

matter who held the office. The office was the key, the office holder was less consequential.

John Chrysostom (345-407)

Chiefly a preacher, teacher, John's remarkable powers as preacher earned him the nickname "golden mouth." In his early life he was pronouncedly ascetic and lived as a hermit 370-381 or thereabouts. He was proximate to Antioch and was found there preaching and has since been identified with the Antiochan school of exegesis. The ascetic ideals never quite left him--he always favored them--but he came to see that a ministry of influence recalls a need for being with people, not alone in a desert cave.

By 386 he had been consecrated a priest and by 398 was prominent in the life of the Constantinople church. He was infuriated by the open wickedness and lewd lives of many leading people and he spoke against such with real force and energy. The excesses of the court of the Empress, Eudoxia, were especially burdensome and he spoke openly about it and earned the lady's ill will. After a number of humiliating trials and attempts to get him to change his mind, he was banished to the Balkan states. At a later date he was permitted to return but immediately took up where he had left off and so did his persecutors...so he was soon back in the Balkans, exiled, and there he died in modern day Bulgaria.

As a member of the Antiochan school, John was an early spokesman for the grammatical-historical ideals in exegesis. He would still be a bit allegorical for our day but his thrust was the practical and literal message of the Bible. That to him was most important and best able to deal with the sin and need of the time. He has left us a lot of sermons and essay "On the Priesthood" as well as the treatise that "No man can harm the man who does not harm himself" are worth anyone's time for reading.

Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

The importance and influence of Augustine cannot be overrated. He was the third of the great African Leaders (following Tertullian and Cyprian) and came from a home where the father was a pagan and the mother a devoted Christian. His mother, Monica, became something of an ideal to him