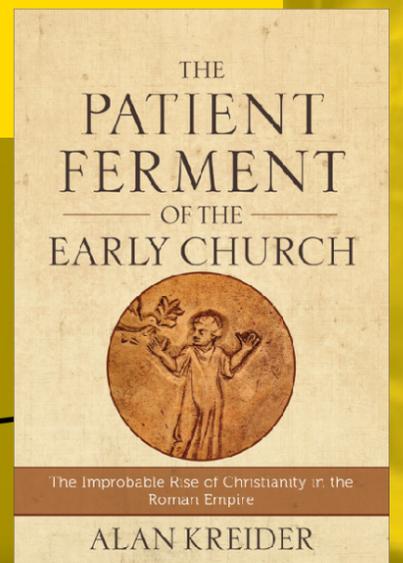


The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the  
Roman Empire

ALAN KREIDER

## ***THE CHRISTIANS LIVED DIFFERENTLY THAN EVERYONE ELSE***

- *Community*
- *Prayers*
- *Worship*
- *Mealtimes & Hospitality*
- *Sexuality*
- *Caring for Others*
- *Sharing*
- *Truthful*
- *Patience*



*“They are another sort of country, created by the Logos of God”*

*“People who had been helped”*

*“Evidences of Jesus’ divinity”*

**- ORIGEN OF ALEXANDRIA**



*14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”*

**MARK 1:14-15**



***ACTS 2:36-41***

*Page 759*



***PETER'S CONCLUSION IS PRETTY SIMPLE...***

*Everything in scripture and history points to one conclusion:  
God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Messiah*

## ***THIS CONCLUSION CUTS RIGHTS TO THE HEART***

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**HEBREWS 4:12**

*...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

**EPHESIANS 6:17B**

*“<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth.”*

**JOHN 14:16-17**

## ***"WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!"***

*Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**ACTS 2:38**

## ***"WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!?"***

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### **ACTS 2:38**

*(Repent/Metanoia) – to have a change of self (heart and mind) that abandons my former way of being and results in a brand new self; new behavior, new direction*

*(Baptism/Baptizo) – to be immersed in a way that thoroughly changes the fundamental nature of the thing; a new identity*

*“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

**LUKE 11:13**

I am convinced that the Spirit in the Apostle Paul's experience and theology was always thought of in terms of the personal presence of God. The Spirit is God's way of being present, powerfully present, in our lives and communities as we await the consummation of the kingdom of God. Precisely because Paul understood the Spirit as God's personal presence, Paul also understood the Spirit always in terms of an empowering presence and an experiential presence; whatever else, for Paul the Spirit was an experienced reality. Without an experience of the Spirit, we are living sub-New Testament lives.

***GORDON FEE***





THE PATH OF  
**BELIEF**





THE PATH OF  
**BELIEF**

THE PATH OF  
**INDEPENDENCE**

*The first and most elementary test  
of one's call to the religious life...is  
the willingness to accept life in a  
community in which everybody is  
more or less imperfect.*

