

objections to study 1517

ignorance  
economic oppression  
superstition

searching. The best known thinkers were:  
Luther....arguing for a gracious salvation, etc,  
Zwingli...arguing against the mass and sacerdotalism  
Calvin....a plea for sovereignty and salvation by faith  
Simons...arguing for every man's personal freedom to  
serve God.

There were many others and these summary statements  
are only fragmentary touches on the total. But the church  
had become so encrusted with superstition and humanistic  
philosophy that the saving message was badly confused.  
The Reformation watchwords in a doctrinal sequence  
looked like this:

*sola fidei....only by faith*  
*sola gratia....only by grace*  
*sola scriptura...only by the Word of God*

Calvinist problems  
Sermon's

The major reformers (except Simons) devised theological  
treatises and systems and took varying positions on  
liturgy. But they all stood against sacerdotalism and  
synergism and made strong statements and led powerful  
movements in the cause of faith and simple belief.

The Reformation was followed by the Puritan period in  
which successive generations attempted to remove all  
accretions from the message of the church and preserve  
a true Gospel. The push for doctrinal purity, however,  
at times became a witch hunt for persons simply of  
different opinions on small issues.

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16th  
17th

5. The Great Revivals produce a surge of salvation truth  
under the teaching of Edwards (and many others) in the  
English colonies as was true in England with the work of  
Wesley and Whitefield. (Chateaux, Finney, Moody)

do not  
always  
adhere to  
doctrine

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6. The great controversy in the 19th and 20th centuries has been  
the validity and integrity of the Word of God. Modernism  
and Liberalism have infiltrated many religious bodies and  
have made the sacred Scripture little better than Aesop's  
Fables. Today the arguments about creation, etc. are a  
by-product of these disputes.

James  
Hank  
Wolfe

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7. Summary: In all the foregoing material of this division the  
search for truth has been dominant. Why, then, do persons  
not come to a common ending? The largest single factor  
is the inability to discount determined positions that  
mitigate against honest conclusions. We tend to form ideas