
**Introduction to the history of the Church. Textbook.
Edited by V. V. Simonov. Moscow: Moscow University Press.**

Introduction to the history of the Church. Part 1: Overview of sources on the general history of the Church. Textbook. Edited by V. V. Simonov. Moscow: Moscow University Press, 2012. 752 p. ISBN: 978-5-211-05972-6, 978-5-211-06193-4

Introduction to the history of the Church. Part 2: Review of historiography on the general history of the Church. Textbook. Edited by V. V. Simonov. SPb., 2015. 728 p. ISBN: 978-5-9906782-1-7

Introduction to the history of the Church. Part 3. Review of sources on the history of the Church in Russia. Edited by V. V. Simonov. SPb.: BAN, 2018-2019. (Writings of the Historical faculty of Moscow State University; 96, 103) (Ser. II: Historical studies; 50, 56).

Book I: Sources of pre-Petrine time. SPb.: BAN, 2019. 696 p. ISBN: 978-5-336-00218-8. Book II: Sources of the XVIII-beginning of the XXI century. SPb.: BAN, 2018. 488 p. ISBN: 978-5-336-00233-1

Gleb M. Zapalsky. M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Historical faculty, Deputy head of the Department of Church History, Associate Professor, Dr. of historical sciences, SPIN-code: 7790-7557, ORCID: 0000-0002-5109-1032, e-mail: zapalsky@mail.ru

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In 2018-2019, the publishing house of the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences published two books of the third part of the textbook "Introduction to the history of the Church" — "Review of sources on the history of the Church in Russia". The work was prepared by the staff of the Department of Church history of the Historical faculty M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU).

This publication has joined the line of already published parts of the textbook "Introduction to the history of the Church", created by the Department of Church History and intended for students of the Historical faculty of Moscow state University, as well as for all those interested in the history of the Church. This textbook owes its origin to the introduction of a course in Church history into the system of compulsory subjects taught at the Historical faculty of MSU and the appearance of the Department of Church History.

Prepared as a separate book, the first part of the textbook "Introduction to the history of the Church" is the first attempt in Russian science since the end of the XIX century to systematically review sources on the General history of the Church. The only publication up to that time that provided the reader with a systematic overview of the main groups of sources on Church history owes its appearance not to the specifics and academic importance of the subject of research, but to the personality of the researcher. This is a lecture course on Church history, read for a number of years at the St. Petersburg theological Academy by Professor V. V. Bolotov (1853-1900) and published posthumously. In this work, when considering the "auxiliary sciences for Church history", a review of sources occupies a significant amount of space. This informative review was used in the preparation of this publication, but the content of the lectures by V. V. Bolotov significantly limited the retrospective and the scope of the sources considered by him: due to the specifics of the course subject, it mainly affects only those sources that are related to the history of the ancient and partly medieval Church. In addition, the review of V. V. Bolotov has natural time limitations: more than a hundred years have passed since its compilation, during which the corpus of sources on the history of the Church has significantly enriched. Other sources included, among other things, completely new groups (for example, materials from international Christian organizations). Taking into account the specific state of the source study of the history of the Church as a branch of Russian historical science in the modern period, the book aims to bring together (if possible-very briefly) scattered information about the main source material that characterizes the two-thousand-year development of the Church as a religious and social institution (to the maximum extent avoiding lacunae, significant in terms of both the completeness of the presentation and the methodology of professional work with historical sources of different types).

The methodological complexity of the task and the incredible vastness of the material that requires exposure led to the need to combine

in the publication a general methodological character, defined by the genre of the textbook itself, with elements of a reference and encyclopedic approach. In this regard, the book contains, among other things, significant reference material (collected in notes and appendices to the text) and scientific apparatus aimed at all possible assistance to students of the General history of the Church (first of all, numerous references to publications of sources and literature in the text and notes, a glossary, as well as subject, geographical and nominal indexes).

The first part of the manual "Introduction to the history of the Church" is divided into two large sections. The section "Narrative sources (written documents)" includes ancient sources on early Christianity, works of ancient and medieval Church historians, Chronicles and works of civil historians, legal and canonical (legal) documents, hagiographic sources, works of Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant theologians, as well as "protestant" social groups, liturgical sources, memoir literature, including notes of pilgrims, diaries and personal correspondence, living tradition, documents and materials of international Christian organizations, mass sources available for statistical observation, archival collections, including the Vatican Apostolic library, Russian and Greek archives and libraries. The section "Archaeological and epigraphic sources" covers the Christian city and cemetery, the chrysanthemum, the cross and crucifixion, the pagan and Jewish religious building of late antiquity, the Christian religious building, epigraphic sources and their publications.

