

(Goethe) saw the conflict of evil and good and had a sort of dim optimism that all would work out mysteriously but powerfully. This is well demonstrated in his work, FAUST

The Realistic Reaction

There came a reaction to this romantic and somewhat myopic view of life and it is best represented in Immanuel Kant (d. 1804) who, as a modified romanticist, gave the CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON (1781) and the CRITIQUE OF PRACTICAL REASON (1788) in which he effectively spoke against metaphysics and its kin. He felt there was an enormous natural revelation coupled with a natural relativism and that man's feelings made a good base for conviction and conduct. Herder (d. 1803) brought this romantic idealism to the historical interpretation of the Bible in order to discover what was true and permanent as opposed to what was local and temporary while Schleiermacher (c. 1834) brought the ideas to theology and as one of the great eclectics of his time rather suggested that the feeling of contentment was the summum bonum. Philosophy students will note that Hegel (d. 1831) while not actually free from romanticism, did pull away from it and by a system of logic attempted to revive realistic problem solving.

In reality the romantic philosophers did the church no good. They spoke rather heavily against positive knowledge and against evidential ideas. They tended to make the most important things in life to be very relative and gave out for norms certain concepts that are not sufficiently concrete to work. In a way they were more productive of harm to the truth than the former empiricists had been.

What the student must remember is that philosophy stimulates the individual to think in a resolution fashion about his situation. The way in which one applies the resolved circumstances is very crucial to the understanding and application of biblical ideals.

Issues in Theology

Theological Issues

For want of more formal definition, the theological battle was centered in three major areas:

--The empirical battle: The question was one of experience and experimentation and what role these played in the knowing of truth.