

and many others that flowed from his pen have entered permanently into Christian speech. Any Christian will receive an uplift from reading many writings of Tertullian that have been preserved.

Toward the end of his life Tertullian left the major group of the Christian Church and joined a sect known as the Montanists. The Montanists were given a bad name by those who opposed them and have often been thought of since then as a heretical group. Actually, however, they held to the clear Biblical teachings, putting a little more stress on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and on the doctrine of the Return of Christ than was done by some of the other Christians. Though Tertullian left the main body of the Christian Church and spent his latter years with the Montanists, his writings continued to exert a tremendous influence in all Christian groups.

Probably the most extensive of all writers before the time of Constantine was Origen, the great philosopher and commentator of the third century. Origen was brought up in a Christian family. While he was in his teens his father was arrested as a Christian and killed. The young boy was so filled with emotion that he rushed out into the street declaring that he was going to announce himself as a Christian and suffer the fate of his father. Friends, however, prevailed upon him to recognize the fact that he was the only stay and support of his mother and of his younger brothers and sisters. So he remained and took care of the family. Origen devoted himself to scholarly study and soon made his mark by the brilliance of his mind and the clearness of his expression. He wrote extensively on almost every conceivable subject related to Christianity and commented on just about every portion of the Bible.

Origen's teaching was undoubtedly good on the whole, but sometimes he made guesses about philosophical points which went far beyond the definite teachings of the Scripture. Although these mostly dealt with