

many know it in historical perspective. It is close to the modern day expression: "Sufficient for all but efficient only to those who believe."

b. Lutheran developments...going back to the ideas of Chrysostom and following the influence of Melancthon..man may make himself receptive to grace and when it comes he will find it irresistible.

Developed views of/in Calvinistic Ideals

4. Covenantal Theology, although belonging more in the "theology proper" class, may be noted here as having its roots in this period and probably best seen in the expressions of the theologian Cocceius (d. 1669) who developed a "salvation history" view. The basic ideas of Cocceius are represented today in covenantal theology and in most of the modern dispensational schemes which, although the two camps profess dislike for each other, have the same basic tenets at heart...a series of progressive historic acts in which God makes his saving will known and to which man must react under the economy of the Father and the Son.

C. Soteriology in the Reformation Period

Soteriology

1. Most of the soteriological discussion ranges around the doctrine of the atonement. Reformed scholars improved on the Anselmic idea in several ways as follow:

a. They saw that sin was more than simple dishonoring of God's glory, that it was transgression of his law and the effect was a legal as well as a moral break.

Reformed Refinements to the Atonement Doctrine

b. They saw that the sufferings of Christ had been to effect both a penal and a vicarious end. It was not simply a yieldedness to obedience although this was important.

c. They saw the atonement was entered by an act of positive faith, not merely the "over-spilling" of the mercy of God through the cross.

In short, the reformers put a more personal and imputative meaning to the atonement. It was not academic and formal...it was position and personal.

2. But some problematic views of the atonement were also on the scene in the Reformation age and we mention these:

Atonement Problems:

a. Socinius offered (Sozzini) a moral influence theory very like that of Abelard.

b. Grotius offered the governmental idea whereby the atonement satisfied the need of moral justice in the universe.