

"protestant" would come. Those who objected to the decree with the Latin protestate were called "protestants". The immediate days after Speier were the darkest for protestantism since Worms.

Religious
and Political
Developments

1530 saw another Diet at Augsburg. The Emperor was in attendance and the evangelical leaders were on the spot to explain the continuance of schismatic worship. Luther, of course, was not free to attend the Diet and was still under sentence of arrest. Lutheran leaders under the guidance of Melancthon prepared a statement of faith in two parts. The first was a formal credo...a declaration of faith, and the second was a critique of Rome. The Emperor submitted the whole mass for an examination by Roman leaders under the leadership of Cardinal Campeggio and the Roman scholars rebelled at the Confession and wrote a denunciation almost too strong for the Emperor, himself. In time the evangelical confession was read to the Diet and the majority party of Charles announced that the remonstrance was refuted and thereby they ordered an end of the Lutheran schism. This was in spite of the fact that Melancthon had offered a number of concessions to the Roman church (Luther did not approve) and this made it apparent that the Catholic party was not interested in solution but in submission. Melancthon then offered an "apology" for the evangelical cause which finalized the whole issue and made the nature of the reformation movement emphatic. The Confession of Augsburg, prepared for this tribunal, is one of the standard doctrinal statements of Lutheranism although as a governing tool it was somewhat superseded by the forecoming "Formula of Concord" (1577).

The Spread of Lutheran Ideas

As noted earlier, Luther quickly had those who would carry his ideas far and wide. It was not just a matter of rebellion against existing authority but rather the recovery or discovery of a religious experience that moved the soul. In many ways it was a recovery of the enthusiasm of first century Christianity and its burden for the resurrected Lord.

Sweden, 1519, saw the ministry of the Petri brothers who had studied under Luther in Wittenberg. They were vigorous in promoting the reformation doctrines. The Swedish reform must be noted in detail later but from this date the ideas grew in Sweden and it would become one of the most vocal of the reformation lands.