

Cambridge University Press

0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions

Ian G. Wallis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

We are used to the idea of people believing in Christ, but did the early church consider that Jesus also had faith in God? This book evaluates the evidence, starting with a survey of the meaning of faith in Judaism and Graeco-Roman literature and proceeding to a detailed exegesis of the relevant New Testament material from the Synoptic Gospels, the Pauline and deuterio-Pauline epistles, Hebrews and Revelation. Two trajectories of interest in Jesus' faith are identified: the paradigmatic, concerned with matters of discipleship, and the theological, relating Christ to God's gift of salvation. The examination is then broadened to trace the progress of these trajectories through the literature of the first four Christian centuries and concludes by identifying the Arian controversy as the christological development which rendered reference to Jesus' faith untenable within the emergent orthodoxy.

Cambridge University Press

0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions

Ian G. Wallis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

SOCIETY FOR NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

*MONOGRAPH SERIES*

General Editor: Margaret E. Thrall

**84**

THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST IN EARLY  
CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS

Cambridge University Press

0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions

Ian G. Wallis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# The faith of Jesus Christ in early Christian Traditions

**IAN G. WALLIS**

*Chaplain and*

*Director of Studies in Theology*

*Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge*



**CAMBRIDGE**  
**UNIVERSITY PRESS**

Cambridge University Press  
0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions  
Ian G. Wallis  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521473521](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521473521)

© Cambridge University Press 1995

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1995  
This digitally printed first paperback version 2005

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Wallis, Ian G.

The faith of Jesus Christ in early Christian traditions / Ian G. Wallis.

p. cm. – (Monograph series / Society for New Testament Studies: 84)

Revision of the author's thesis (doctoral), University of Sheffield, 1991.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 47352 7 (hardback)

1. Jesus Christ – History of doctrines – Early church, ca. 30–600.  
2. Jesus Christ – Spiritual life. 3. Bible. N.T. – Criticism, interpretation, etc. I. Title. II. Series: Monograph series (Society for New Testament Studies): 84.

BT590.S65W35 1995

232'.09'0 15–dc20 94–16358 CIP

ISBN-13 978-0-521-47352-1 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-47352-7 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-01884-5 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-01884-6 paperback

Cambridge University Press

0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions

Ian G. Wallis

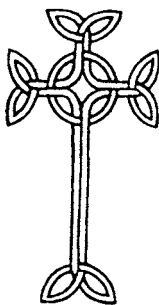
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

MARY THERESE WALLIS

in gratitude for a life shared . . .



. . . in anticipation of future reunions . . .

*'from her core faith's flame kindled strong'.*

Cambridge University Press

0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions

Ian G. Wallis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	page	<i>xi</i>
<i>Convention for referring to primary and secondary literature</i>		<i>xiii</i>
<i>List of abbreviations</i>		<i>xiv</i>
1 Setting the scene		1
1 The context for the present study		1
2 The scope of the present study		4
3 The meanings of faith in early Christian times		9
4 The meanings of the πιστεύω group in early Christian times		17
5 Concluding remarks		23
2 Jesus' faith in the Synoptic Gospels		24
1 Preliminary considerations		24
2 References to Jesus' faith in the miracle traditions		27
3 Correspondence between Jesus' faith logia and his miracles		46
4 Additional corroborative evidence – Jesus the man of faith		60
5 Concluding remarks		63
3 Jesus' faith in the Pauline Epistles		65
1 Preliminary considerations		65
2 The Epistle to the Romans		72
3 The Epistle to the Galatians		102
4 The Epistle to the Philippians		118
5 Concluding remarks		124

