

the church takes on new strength as it is through it and its enactments that the Gospel is to be preached. The sacraments of the church are increasingly regarded as being means of grace...avenues through which grace is conferred and strengthened. The role of the church as the means of salvation and its membership the company of the saved, is heightened by Augustine who asserts that one cannot have God for his father who will not have the church for his mother. (There is a lot in the makeup of these sentiments that must be emotively understood and we do not pronounce on them in rightness and wrongness... we simply note what they were and how they went.)

d. ANTHROPOLOGY...a much clearer expression is given man's sinful state than in previous section or period. His need and loss are both seen in better focus.

4. This particular period is rich in theological thinkers. Among them would be Ambrose of Milan...hymn writer and expounder of the western church order; Gregory of Nyssa and his Great Catechism (395), John Chrysostom (d. 407) the chief preacher and commentator of Constantinople, as well as both Augustine and Jerome.

D. The Fourth Ecumenical Council: Chalcedon, 451 AD

1. Background

a. Political Foundations

Valentinian III continues emperor in the west. His territory is harassed by "barbarians" and it is with difficulty that the western empire is holding itself in any semblance of order. The east has fared somewhat better. The administration of Theodosius II ended in 450 with his death and his successor, Marcian...with the help of the empress Pulcheria, has a fairly stable government. But the internal strife of the eastern empire is still great as the theological fires continue to burn. This has been helped by the fact that Theodosius II pulled a page from the book of Constantine and worked against the Ephesian decision but he is now gone and his influence negated.

b. Theological Foundations

(1) The Ephesian outcome was this: While the council settled the technical matter of Nestorius, it did not pronounce on the issues in a full way. The whole matter of the Person of Christ is still unresolved in statement. Telling what was wrong in

Politics

Nestorius was bishop of Constantinople

Cyril was bishop of Alexandria,

∴ lots of politics too.

Cyril scored a victory. It made Alexandria increasingly important.

Eutychus: the synthesizer?

The Fourth Ecumenical Council:

Chalcedon, 451.

Background

Ethiopian Church splits away ~450

Fall of Rome 476 AD