

6. The later Fathers

We mostly treat the later fathers as they give influence when particular trials come. They are less formative in general and more formative in particular. But of the men for whom you will want to pay special notice in theological development in earlier times, the following is a brief list.

Augustine...enormously important with doctrinal writings in virtually every field.

Jerome ...more important in lower criticism

Chrysostom...homilies and life interpretation label him as one of the foremost pastors of the 5th century.

Gregory of Nyssa...his Great Catechism (395) is one of the basic instructional documents of the earlier ages...also one of the dull reading ones (free advice).

Athanasius...mandatory reading for those studying the development of Christology.

Cassian...the development of church life and the proper organization of the monastic work.

Eusebius of Caesarea..without his histories we would be hard pressed to see how some of the doctrinal issues grew in comprehension.

John of Damascus...special contribution with regard to the reality of the person of God.

A chart of the Fathers will be in the Appendix

7. Heretical voices

Most of the leading heretics will be discussed with particular issues that are being studied. You need best to remember that if there had been no heresy, the book of Galatians might never have been written! The clearest expressions of truth come when one is challenged to present oneself plainly and without any equivocation. Among early heretics whom you will see more of later are Cerinthus, Marcion, Noetus, Paul of Samosota, Arius, etc.

8. Non-Christian Philosophic Expressions

a. The Older Grecian Systems