

**CHURCH HISTORY
AND RITUAL**

BISHOP THEOPHILUS

A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
AND
THE RITUAL
OF THE
EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ITS HISTORY AND MEANING

BY
BISHOP THEOPHILUS

FIRST EDITION

DOUGLASS BROTHERS - PUBLISHERS
SAN FRANCISCO
1934

TO THE READERS

The need of a school book on the Church History for our American-born students is a very obvious one, and the necessity for every lover of truth to study the Church History can not be disputed.

We offer this Short History for the mentioned purpose only as a sincere desire to call upon some one, who can write a larger Church History book and sufficient for higher study, not to hesitate to do so, because we need it for our youth. Many times we think of our first years of service in America when we felt that such a book would help many Americans to know and understand the Eastern Orthodox Church.

In this work of ours we were much assisted by our noble friend and devoted member of the Church, S. S. Parfenoff, the learned attorney of Gary, Indiana, for which assistance we express to him our sincere appreciation and thanks.

The aforehead printed introduction to this book by renowned Professor of Theology of Petrograd Ecclesiastical Academy, now with the Academy of Sofia, Bulgaria, N. N. Glubokovsky, gave us much encouragement for bringing this work to the end and publishing it. We feel much indebted to the esteemed Professor for his kind reference and our gratitude goes to him with prayers for his good health.

If any of the Readers will be benefited by this book to the extent of arousing his interest in pursuing higher study of the Christian Church History, we will feel rewarded for our labors.

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless every reader of this book.

Faithfully,

BISHOP THEOPHILUS.

THE TRUE C

In place of an intro
THE CHRISTIAN CHU

This book does not
is only to give a gener
the material on hand
elementary as it is plain
truth in this particular

① The Church is God
to Christ's redeeming
dom, "where God ma
Church is divinely need
the grace, and historic
constant (XVIII-20)
(Eph. 1, 22, IV-15, 16)
serves only as a divine
God's (divine) plan a
its historical reality, th

Divine plans are no
Tolstoy, who rejected
stressed its importance

✓ The Church, being
working powers is app
powers and gradually
ness of Christ to that b
ject unto Him that put
up the Kingdom to Go

② So the object of the C
of God's Kingdom th
parts of the earth (Ac
tions by given divine r
world in the name of th
has to impart divine C
conditions and by crea
into the universal triu
and new earth, whereir
eternal, unchangeable,

With such a standi
the progress of the wo
show how, where and t
of preparing mankind
tion of all eras and cha
time its main definitio
in the historical expres
perfect Christ's fullness
tion. Here the exactne
vincement of the true

THE TRUE CHURCH AND THE "RIGHT FAITH"

In place of an introduction to the book, "A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH."

This book does not pretend to be of scientific character. Its purpose is only to give a general information in a convenient system from the material on hand for school instruction. The book is as much elementary as it is plain, but every truth is plain. Then what is the truth in this particular case?

The Church is God's established institution to draw the people to Christ's redeeming mystery and to bring them into God's Kingdom, "where God may be all in all" (1 Cor. XV, 28). So the Church is divinely necessary for the salvation of mankind through the grace, and historically is invincible (Mt. XVI-18) because of constant (XVIII-20), universal presence in it of Christ as its head (Eph. 1, 22, IV-15, Col. 1, 18). On the other hand, the Church serves only as a divine medium for the accomplishment of definite God's (divine) plan and it does not actually put them through in its historical reality, though it leads to them.

Divine plans are not indetical, as falsely taught Count L. N. Tolstoy, who rejected all heavenly realities of Christianity and stressed its importance in the moral and humanitarian principles.

The Church, being divine by the nature of its establishment and working powers is appointed to fill the world with these heavenly powers and gradually to change everything earthly into image likeness of Christ to that blessed end, when the Son also himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him and shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father (1 Cor. XV, 24-28).

