

identified themselves as the "poor men of Lyons." Waldo had a very evangelical message (non sacerdotal and non-sacramental) and at the outset his movement had the blessing of Alexander III but the leaders were told they could not preach. This, however, was what they wanted to do and the group gave up the Papal blessing in favor of a very non-structured organization that sent missionaries into northern Italy and throughout the country on a two by two basis.

Condemnation came with a general banning by the Lateran council of 1179 and this was followed by a general anathematization and condemnation of Waldensian teachers and advocates in 1184. Attempts to crush it were forthcoming and many of the Waldees were martyred but it persevered and actually grew probably because it had a gospel orientation and actually ministered to the needs of the people. Speaking against church and social abuse, Waldo insisted on a no-profit base for the church and required his movement to follow this. The group continued and while we do not treat the entire history of it at this point, it is still a church body today although quite liberal in many places. At the time of the Reformation some parts of the Waldensian work merged with the newer reformers. The message of Waldo was very similar to that of the reformers. And being a non clerical movement, it was doubly hard for the inquisitors, et al, to ferret out and remove Waldensian teachers.

#### John Wycliffe (d. 1384)

Wycliffe was born about 1329 and spent most of his life in academic and political affairs although serving as a priest of the Roman church in various English appointments. He was nationalistic in spirit and championed the idea of the monarchy being superior to the ecclesiastical authorities. In 1376 he published the tract ON CIVIL LORDSHIP in which he espoused the idea that the state, having power in civil and temporal affairs, was also competent to judge and incompetent church. They aroused the papal officers. To his already unpopular status, he added a call for apostolic poverty in the church and this was definitely anti-clerical for its day. He worked with the idea that the Scriptures were the only law for the church and that Christ was the only head. Popes and bishops might not even be among the elect, he suggested. In the light of it, however, it was