

2. Summary

The modern period has seen the rebirth of the "Sovereign Grace" moves as well as the growth of such contrary forms as the Oberlin Theology. Christian ideals have been syncretized with eastern thought (in some places) to make a salvation that is more palatable to non-believing mankind. But the essential ideas in soteriology have not changed since the reformation and the classical concepts of the councils of antiquity are still in vogue. The Scripture, we think, is the final authority and it is most comforting to be built and work with it.

We do not allow more time for the modern period in this subject as the position of the confession has updated us and enables us to meet the modern period as well as the past. In brief, the confession:

a. Reduces us to dependence on God, trust in the Scripture, and lives of faith....

b. Demands humility, Thanksgiving, Trust and a continued emphasis on the fact that Christ... "gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father." Galatians 1:4

G. Excursus...

Just a brief discussion, as time allows, on the doctrine of subjective soteriology and evangelistic methods and ideas.

VII. ECCLESIOLOGY

A. Introductory Notes

The doctrine of the church is one of the more fascinating studies in our course. In some ways it is of less formidable import than the doctrines of God and His Grace, yet it is a very important study since many of our lives are "welded" to the church. In that Christ promised to build it successfully, in that it is called His body, in that it is His witnessing force, etc, lies the importance of the church as a body politic.

Our present world setting sees great variety of church order and government and extremes of all sorts. Remember, in this course we are not trying to say so much what is right or wrong as we are to describe what has happened and tell why it went that way. You will also discover that the discipline is an easy battlefield.. as saints try to vindicate themselves while diminishing others. Well, that is not so new.