

knowledge were to be available to him.

d. The Bible filled the presses of the Reformation countries. Every language in Europe found itself with a Bible translation.

e. The Roman church reacted to this emphasis at the Council of Trent. In its first periodic session the Roman clergy passed as laws for the church (canon):

(1) The official Bible was the Vulgate..it was not to be translated into any vernacular and was to be read or studied by lay-persons.

(2) The tradition of the church as understood by the church was infallible as was the Word of God and the two together constituted the way of determining truth and practice.

(3) The Old Testament Apocrypha was received as Scripture and the recognition of such was made binding on the hearts of all Roman church members.

(4) The unanimous teaching of the Fathers on any given point would be binding on the total church and to deny so was heresy.

(The council made many other pronouncements and these are simply the ones that interest us most at this point of discussion.)

#### 4. The Confessional Response

From the challenge of the reformation came a small host of credal statements...all taking time to stress that the Scriptures were the authority of God for life and the church. A brief tabulation of these will list them as such:

a. Lutheran:

- (1) Augsburg Confession
- (2) Formula of Concord

b. Reformed confessions

- (1) First and Second Helvetic Confessions
- (2) The Gallic Confession
- (3) The Belgic Confessions
- (4) The Heidelberg Catechism, etc.
- (5) The Thirty Nine Articles
- (6) The Westminster Confession

c. Anabaptist confessions:

- (1) The Midland Confession
- (2) The Second London Confession....