

fallacy of the system of Aquinas and began to speak increasingly against the validity of the Aristotelian system as a means of understanding Christian truth. With this move came a slow reaction against Lombard and the moral theology carried over from the schoolmen.

--Following 1515 he preached regularly at Wittenberg and gained the increased respect and hearing of Frederick of Saxony (the Elector)..otherwise known as Frederick the Wise. Luther's open, direct and simple style appealed to Frederick and the latter quickly came to be one of Luther's strong advocates. It was no small matter. The political skill and diplomatic maneuvers of Frederick would prove the "salvation" of Luther during the difficult years to come.

Steps in the Formation of His Theology

Among the factors that brought Luther's theology to fulfillment were the following:

--the acceptance of the Augustinian plan of salvation in distinction to the mediaeval synergism that was prevalent. The result was an emphasis on grace and depravity and a movement away from any works that might placate the wrath of God.

--he was profoundly impressed by the simplicity ideals of Christian life as seen in the "Brethren of the Common Life." Lodged in the background of his mind, this positive comprehension of God's dealings made a stark contrast with the rich church of his time and the trappings of the clergy.

--the realization of justification by faith alone and authority of the Scripture alone (the former by 1516 certainly and the latter somewhat earlier) galvanized his ideals away from tradition and the teaching of the formal society.

--the careless and abusive ideas and practices of the church of his day struck him as being less than what Christ had prescribed and it seemed that only a drastic change could help...at first he thought a council might rectify matters but in time he saw that a simple return to the Scripture was all that could achieve his end.

--the realization of a possible life-walk for men apart for sacerdotalism...hence he would soon