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History: A Student's Guide (Reclaiming The Christian Intellectual Tradition)



Synopsis

A robust understanding of the past has the power to shape our perspective on the present and plans for the future. In this introduction to the study of history, a historian helps students grasp what it means to examine and explore history from a distinctly Christian perspective. In addition to opening students' eyes to the riches of the past, this readable guidebook models an approach to history that embraces the fundamental beliefs and convictions that make up the Christian worldview. Part of the acclaimed Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition series, this volume will be an invaluable tool in the hands of those seeking to engage with the past with God in mind. Includes illustrations, reflection questions, and a list of resources for further study.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoy history. Not the boring, droning of mere facts and figures, but rather, digging into history, finding out the way and why of our past in an effort to inform our approach and understanding of the present. This is really what doing history is all about, an approach that is often not what is at the forefront of our minds when the word history is stated. Understanding the past is vital and Nathan

Finn, in his book *History: A Student's Guide*, provides the reader with an introductory presentation of what it means to correctly engage the past. This book is part of *Crossway's Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition* series, a collection of books intended to serve as a gateway to the topic each book discusses. This is not a lengthy treatise on the nature and purpose of historical studies by any stretch. Conversely, this series and Finn's book on history in particular are meant to provide the reader with the basics. In this case, Finn focuses on the basic construct of understanding history, historical interpretation, and how history relates intimately with matters of faith. The typical audience for this book is at the undergraduate level. With that said, there is much within this book that everyone at all levels of historical understanding will find useful. For instance, I appreciated Finn's salient reminder that history is not just about the past. The past includes the reading of the last sentence I just typed. There is an important distinction to be made between the past and history. Finn aptly notes, "history is the discipline of reconstructing and interpreting the past." After building a helpful foundation on just what history is, Finn then outlines the various methods by which historians interpret history.

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