

to emphasize the priesthood of the individual believer, the role of justification, and the dependence on the grace and mercy of God.

Some apparent Shortcomings

The slow growth of appreciation for freedom of conscience...is a problem with us since we would like to see the total matter hurried on to a happier and fuller conclusion.

The partial use of Scripture in the application to the establishment and the church...and what we mean by this is that while there was a return to the authority of the Word, there was a reluctance to carry it into the total picture of church-state life, perhaps not an intentional thing but an accidental thrust of a world that did not understand the fuller nature of the Kingdom of God.

The retreat of ecclesiastical groups into blocks of ethnic union...churches by country and that sort of thing. I am not sure that it could have been avoided but it has been one of the prime movers in the widely divided groups that we see today. The church was no longer a world-wide institution, but a unique thing limited to a particular country.

And a few matters of observation...

Temporal compromise is always a great danger...momentary gain bought at the expense of eternal values is no bargain.

The magnitude of issues must be discerned and arranged so that one is able to lay full stress on major issues and not those of a secondary nature.

Single issues on doctrinal lines are often matters of personal preference and result in making hard-to-understand situations.

Finally, revival and reform need a spiritual soul to them or they become mere changes in territorial loyalty.

Remember that the Reformation was a product of spiritual thrust that was aided and abetted by other causes in the Providence of God. Looking to the Lord and minding our proper affairs seems to be the providential arrangement.