

Crusading proved hardest on the Jews and the common people whose goods were stolen by the wandering armies. It is not the glorious epoch in history we imagine it to have been and it makes one wonder about the use of the term "crusade" in evangelism and mission today.

VI.2.d  
Scholasticism

The Scholastic Movement

Background

During the early medieval period, the only bright spot in the educational pattern had been the palace schools. Out of these the "university" concept rose slowly and would eventually come to full light before the time of the reformation. In the meantime, the monastic centers are the prime areas of education and instruction. In these one might study in the area for which the particular center had become known--something of the modern magnet center idea--or one might simply be a copiest or redactor of ancient things.

SCHOLASTICISM was an attempt to resolve the age-old questions on the basis of fresh investigative thrusts into the study of the past and its classical answers. These old questions include.. "Who am I" "Is there a God?" "Where am I going?" "What is really important in life?", etc. The questions will sound surprisingly modern but...history repeats itself as has been noted. They were asked increasingly in this period due to the general misery of mankind...the misery of mankind caught in a deteriorating cycle and wretched social condition without the open benefits of the Gospel and the guidance of the Word of God.

Society tends to follow cycles of thought and practice so men turn to the non-physical issues when they become sufficiently jaundiced in the settings in which they find themselves. As life becomes less meaningful, as it is lived day by day, men turn inward to find some means of rationalizing the misery of being with the fact of existence. Such thinking will generally lead to radical solutions although the radical nature may be either a thought or an action. In the case of this age, radicalism was in thought...radical action was not possible.