Cambridge University Press

0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions

Ian G. Wallis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x	<i>List of contents</i>	
4	Jesus' faith in the deutero-Pauline and Pastoral Epistles	128
1	Deutero-Pauline Epistles – Ephesians	128
2	Pastoral Epistles – 1 and 2 Timothy	134
5	Jesus' faith in Hebrews and Revelation	145
1	The Epistle to the Hebrews	145
2	The Revelation to John	161
6	Jesus' faith in extra-biblical sources	175
1	Preliminary considerations	175
2	The paradigmatic function of Jesus' faith	181
3	The theological function of Jesus' faith	190
4	Jesus as canon for faith	194
5	What became of Jesus' faith?	200
7	Concluding remarks	213
	<i>Select bibliography</i>	222
	<i>Index of modern authors</i>	247
	<i>Index of passages</i>	252
	<i>Index of subjects</i>	278

## PREFACE

This project has been my travelling companion through a number of significant transitions in life: much of the ground work was undertaken when employed in the business world, it subsequently took shape during theological college training and parochial ministry, and has finally come to fruition in the midst of a chaplaincy in Cambridge. Throughout this journey, many people have helped and in different ways. On a financial level, the trustees of the Sheffield Grammar School Exhibition Fund and the C. F. D. Moule Scholarship Fund made generous contributions, whilst access to libraries in Cambridge (Divinity Faculty, Federation of Theological Colleges, Tyndale House and the University) and Sheffield (University) have proved invaluable.

I have attempted in the footnotes to indicate my debt to those scholars whose work has informed my thinking and I trust that their views have been faithfully represented. Special thanks, however, are due to my doctoral supervisor, Dr Loveday Alexander, and examiners, Professor Richard Bauckham and Dr Andrew Lincoln. Dr Margaret Thrall and Mr Alex Wright, together with the production staff at Cambridge University Press, have also been most helpful in preparing the work for publication.

Family and friends have also played a big part in keeping the 'show on the road' and I am most grateful for their interest, encouragement and prayers. In particular, my father has faithfully monitored progress and offered help where possible. As always, my wife Liz has been a constant source of inspiration and assistance; both she and our good friend Mr Harvey Hames read the entire manuscript and made helpful comments.

I have a vivid memory of a milestone passed in early childhood when it became obvious that I would struggle with matters academic; on that occasion it was reading – later it would be theology. My mother had the unenviable task of trying to comfort



Cambridge University Press

0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions

Ian G. Wallis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*xii Preface*

me then and in the coming years she carried on believing in me long after I and many others had given up. It is my deepest regret that she did not live long enough to witness my ordination to the priesthood. This work is but a small ‘thank you’ for her love and faith in me.

## CONVENTION FOR REFERRING TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LITERATURE

### Primary sources

Unless otherwise indicated, biblical translations are taken from the *Revised Standard Version*. Editions of primary sources and translations are cited wherever possible by series rather than by individual volume; details of these are provided in the list of abbreviations. If a reference does not indicate which edition has been used, the standard versions as defined in the primary sources section of the bibliography should be assumed. References to non-biblical primary sources adopt the following format; context determines how much of this information is relevant:

Primary source – author; work; book; chapter, section or page; verse, sub-section or line (e.g. Irenaeus, *Haer.* IV.37.5).

Edition (in square brackets): edition of text, usually by series; volume; page or column (e.g. Irenaeus, *Haer.* IV.37.5. [SC 100.933]).

Translation (preceded by trans.; an asterisk \* indicates that the translation has been revised in some way): translation, usually by series; volume; page (e.g. Irenaeus, *Haer.* IV.37.5. [SC 100.933]; trans.\* ANCL 9.39).

### Secondary literature

Secondary literature is cited in the text and footnotes in abbreviated form, using the author, short title and page number convention. Full details are provided in the bibliography at the end.

