

Family History, Part 4 (1050~1300)

Lesson 4 – Thomas Aquinas and Scholasticism

Rise of Scholasticism

In the 10th and 11th centuries, schools for clerics began emphasizing _____
Instruction that had previously been based on the personal _____ of the instructor
was being replaced by reasoned _____.

Oral instruction was being replaced with _____ texts.

Scripture was still the _____ text,
but there was heavy emphasis on the authority of the church “ _____ ”
and a growing interest in the thinking of _____

Scholastics had great confidence in _____ –

They believed there was no _____ between faith and reason

Some Key Figures

Anselm of Canterbury (1034-1109) “*And I do not seek to understand that I may believe but believe that I might understand. For this too I believe since, unless I first believe, I shall not understand.*”

Put forth a view that Christ's _____ atoned for the disobedience of sinners.

The main view of atonement prior to this was the _____ view,
that Jesus' death was a payment to the _____ that freed sinners.

Peter Lombard (1096-1160)

His “Four Books of Sentences” was the most influential and quoted book on theology for _____ years.
Quoted over 100 times in Calvin's Institutes.

William of Ockham (1287-1347)

Known for his famous “razor” (the _____ explanation is usually the best).

Argued that the pope, the church, and church councils were _____ infallible.

Influence on the Church

Shaped the church's relationship to _____,
securing it as the indispensable center of _____ thought.

And despite their loyalty to Scripture, they never questioned church _____

The scholastics always showed that reason _____ what the church taught

Scholasticism influenced major _____ and ways of thinking for centuries to come.

Created _____ and academic elites, not _____ of Jesus
How could a simple, uneducated person possibly understand the Scriptures?

This context becomes ripe for _____ !

Pause and consider: *Is it possible for our faith to be “too academic”?*

Thomas Aquinas – History

Probably one of the most important figures in church history between Augustine and Luther.
Born in 1225, son of wealthy nobility, family intended for him to become a Benedictine abbot.

He came under the influence of the *Dominicans*, who were trying to take ministry to the _____,
teaching in the cities in the _____ of the people.

In school, his fellow students called him the “dumb [mute] ox”

Went on to become a professor and author

As one point (1265), he was called to Rome to be the _____ official theologian

Wrote many works – often in dispute with other movements, heretics, etc.

Summa contra Gentiles – arguing for Christian beliefs using mostly _____

Summa Theologica – intended for “_____” in theology

In December 1273 – Experienced an “unusually long ecstasy” while celebrating the mass

Stopped writing after this - “*I can write no more. I have seen things that make my writings like straw.*”

Died three months later, in 1274

Aquinas – Significant Ideas

His main contribution to Christian thinking is his distinction between _____ and _____.

Nature is the realm of things that can be known through our _____ or through _____.

Grace is that which can only be attained by the _____ of God.

Example: The _____ of God can be known through reason. (see **Romans 1:19-20**)

However, knowledge of the _____ can only be known by revelation.

Grace does not nullify nature, it _____ it, and so reason is the _____ of faith

Critique: The human mind (reason) _____ operate without grace.

Apart from God's grace, even our _____ is futile and darkened. (**Romans 1:21**)

Also famous for his 5 “proofs” of God's _____

1. _____ needs to be started – God is the “prime mover” that began all motion
2. Nothing _____ itself – God is the uncaused causer of everything.
3. Nothing can come from nothing, there must exist something that _____ exists – God.
4. In everything we see gradation. God is the highest gradation of _____.
5. Design cannot come from chance but instead implies _____.

*Summary: Much of Aquinas and the Scholastics is good and edifying (if a little hard to comprehend)
However, they overemphasized philosophy and gave too much credit to the ability of man to understand and obey God. And they accepted and defended the errors of the church.*