

XII. A TIME OF RENEWED INTEREST

This is the final installment of our pre-Reformation studies and it takes the period from 1300 to 1500 in our overlapping procedure and talks about the Renaissance and the movements in the church leading towards the Reformation. The idea of renaissance is that of new birth..a quickened interest and we earlier had a few notes on the earliest stages of the renaissance. While we do not study it in a formal sense, it is a very important movement in its influence on the church and in and to that degree its history is important to us. Our text has meaningful notes on it and many of the participants and you will want to catalogue this data for your future use some day...at least remember where you read it!

A. Renaissance Concepts

1. Scholarship activities

It is interesting to note that all most all progress and progressive movements have their roots in the past. So with the renaissance and its influence in the church..it is a study of the past that moved the progress forward. We note just a few of the scholarly minds that are important in this regard..,

- a. Petrarch: a deep regard for the Latin classics and a propagation of classical values in literature.
- b. Boccaccio: a deep interest in the Greek classics..it is unfortunate that he is mostly remembered for the more lurid "Decameron".
- c. Valla: the papal secretary whose research showed the falsity of the "Donation"
- d. Mirandola: interest in the classical literature moved him to a more literal study of the biblical texts.
- e. LeFevre: perhaps influenced by the latter in this list, his evangleical influence grew a better hermeneutic and he helped in the alerting of the Christian world to a new emphasis in the study of Scripture.
- f. Colet: greatly aided in moving the universities in England into a mold of renaissance humanism.