## ABBREVIATIONS

### Primary sources – texts, translations and series

- ACW Ancient Christian Writers: The Works of the Fathers in Translation, edited by J. Quasten and J. C. Plumpe, many vols. (London: Longmans, Green and Co, 1952).
- AF *The Apostolic Fathers*, edited by J. B. Lightfoot (London: Macmillan, 1891).
- ANCL Ante-Nicene Christian Library: Translations of the Writings of the Fathers Down to AD 325, edited by A. Roberts and J. Donaldson, 24 vols. (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1884–8).
- ANF The Ante-Nicene Fathers: Translations of the Writings of the Fathers Down to AD 325, edited by A. Roberts and J. Donaldson, 10 vols. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1951–3).
- APOT *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English*, edited by R. H. Charles, 2 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1913).
- ApV *Die Apostolischen Väter*, edited by K. Bihlmeyer (Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr [Paul Siebeck], 1956).
- CC *Origen: Contra Celsum*, edited by H. Chadwick (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1953).
- CCG Corpus Christianorum, Series Graeca, many vols. (Breplos, Turnhout: Leuven University Press, 1977–).
- CCL Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina, many vols. (Breplos, Turnhout: Leuven University Press, 1954–).
- DSSU *The Dead Sea Scrolls Uncovered*, edited by R. Eisenman and M. Wise (Shaftesbury: Element Books, 1992).
- ECF *The Early Christian Fathers*, edited by H. Bettenson (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1956).

Cambridge University Press

0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions

Ian G. Wallis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*List of abbreviations*

xv

- EIA* *Epistula Iacobi Apocrypha*, edited by M. Malinine, H.-C. Puech, G. Quispel, W. Till and R. Kasser (Zürich: Rascher Verlag, 1968).
- EV* *Evangelium Veritas*, edited by M. Malinine, H.-C. Puech and G. Quispel (Zürich: Rascher Verlag, 1956).
- EWQ* *The Essene Writings from Qumran*, edited by A. Dupont-Sommer (trans. G. Vermes; Gloucester, Mass: Peter Smith, 1973).
- GCS* Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller der ersten drei Jahrhunderte, many vols. (Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1897–).
- IG* *Inscriptiones Graecae*, edited by Preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, many vols. (1873–)
- LCC* The Library of Christian Classics, edited by J. Baillie, J. T. McNeill and P. van Dusen, 26 vols. (London: SCM Press, 1953–66).
- LCL* Loeb Classical Library, many vols. (London/Cambridge, Mass: Heinemann/ Harvard, 1912–).
- NPNF* A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church, edited by P. Schaff and H. Wace, 2 series, many vols. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1956).
- NTA* *New Testament Apocrypha*, edited by E. Hennecke and W. Schneemelcher, 2 vols. (trans. R. McL. Wilson; London: Lutterworth, 1963 & 1965).
- OECT* Oxford Early Christian Texts, edited by H. Chadwick, many vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1971–).
- OrAth* *The Orations of St Athanasius against the Arians – According to the Benedictine Text*, edited by W. Bright (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1873).
- OrS* *Die Oracula Sibyllina*, edited by J. Geffcken (Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs'sche Verlag, 1902).
- OSol* *The Odes of Solomon*, edited by J. H. Charlesworth (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1973).
- OTP* *Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, edited by J. H. Charlesworth, 2 vols. (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1983 & 1985).
- PG* *Patrologiae Graeca*, edited by J. P. Migne, 162 vols. (Paris, 1857–66).

Cambridge University Press

0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions

Ian G. Wallis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*xvi List of abbreviations*

- PJer* *Paraleipomena Jeremiou*, edited by R. A. Kraft and A.-E. Purinton (Missoula: SBL, 1972).
- PL *Patrologiae Latinae*, edited by J. P. Migne, 221 vols. (Paris, 1844–64).
- SC *Sources chrétiennes*, edited by H. de Lubac and J. Daniélou, many vols. (Paris: Éditions du Cerf, 1945–).

**Secondary literature – publishers, periodicals and works of reference**

- BAGD *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, initial translation and adaptation of W. Bauer's original by W. F. Arndt and F. W. Gingrich, subsequently revised and augmented by F. W. Gingrich and F. W. Danker, 2nd edn. (Chicago/London: Chicago University Press, 1979).
- BFD *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, by F. Blass and A. Debrunner (trans. R. Funk; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1961).
- CBQ *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.
- EWNT *Exegetisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament*, edited by H. Balz and G. Schneider, many vols. (Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 1978–).
- ExpT* *Expository Times*.
- GNTG *A Grammar of New Testament Greek*, edited by J. H. Moulton (vol. 1), W. F. Howard (vol. 2), N. Turner (vols. 3 & 4), 4 vols. (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1906–76).
- HeyJ* *Heythrop Journal*.
- HTR *Harvard Theological Review*.
- JBL *Journal of Biblical Literature*.
- JBR *Journal of Bible and Religion*.
- JES *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*.
- JJS *Journal of Jewish Studies*.
- JSNT *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*.
- JSOT *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*.
- JTS *Journal of Theological Studies*.
- NIDNTT *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, edited by C. Brown, 3 vols. (Exeter: Paternoster, 1975–8).