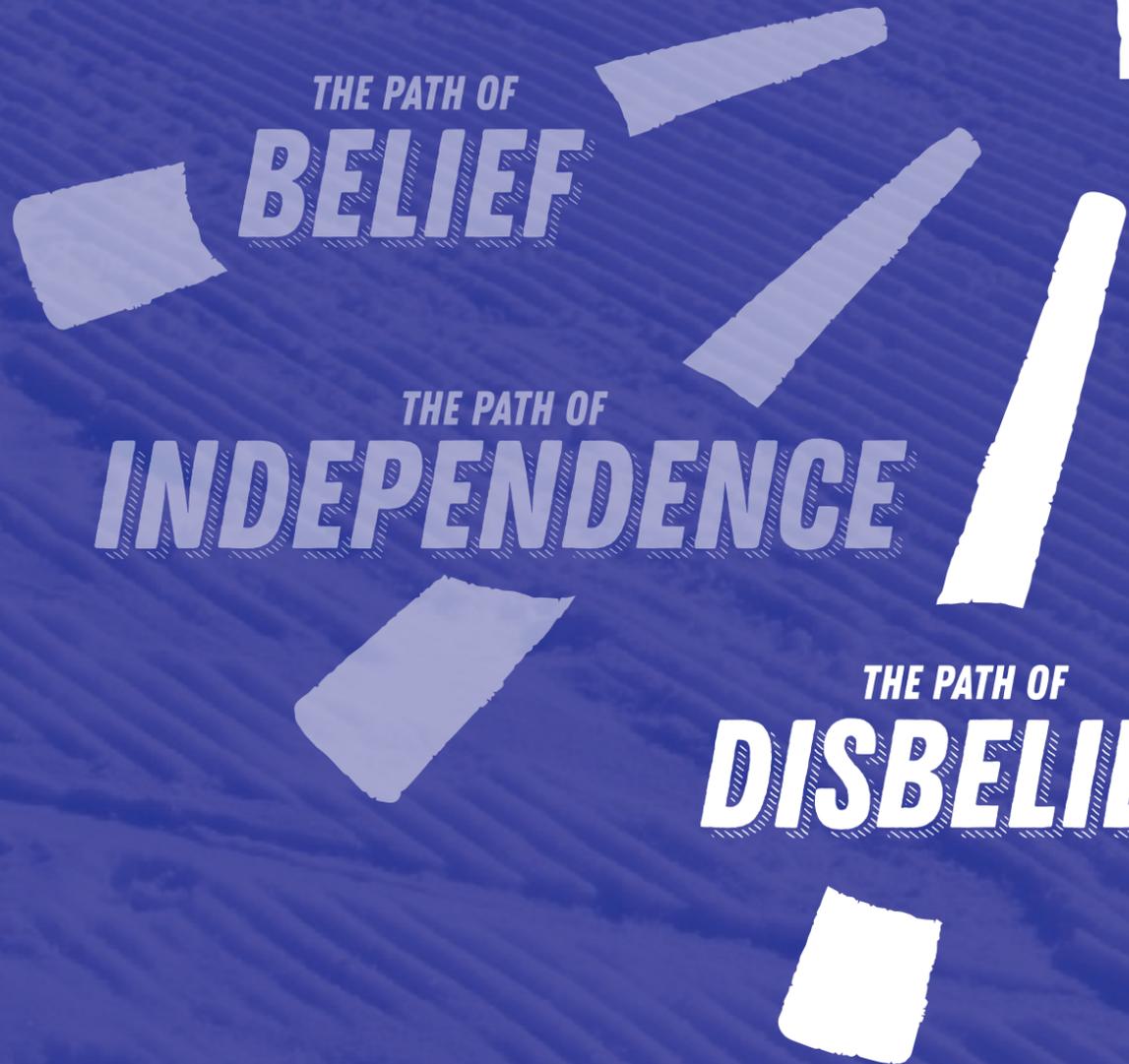
*-Thomas Merton*



THE PATH OF  
**BELIEF**

THE PATH OF  
**INDEPENDENCE**

THE PATH OF  
**DISBELIEF**





THE PATH OF  
**BELIEF**

THE PATH OF  
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THE PATH OF  
**RETURN**

THE PATH OF  
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THE PATH OF  
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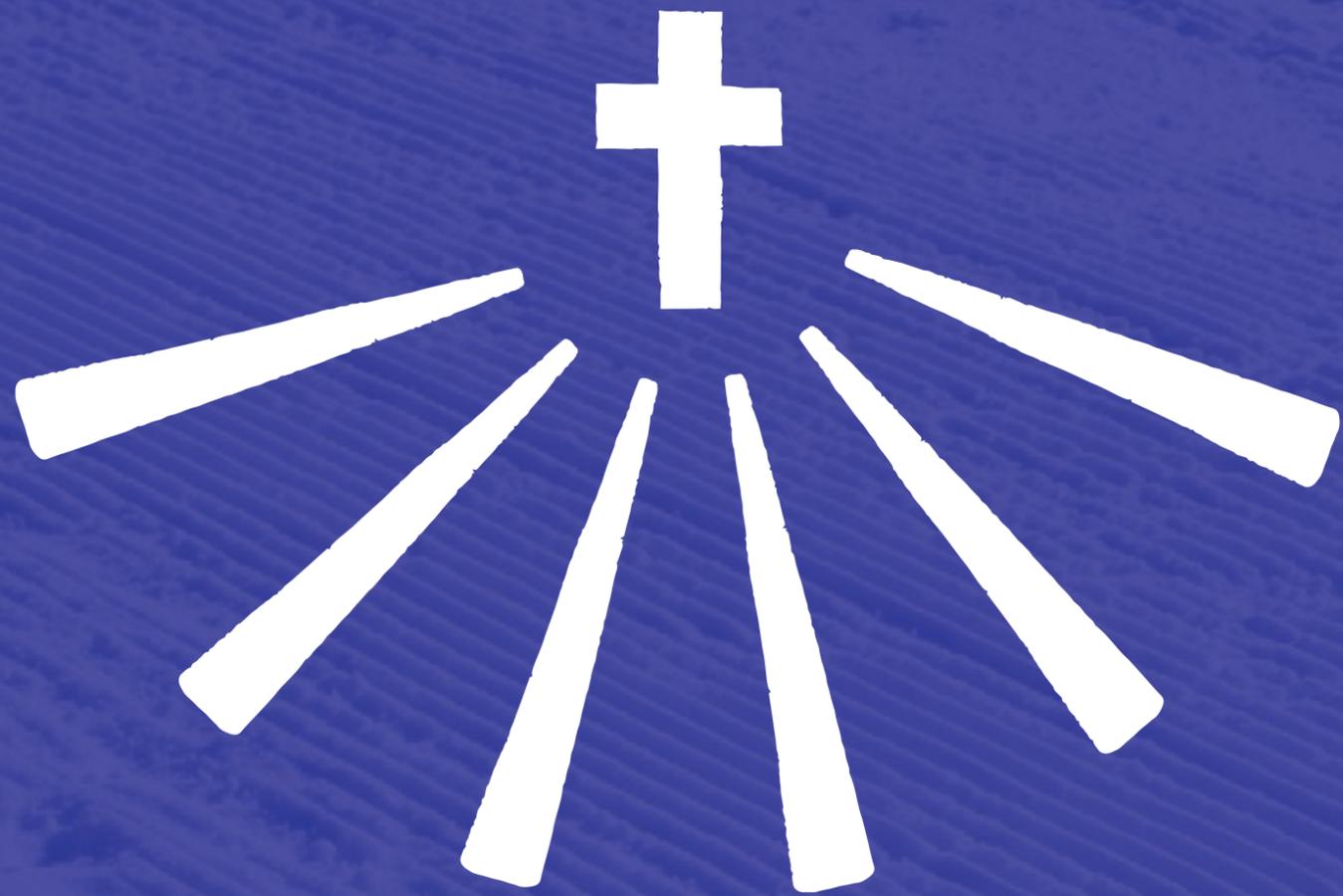
THE PATH OF  
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***GOD HAS KEPT ALL HIS PROMISES!***