

## XI. THE SCHOLASTIC AGE

We have been through the Dark Ages and have emerged into the age of the Schoolmen. We have worked through concepts of church growth and development and now move into a period of significant development in theological/philosophical thinking and the growth of liturgical ideas as well. There are too many names and things in this present age to keep them all in the best order..but what we can do is try and see how things go from there.

### A. Scholasticism

#### 1. Background notes

**Scholasticism** was an attempt to resolve age-old questions on the basis of fresh investigative study of the past and classical answers. These questions were such as "Who am I", "Is there a God?" "Where am I going?", "What in life is really important?", etc. The questions are surprisingly modern and that is why we call them "age old"..history repeating itself, you know. They were asked increasingly through the Dark Ages and the immediate years following when so much of life seemed grim and the misery of the common man was so apparent. The wretched social conditions that prevailed--with little help from the sharing of the Word of God--turned people inward to ask about these things and query the eternal purposes..

The scholastic thinkers were interested in solving these problems facing society. They looked more for classical help than biblical help in many cases but the search was intense and the development of the help much slower. The church as a body politic was not much help..in both the west and the east the prevalent feeling was that of maintaining the status quo..And although the Schoolmen were mostly church people..they often thought on a better level than their ecclesiastical peers and were not infrequently in the ill will of existing religious institutions.

The Heart of the Matter related to Reality. What is real must be meaningful..what is meaningful must be real. Determining that was not as easy as one might suppose.