The Decline of Covenant in Early Christian Thought

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Abstract
While many LDS attempts to describe or explain the transformation of the Christian movement and its teachings in the early centuries in terms of an accommodation to Greek philosophy, this paper focuses on the first two Christian centuries and the early elimination of covenant thinking and practice that may have opened the door to Greek thought.

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Christians have reawakened to the possibilities of fasting in recent decades. The Eastern Orthodox tradition offers a long-term witness to fasting, grounding the practice theologically in their doctrine of theosis, as explained below. The Eastern Orthodox churches offer a living example of continuity in Christian fasting traditions. They place fasting within their doctrine of theosis, or divinization, as part of the sanctification (or for them, salvation) process. For the Orthodox, "tradition is not something limited to that found in the Early Church. It is that which binds the past and present and which survives today."623 The characters in Scripture, the Church Fathers, the councils and bishops, are all part of the same community that is alive and worships today. The Decline of Covenant in Early Christian Thought. By Noel B. Reynolds. Appendix A: Guide to Important Christian Documents and Writers for the Early Christian Church to the Reformation. By Barry R. Bickmore. Appendix B: Christian Councils. By Barry R. Bickmore, Adam W. Bentley. Appendix C: New Testament Evidences and Prophecies of Apostasy in the First-Century Church.