

gradually develops, and thus, unless we are constantly going back and checking by the truth, errors will come in - to any group. And here we have a period from - ~~which~~ we don't know a great deal about the Chn° church until about 200. We have ? little information. But from about 200 until 450 we have a great deal of information. And we can watch how ~~the~~ ideas developed, and we can study a good bit, as we have a great deal of writing. Then from 450 on we don't have a great deal. And yet we have people all over who are holding services. And these people are speaking. And now, from 450 on, less and less of these people are literate. More and more of them are not able even to read the Bible, but are simply passing on what they have been told from others. And in the course of time, gradually they make mistakes, and ideas ~~xx~~ creep in, and so on. And it when - we have a man like - probably most of the bishops of Rome preached a great deal; but nobody thought their sermons were worth writing down or keeping. Now Greg° was good enough; they thought they were. And so we read his sermons, and we find him stressing that it is important that you so live that you won't have to spend years suffering agonizing pain in the fires of purgatory. And that if your relatives have done so it is helpful to hold a service at which you remember them and pray for them and hold a communion service. And so we find a great deal of stress on that in his sermons. Now whether others previously - I am sure he didn't build it out of the ^{whole} cloth; and I'm sure he didn't get it out of the ~~of~~ Scripture, because it's ~~not~~ not there. But there are certain terms in the Scripture which, taken by themselves out of context, can easily lead to these ideas. And it's entirely possible that others had developed certain of these ideas, and that he ~~had~~ had heard it, and had adopted it without checking the Scripture as he should have. And he became so interested in this ~~church~~ that he's the first one of whom we have much actually preserved - who laid stress on it. I don't think he originated it, but we don't have reason to think that it was originated much before his time - probably gradually developed. ~~xx~~ I'm always glad for questions like that - I like to clarify these points, because they are very vital - not just in understanding the