

1700's } Religion Law et
1800's }

1900's - Family debates.

Ecclesiology: The age of the
Local Church.
- The Congregational Movement

3. Ideology. So far as historical theology is concerned, we must now realize that what was formerly error and heresy is now regarded as potentially useful teaching in the church. Much of what was once condemned is now accepted and praised. The result is that every one of our major divisions of theological study has undergone such constant revisionism that there is no way of knowing today, in the institutionalized church, what orthodoxy is or who the orthodox are.

This is very much complicated by the loss of credal meaning and identification and it is the feature of this age for which we will be remembered in future ages if they exist.

D. Contributions

Most of the contributions have been in particular refinements but in some areas there have been a lot of meaningful ideas advanced.

Study of individual doctrines.

Hermeneutics changed from
from a allegorical to
to a grammatical
- historical
interpretation.

1. Eschatology..has witnessed the return of a chiliastic hope and an emphasis on a more literal biblicalism. It is full of difficult interpretations and disagreements but the force of scholarship brought to bear on this subject in the last century is perhaps the greatest amount in the total history of the church.

2. Christology...the debate of the Kenotic schools has led to a re-emphasis on the Chalcedonian description of the Person of Christ. The kenotic notions have mostly bothered believers and have not solved the Christ-person problems for unbelievers.

3. Theology Proper has been helped by the clearer definitions on inspiration...especially those of the Princeton theologians and their counterparts. There has also been a quickened interest in Theism as a proof matter and a renewal of ontological interest.

E. Summary: It is hard to study your own time and this has been a period of happenings but not many of them affect historical theology so far as the development of statement is concerned. As far as individual expression goes, that is a different matter and there has been much worthwhile in this economy but that would be another course.

And this is the END of this one.