

We continue right on from the point which we had reached last time. We have, I believe, a few new members of the class this second semester, and they will find that we are simply continuing and do not have a chapter break as we did in OT history--it is simply the break of a sentence in this course. We'll try to make some arrangement for the new members of the class so that they will get the value from this semester, even though they do not have what immediately preceded. For their benefit I would say that we have been discussing the history and taking up each century, thus far, as a separate unit, and at present we are in the Fifth Century A.D., the century from 400-500 A.D. And in the course of that century we are now looking at the life of perhaps the most important character in Christian history, certainly the most important history-writer in Christian history between the apostle Paul and Martin Luther. That is, from the Protestant viewpoint he certainly is the most important Christian writer between Paul and Martin Luther. From a Roman Catholic viewpoint, I don't know whether you could say he is the most important writer in that interval, but you could say, one of the two or three most important from their viewpoint in that period. From the viewpoint of Western Christendom, then, --I do not mean that the East doesn't give him great regard, I just do not know what their attitude is toward him--but Western Christendom, whether Roman Catholic or whether Protestant, Augustin is absolutely outstanding. Now there will be much we can say about him this semester, because we have already discussed his life at some length, and we have seen the greater part of the outstanding activities of his life. We were speaking, though, at the end of the last period, about his controversy with the Pelagians, and I just want to say just a little bit more about that this morning, because it is one of the most important events in the ancient church history, and from the viewpoint of the Protestant, it is the most important event by far in the life of Augustin. From the viewpoint of the Protestant, the Pelagian controversy shows us Augustin