

Alcean Brown

OT602.OA: History of Christianity, Fall 2020

5-3-1 Assignment

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Church History, An Essential Guide
Chapter 1 -Gonzalez

Reflection questions:

1. This class of material served as additional resources from which we understand life of the early apostles after the end of the NT.
2. The earliest form of Christianity was informed by _____.
3. Christians were influenced by these to two major philosophical movements _____ and _____;
4. During the first century Christians suffered most significantly persecution under these two empiric rulers _____
5. Under Constantine and Licinius (307-323), this decree ended persecution of Christians

Answers

1. “Apostolic Fathers”
2. Palestinian Judaism
3. Platonism and stoicism
4. Nero (54 to 68) and Domitian (81-96)
5. “Edict of Milan” (313)

Terms:

1. Hellenism – an eclectic mix of Greek culture and other cultures from territories seized by Alexander the Great (p. 27)
2. Syncretism – blending of practices from multiple religious systems (p. 92)
3. Gnosticism- belief that holds material world as an evil and that one must be freed from it into a higher spiritual state

Summary:

Christianity is to be understood as having heretical roots in Judaism. Alexander the Great's accomplishments as an Empire brought Hellenistic influence to Christianity. With Greek being the lingua franca even the Bible was translated to Greek. Early Christianity was marked with courageous witness who suffered oppression, persecution and even death for the sake of the gospel. The persecutions ended with Constantine's “Edict of Milan” (313).

Reference

González Justo L. *Church History: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

