

Church History Sr. 11

Roman catholics pay far more attention to Aquinas than to the Bible. Yes!

(Student) 1227-1274. He was a brilliant man but a man who, when you read some of his writings he goes into such petty arguments, into such trifling discussion of words and details, far beyond what there's any evidence for, that you wonder how he can exert such a tremendous influence. The writings of Thomas Aquinas are the most influential of any writings among Roman catholics today and you can take a statement from the Bible and you can twist it around and it may not bother you but if you take away something from Thomas Aquinas you are going to get into trouble, in the Roman catholic church. He is the great leader of thought in the church to this day. Well there were nice groups among the scholastics and different viewpoints and different tendencies but that which became dominant and is today was that of Thomas Aquinas.

Now, D--Movements for Reform, during this period of three centuries. First, the Conciliar movement, greatly favored in France toward the end of the period particularly. This movement which was very widespread among people took the position that a council of the whole church is authoritative and that a pope is subject to a council. Well actually the great schism was ended by a council which deposed three popes and made a new one and made him promise to obey the council and to call a new one every ten years, but he speedily forgot his promise. Many a person up to 1870 in the Roman catholic church held that the authority was in the councils, the pope was simply an executive official to do what the council said and the key to any difficulty was to call a council. In 1870 it was officially decided that the pope is infallible and superior to all councils so since 1870 the Conciliar movement is dead. In fact, some of the popes even declared excommunication in advance against anyone who would make an appeal from the pope to a future council but that was quite customary for a time and to many that seemed to be the solution. They sought their authority, not in the pope but, in the council and of course both are wrong. Authority is in Christ, not in any council.

Sr. 11 Second part

I'm sorry to have been late today. It's very rarely that I'm ever late