

# The History of Christianity

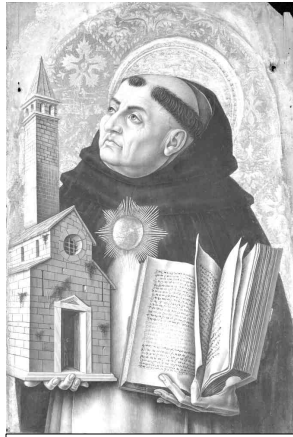
(taken from Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity)

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## Introduction: The Christian Centuries, Part 8

(excerpts from Robert D. Linder's introduction)

**Decline and decay.** Before a new period of decay overwhelmed the institutional church in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, there came a kind of golden age of Christian thought. This age is personified by the brilliant Peter Abelard (1079-1142) in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and the theological genius, Thomas Aquinas (1224-74), in the 13<sup>th</sup>. In many ways,



**Thomas Aquinas**

the contributions of Abelard and Aquinas were responses to the church's quest for a solid intellectual base, in the face of the challenges of heresies from within and of increased contact with Aristotle and other classical Greek thinkers (the result of newly established cultural ties with the East, where Greek thought had been preserved). These challenges led to more precise formulations of the faith of the medieval church.



**Peter Abelard**

A period of decline followed the cultural, theological and political peak of the medieval institutional church in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries under the leadership of Pope Innocent III (1198-1216). In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, ardor for reform cooled, missionary concern waned and the intellectual vitality which characterized the 13<sup>th</sup> century degenerated into barren scholasticism. The Renaissance diverted the talent, energies and financial resources of the papacy. Arguments raged within the church over the real source of final authority: councils or popes? Amidst the strife, uncertainty and lack of spiritual leadership, many Christians turned to the Bible for guidance and comfort and began to long for a reformed Catholicism.

## “Confidence In God”

### Psalms 25 & 26

August 10, 2025

Hartford Bible Church, Pastor Dan Hummel

#### 1. Shame (25:1-3)

Jer. 6:15-16; Acts 5:41; 1 Cor. 1:27, 4:14, 6:5

#### 2. Instruction (25:4-10)

#### 3. Benefits (25:11 – 26:1, 12)

1 Cor. 2:9-11

#### 4. How to walk with God (26:1-12)

- a. Trust in God without wavering (1)
- b. Be examined by God (2)
- c. Set God's lovingkindness before your eyes (3)
- d. Be set apart from the world (4-5)
- e. Spend time with God (6, 8)
- f. Tell all about God (7, 12)
- g. Remember His benefits (9-10)