



## Defending Constantine: The Twilight of an Empire and the Dawn of Christendom

By Peter J. Leithart

IVP Academic September 2010, 2010. Paper Back. Book Condition: New. And the search for the historical Constantine continues. Reexamining the major primary sources on Constantine and the emperor's own recorded words, the ever-engaging Peter Leithart paints a very different picture from the one promoted by Constantine's pagan enemies, and ultimately transmitted to us by Gibbon and Voltaire. Far from a cynical manipulator who played all sides to his own advantage, Leithart's Constantine is a sincere Christian convert whose new faith--and sophisticated political theology--forever redefined antiquity's assumptions about the relationship between religion and state, emperor and God. Leithart's historical research leads him to a vigorous critique of various other 'anti-Constantinian' claims (Constantine as progenitor of 'bad' medieval art, corrupter of early Christian pacifism, usurper of church authority, etc.) with particular attention--appreciative but critically pointed--to John Howard Yoder, whose views have influenced an entire generation of Christian theologians. A lively and entertaining writer, Leithart's approach to current Constantinian controversies is fair, deeply thoughtful, and eminently persuasive.



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