

- b. (Cont.)
and these in no case hold more than 25 or 30 people; and in addition are believed to have been dug after the time of Constantine. Since so great an amount of dirt was involved in the digging of the tunnels it could not have been done secretly. This then is another indication of the tolerance of the Roman state.
- c. Evidence from the catacombs is hard to evaluate. It is interesting to note that the sign of the fish, and the good shepherd far outnumbered the cross in early days. The principle significance of the catacombs is as an indication that these early Christians sought to be buried together symbolizing their faith in a life together after death.
- d. The catacombs were forgotten until the 16th century and when they were unearthed during the Reformation period Protestant opinion branded them as a Catholic hoax. Scientific investigation did not begin until 1850.

C. Montanism

- 1. A movement begun in the early church by Montanus in Asia Minor, which, up until 60 years ago, was considered of highly heretical nature. It is now believed to have been an early revolt against an evolving religious hierarchy.
- 2. All information regarding the Montanists is obtained from the writings of their bitter enemies. Most attacks on the Montanists caricature their origin. Montanus a Phrygian priest decided he had received a special revelation and was himself the Holy Spirit. Associated with him were two women prophetesses.
- 3. Regardless of its origin the following facts should be noted regarding the Montanists.
 - a. They were extremely strict in their emphasis on a high moral standard and separation from worldliness.
 - b. They laid considerable stress upon the universal priesthood of believers, although Phillip Schaff claims they were lead by a group who claimed a unique relationship with the Holy Spirit.
 - c. They drew their inspiration from the New Testament and held to the fundamental doctrines.
 - d. Tertullian became a Montanist but was nevertheless always highly regarded in his day.