Cambridge University Press

0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions

Ian G. Wallis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*List of abbreviations*

xvii

- NKZ* *Neue kirchliche Zeitschrift.*  
*NovT* *Novum Testamentum.*  
*NTS* *New Testament Studies.*  
*RAC* *Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum: Sachwörterbuch zur Auseinandersetzung des Christentums mit der antiken Welt*, edited by T. Klausner, many vols. (Stuttgart: Hiersemann, 1950–).  
*RGG* *Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, edited by K. Galling, 3rd edn., 7 vols. (Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr [Paul Siebeck], 1957–65).  
*RTR* *Reformed Theological Review.*  
*SB* *Kommentar zum Neuen Testament*, by H. Strack and P. Billerbeck, 6 vols. (Munich: Beck, 1922–61).  
*SBL* Society of Biblical Literature.  
*SJT* *Scottish Journal of Theology.*  
*SPCK* Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.  
*TDNT* *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, edited by G. Kittel and G. Friedrich, 10 vols. (trans. G. W. Bromiley; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964–76).  
*TDOT* *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, edited by G. J. Botterweck and H. Ringgren, many vols. (trans. J. T. Willis, G. W. Bromiley and D. E. Green; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974–).  
*TLG* *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*, edited by L. Berkowitz and K. A. Squitier, 2nd edn. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986).  
*ZAW* *Zeitschrift für alttestamentliche Wissenschaft.*  
*ZNW* *Zeitschrift für neutestamentliche Wissenschaft.*  
*ZST* *Zeitschrift für systematische Theologie.*  
*ZTK* *Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche.*

**Secondary literature – series**

- AGJU* Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums.  
*ALGHJ* Arbeiten zur Literatur und Geschichte des hellenistischen Judentums.

Cambridge University Press

0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions

Ian G. Wallis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)xviii *List of abbreviations*

ANTJ	Arbeiten zum Neuen Testament und Judentum.
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum Lovaniensium.
BGBE	Beiträge zur Geschichte der biblischen Exegese.
BNTC	Black's New Testament Commentaries.
BZNW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft.
CGNT	Cambridge Greek Testament Commentaries.
EKKNT	Evangelisch-Katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament.
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments.
HNT	Handbuch zum Neuen Testament.
HTKNT	Herders theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament.
ICC	International Critical Commentary.
JSNTSS	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i> – Supplementary Series.
KEK	Kritisch-Exegetischer Kommentar über das Neue Testament.
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament.
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary.
NovTSup	Supplements to <i>Novum Testamentum</i> .
NTL	New Testament Library.
OTL	Old Testament Library.
ÖTNT	Ökumenischer Taschenbuchkommentar zum Neuen Testament.
SANT	Studien zum Alten und Neuen Testament.
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series.
SBLMS	Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series.
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology.
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series.
SNTU	Studien zum Neuen Testament und seiner Umwelt.
SNTW	Studies of the New Testament and its World.
THKNT	Theologischer Handkommentar zum Neuen Testament.
TNTC	Tyndale New Testament Commentaries.
TSK	Theologische Studien und Kritiken.
TU	Texte und Untersuchungen.
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary.

Cambridge University Press

0521018846 - The Faith of Jesus Christ in Early Christian Traditions

Ian G. Wallis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*List of abbreviations*

*xix*

- WMANT Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und  
Neuen Testament.  
WUNT Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen  
Testament.  
ZB Züricher Bibelkommentare.