

13. Conclusion

Crucifix, p. 265

In 1525, the Flemish artist Jean Bellegambe the Elder (1470–1535) painted this crucifix as part of *Triptych of the Mystic Bath*. Christian theology speaks of baptism as being washed in Christ's blood, but literal depictions of the metaphor are rare.

Image

p. 268: This perhaps early third-century graffiti was found inscribed on a wall in Rome. It is now in the Palatine Antiquarian Museum. The young man apparently represents Alexamenos, with his hand outstretched in worship. The idea of a crucified god is ridiculed by using the image of an ass. This may be the very earliest pictorial representation of Christ's crucifix, even prior to the earliest ones made by believers.

Suggestions, pp. 268–69

Some of these suggestions may be preferable to a traditional final examination.

7. The Book List (pp. 279–80) is organized under these categories: Autobiographies, Memoirs, Poetry and Literature, Spiritual Classics. Each chapter has cited bibliography appropriate to its topic.

8. Each film that is listed here deals explicitly with Christianity, with relative accuracy, either positively or negatively. Documentaries are listed separately: in some ways they can be more educative, but they tend to feel dated rather quickly.

Chronology, pp. 271–77

This listing includes some significant dates in the history of Christianity. One assignment might be to compare and contrast perhaps one century on this list with one available in some other source.

Book List, pp. 279–80

This listing includes some of the many worthwhile books penned by Christians. One assignment might be a book report on one of these works.