

-Origen: Another questionable party..like Tertullian in some ways. Head of the catechetical school, strong textual critic, committed allegorist. Writes brilliantly at times but has a tendency to write fancifully and that allowed heretics as well as orthodox persons to use him as a source material.

4. Some Nicene and Post Nicene Fathers

I will recommend some reading in collections of writings by the fathers..for the moment we continue in our sketchy way of thinking who they were and what they did.

-Athanasius: great defender and presenter of the Nicene faith. Endured five exiles rather than admit to any compromise on these issues. Strong theological writings.

-Eusebius of Caesarea: church historian, set the standards for historians of the next many centuries. Secretary at Nicaea.

-Ambrose: Bishop of Milan...hymn writer, preacher and in some ways the spiritual father of Augustine.

-The Cappadocian Fathers: Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus, Basil the Great.. three of the most prominent defenders of the Lord's true humanity in the face of Apollinarius' teaching. These were men of "mystical" persuasion..committed and emotive in passion and presentation.

-Cyril of Alexandria: Militant opponent of Nestorius and powerful foe of Pelagius.

-Augustine: leading theologian in the first five centuries of Christianity..strong on grace. His "Confessions" deserve a reading by all Christians. He held a multiple idea on the meaning of Scripture that tended to minimize the literal aspect and maximize the allegorical or mystical views.

-Jerome: translator of the Vulgate..champion of monasticism. Keen scholar and a quick debater. His work "The Lives of Illustrious Men" was completed with a chapter about himself.