The second part of the textbook "Introduction to the history of the Church" is the first systematic review of Russian and foreign literature (from the XVI century to the present day) on the General history of the Church, prepared in Russian science from the turn of the XIX-XX centuries. Previous experiments belong, in particular, to A. P. Lebedev (1845-1908), who focused mainly on the history of German historical and Church science, and N. N. Glubokovsky (1863-1937), who created a systematic, though very lapidary review of Russian historical and Church historiography. In this publication, the range of literature reviewed is not only brought up to date, but also expanded by including the works of researchers from other European and American countries (primarily France, Italy, Great Britain, Greece, the United States, and in some cases some Latin American countries).

The manual consists of two parts: the first contains material related to the study of the history of the Church abroad, the second presents domestic literature on the General history of the Church. The sections are divided into chapters devoted to general problems of Church history, as well as Patrology, the history of Canon law, the history of Christian worship, and problems of interaction between the Church and society.

One of the tasks of the second part of the manual is to provide not only analytical, but also reference material that will allow you to navigate the vast sea of literature on the history of the Church. The scientific

apparatus of the book — numerous footnotes and indexes are subordinated to the solution of this problem. In addition to monographic studies and articles, in some cases, a review of periodicals related to Church-historical issues is given. Formally, it is difficult to divide Church-historical literature into “sources” and “historiography”. For example, “Church histories” starting with the work of Eusebius of Caesarea and its first successors, whose main task was to prove the truth of a particular dogmatic trend, were often perceived as historical sources. However, the authors of these works, early historians of the Church, were already actively using the historical-critical method when processing the material, they collected. In this regard, the beginning of the historiography of the history of the Church in this textbook is proposed to consider those studies in which the historical-critical method has begun to be applied on a large scale not only to individual facts, but also to the history of the Church as a whole.

The initial stage of development of historical and Church historiography is characterized by its pronounced confessional orientation. Thus, the work from which the historiography of the history of the Church is often based — the “Magdeburg centuries” — has an anti-Roman, anti-Catholic orientation set a priori, and the first study of world Church history that arose within the Catholic Church, the Annals of cardinal Baronius, is a vivid apology for Catholicism and a debunking of the errors of Protestantism. This bias gave rise to the identification of specific areas of historical and ecclesiastical science: Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, and even atheistic. Confessional division, of course, prevails in works on the history of the Church until the turn of the XIX-XX centuries and even today, for many authors, this trend is decisive, giving their works a pronounced apologetic character.

Authors sought to avoid a confessional approach to the process of presentation, however, if necessary (where this is required in order to more objectively reflect the characteristics of scientific concepts) indicate the religious affiliation of those or other scientific schools and individual authors.

Two volumes of the third part of the textbook “Introduction to the history of the Church” are almost the first in Russian historiography systematic review of the main groups of sources on the history of the Church in Russia. The material is divided into chapters devoted to chronological periods, each chapter is preceded by an introduction with an overview of the historical context, the development of the state and the Church, and changes in the nature of sources in this era. Chapters are divided into paragraphs by groups of sources, while for the X-XV centuries, not only narrative, but also archaeological and pictorial sources are allocated.

Considered in conjunction with the Department’s previously published review of sources on the General history of the Church, this publication is a complete source-based review of the 2000-year history

of Christianity in different directions and in different countries. The material is divided into chronological periods: X-XV centuries, XV-XVII centuries, XVIII — early XX centuries, 1917-1988, 1988-2010.

The first book examines the sources of pre-Petrine time. The large chapter on archaeological sources includes data on the spread of Christianity and Church organization in the Eastern Black Sea region, on items with Christian symbols from excavations in Novgorod, and considers birch bark certificates as a source for the history of the Russian Church. In the chapter on pictorial sources and iconography, included the related images in Byzantine miraculous icons, particularly Russian icons as objects of worship, the genesis of the high iconostasis. Narrative sources of the X-XV centuries include chronographic works, canonical texts (including Byzantine, epistles of Eastern patriarchs, monuments of secular law (princely charters and Khan's labels)), liturgical texts, hagiographic, polemical literature, etc. from narrative sources of the XV-XVII centuries, chronicles, resolutions of Church councils, epistles of patriarchs and metropolitans, monastic charters, state legislation and records, hagiographic, teaching and journalistic literature, etc.

In the second book (sources of the XVIII — beginning of the XXI century), the corpus of presented sources, divided into chronological periods, is considered in the context of closer interaction of the Church organization with the state. There are also chapters on special topics, including sources on the history of Catholicism, Protestantism, and the Armenian Apostolic Church in Russia.

The publication is provided with lists of recommended sources and literature for independent study, and name indexes.