

**WORD OR SPIRIT? SCHOLASTICS AND MYSTICS  
IN THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES**  
Church History 1, Outline 10

**I. Scholasticism**

A. Approaches to Knowledge

1. Extreme Realists asserted with Plato that universals existed apart from and antecedent to individual objects.
  
2. Moderate realists (conceptualists) taught that universals existed only in connection with individual objects.
  
3. The Nominalists following Stoic precedent held that universals were only abstract *names*.

B. Scholastic Theologians

1. Anselm (1033-1109)
  
2. Abelard (1070-1142)
  
3. Peter Lombard (1100-1160)
  
4. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

5. William of Occam (1300-1349)

C. The Doctrine of Grace in Scholasticism

D. Scholastic Schools

1. *via antiqua*

2. *via moderna*

3. *schola augustiniana moderna*

## **II. Mysticism**

A. Individual Mystics

1. Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

2. Julian of Norwich (1342-after 1416)

3. Meister Eckhart (1260-1327)

#### 4. John Tauler (1300-1361)

##### B. Summary

1. All of the German mystics leaned toward pantheism, though their view might more easily be called panentheism.
2. They tended to believe that God was as incarnate in the believer as he was in Christ.
3. As the Jewish law was done away with by Christ, so earlier Christianity was done away with by the coming of the Spirit.
4. They were quietists, believing that the soul became one with God by contemplation.

*\* This material was developed by and is used with the consent of Dr. Chad Brand - SBTS, KY*