

IV.3
Church
Leaders

Leaders of the Church: Imperial Age

This section of the syllabus could be expanded at some length and to some profit but there are too many persons of importance for us to be exhaustive in our treatment. We may make some of this up by class reports (year by year differs in this course), and we will flesh out some of the leaders in class discussion.

Not only is the treatment not exhaustive, it is also not uniform. The leaders of this time could be grouped about the councils in which they were involved or could be treated in light of the east/west alignments of their time. We are not that well organized in this course so our effort is to see some of them in their settings and understand a bit of their labors. The interested student (I did have one, once) will find the notes in the class text helpful and will remember the bibliographic material and the various dictionaries that are useful in this regard.

Please remember that some of the most important persons in any time are virtually unknown. Know also that while we enjoy the merits of the fathers, all of them had "feet of clay" and we do not worship them or exalt their works. We are impressed by their attitudes of dedication and the burden of their labors but we are annoyed by their weaknesses and hopeful that our lives, in spite of the latter on our own part, will also count for the glory of God.

We have already discussed the Nicene Fathers of greatest importance and will not reiterate our discussion at this time. You will recall that they were Athanasius, Eusebius of Caesarea, and Alexander and you will also remember their foes in the debate. A few other Nicene fathers will be mentioned later but we will not go back and give a lot of detail on those already discussed. Following then are groups of fathers and individuals as well.

The Cappadocians

Cappadocia should be located on a map as in the Augsburg Historical Atlas. This was the territory of much of the eastern dispute with Apollinarianism and the thrashing out of the last stages of the Arian controversy. Three men are known