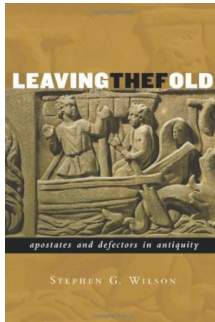


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Journal of Early Christian Studies 14.2 (2006) 247-248 In *Leaving the Fold* Wilson addresses the important issue of what it meant to cross boundaries between religious communities in late antiquity. Through careful examination of the sources, both literary and epigrammatic, and a discerning use of historical and sociological studies, the author provides a very helpful examination of the nature and prevalence of religious apostasy and defection in the ancient Mediterranean world. The first chapter surveys scholarship on the subject. In Chapter 4 Wilson considers "Pagan Defectors." This is the shortest chapter primarily because one cannot find the same "principle of exclusive commitment or firm boundaries" (100) that one finds in Jewish or Christian groups. *Leaving the Fold: Apostates and Defectors in Antiquity*. The recent murder-by-poison of KGB-FSB defector Alexander Litvinenko in London (see article on page 17) and the murders of journalist Anna Politkovskaya, special forces operative Movladi Baisarov, central bank official Andrei Kozlov, and ex-FSB general Anatoly Trofimov--to name but a few--are sending an unmistakable message to everyone with eyes to see and ears.