So the object of the Church is to proclaim and to spread the powers of God's Kingdom through the world unto the most uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 1, 8), to impart them in human associations by given divine means, and to regenerate internally the whole world in the name of the Lord Jesus by the Holy Spirit. The Church has to impart divine Christ's salvation into our worldly (cosmical) conditions and by creative change of the whole order to elevate us into the universal triumph in God's Kingdom on the new heaven and new earth, wherein dwelleth God's righteousness (2 Pet. 3-13) eternal, unchangeable, and complete.

With such a standing and purpose of the Church of Christ in the progress of the world's existence, naturally its history should show how, where and to what extent the Church fulfilled its mission of preparing mankind for heavenly kingdom. Such detailed description of all eras and changes of the Church's life will be at the same time its main definition of the true worthiness of its different forms in the historical expression, giving the real knowledge of the most perfect Christ's fullness in this or other historical Church organization. Here the exactness based on facts becomes dogmatical, conviction of the true Faith abiding and existing in this particular

Church.

So far as the Rev. Author keeps to said principles, his arduous efforts have a principle value, plainly showing to the Orthodox pupils and to all truth loving readers that this faith is Apostolic, this is the Faith of the Fathers, this is Orthodox Faith, this Faith confirmed the Universe.

NICHOLAS N. GLUBOKOVSKY.

Sofia, Bulgaria.
1930, VII, 17-4, Thursday.

CHUR

The history of our Church of its truth; it presents to and preserved through our reason fails to accept faith is disturbed by worldly facts settle the man's mind and heart.

To know the history to understand its teaching appreciate our affiliation on mankind by God. Church.

CONC

The Church is a divinity Christ for the salvation of people, united under the Him, as God and Savior Hierarchy or Priesthood living and departed ones

ESTABL

On the fiftieth day after His apostles the Holy Spirit descended on Jerusalem with the Holy Spirit commanded by the Lord, to speak different languages on each of them as a token to speak different languages the day of Pentecost from speaking their languages to the multitude the measure His teaching and work of Jesus Christ as God and thus it was marked the apostles did many signs Church daily such as sh

THE C

When the number of could not personally minister without daily ministrations men to help them and to worthy men, known for were brought before the ing them deacons of the

Among the seven Stephen did many miracles, preached stood all their assaults.

INTRODUCTION

The history of our Church is an important and impartial witness of its truth; it presents to us a knowledge of the past that was accepted and preserved through ages without falsification or change. When our reason fails to accept readily dogmas of our faith or when our faith is disturbed by own doubts and contradicting reports, the historical facts settle the conflicting opinions and bring the peace to man's mind and heart.

To know the history of the Church means to know the Church, to understand its teaching better, to be convinced of its truth and to appreciate our affiliation with it and all benefits bestowed through it on mankind by God. Everybody should know the history of his Church.

CHAPTER I

CONCEPTION OF THE CHURCH

The Church is a divine institution, established by the Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind (Mt. 16, 18). It is a Society of people, united under the headship of Jesus Christ by a true faith in Him, as God and Savior, by the holy Sacraments and the Church Hierarchy or Priesthood. The Church comprises all true believers—living and departed ones.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH

On the fiftieth day after His resurrection the Lord sent down on His apostles the Holy Ghost. When the apostles were assembled in Jerusalem with the Holy Virgin Mary and the other faithful, as commanded by the Lord, the Holy Ghost came down on them and set on each of them as a tongue of fire and gave them power to teach and to speak different languages. The people, who came to Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost from all over the world, could hear the apostles speaking their languages and marveled at this. Apostle Peter explained to the multitude the meaning of the event, and glory of Jesus Christ, His teaching and works. Three thousand people then believed in Jesus Christ as God and Savior and were baptized on that day and thus it was marked the establishment of the Christian Church. The apostles did many signs and miracles "and the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2, 47).

THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

When the number of Christians increased so that the apostles could not personally minister unto all, and some widows were left without daily ministrations, the apostles then decided to ordain some men to help them and told the believers to select among them seven worthy men, known for their piety and wisdom. These seven men were brought before the apostles, who prayed over them, thus ordaining them deacons of the Church (Acts 6, 6).

Among the seven Stephen was the greatest in faith and wisdom, he did many miracles, preached to Jews the Christian doctrine and withstood all their assaults. He died as a first martyr of the Christian