

II.10 Summary

SUMMARY

There are a number of factors to be remembered from the Reformation period...instructive in many ways. I do not have them arranged in good priority form in this section of notes so one will have to observe them as they come and hopefully be able to discern what is more instructive and what is less.

The Spiritual Emphasis of the Reformation

The spiritual emphasis is seen in two theological areas and the outworkings of these. The two theological areas are:

The Threefold presentation of Truth:

SOLA SCRIPTURA
SOLA GRATIA
SOLA FIDEI

The Threefold outworking:

PERSPICUITY
PRIESTHOOD
VOCATION

Healthful aspects of the Reformation Movement

The Emphasis on the centrality of the Word of God. This included a marked return in the evangelical bodies to the authority of the Word although it produced the opposite reaction in the Roman body. The stress on the printed word and the ability to read it grew from this turning point. Sola Scriptura was indeed a healthful emphasis and it is regrettable that a more liberal protestantism is slowly moving from that base. Bibles were put in many vernaculars. See the particular data in Eerdman's HANDBOOK, p372.

The stress on a Christian ethic and ideal on the levels of practical living, a stress that the Medieval church had lost sight of in its present pragmatic realizations.

The growth of interest in the total man and the total world. This had been hibernating for some centuries but would lead to a re-birth of a true mission interest ...lacking in the western church for some time.

A resurgence of Bible scholarship that, while not always producing uniform results, would continue