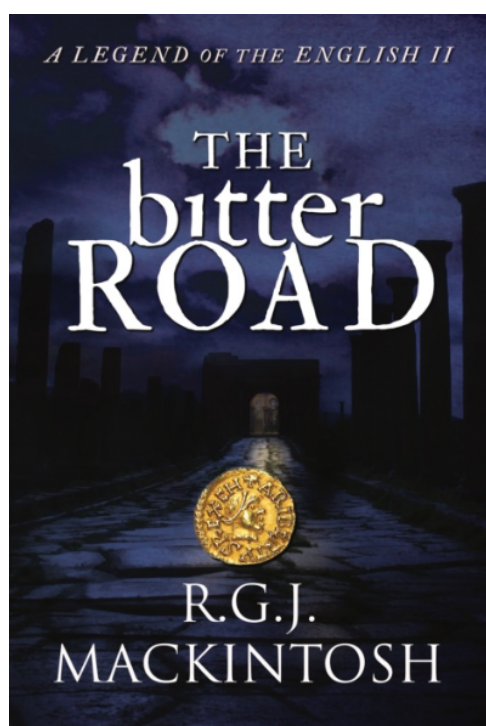


Christian Book Club Session 2:

The Bitter Road



PREPARATION

Gather together your small group (in a friends' home, or Zoom, etc.)

AIM

Deepen your insights into some of the tensions between Religion and Faith.

Deepen your understanding of Christianity and Paganism in the C8th-9th AD.

Consider: where are we in Faith and Practice today?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Who were some of **your** favourite characters on the journey with Prior Augustinus? Which character(s) did you like the least? Why?
2. As Alric and his Companions left Rome for the Kingdoms of Francia, did you, as the reader, feel Alric and Cadmon's motivations were clear enough for wanting to return to their own Kingdom of Cantia? Why?
3. Was Prior Augustinus's return to Rome fruitful? Was he better equipped when he returned to the Kingdoms of Francia? In what way?
4. Why was the *pallium* (a woollen cloth that a priest wears over the shoulders and beneath the robes - as a gift from the Pope) so significant for Archbishop Virgilius of Arelate (Arles)?
5. In the city of Turones (Tours), what tensions existed between the prayers at St Martinus's Shrine, and medical practice at that time?
6. In his encounter (between the two symbols - St Martinus's milking stool, and half of St Martin's cloak -) what might Bishop Augustinus have chosen to adopt, once he arrived at the Kingdom of Cantia?
7. Overall, is ***The Bitter Road*** a satisfying read? If so, in what way?
8. What impressions do you have of Cadmon and Tola by the end of Book 2?