

to Constantinople dealing with the emperor and he did it very well and he was an excellent diplomat, he did not want to do that sort of thing and he soon came back and retired to his monastery there and when ~~he~~ in 590, the bishop died, the clergy unanimously called on Gregory to become bishop. And it was not much of an honor that they called him to right then, because the Lombards had over run much of the country while the bishop of Rome was the wealthiest land holder in Italy and there was a great deal of prestige there in Italy, he was in a very bad situation and there was a pestilence in Rome and 1000's of the people were dying of the epidemic day after day and right in the midst of that situation he was called upon to become the bishop of Rome. He was called to a very difficult position, that although he was in very weak health, had to rest a good deal of the time was never particularly sturdy, he ruled for 14 years, he worked night and day, administrative, writing, sending letters to people all over the Europe, actively taking an interest in every thing connected with the welfare of the church. And he laid the foundation of the medieval church, some even think of him as the second founder of the church of Rome. He deserves the name of Gregory, he was a good man on the whole, his influence was a good influence on the whole, he did, he was like Leo, Leo was a good man, a man of good influence and so was Gregory. His views were not quite as good as Leo's on some points, some points they had developed more in the direction of present perversions, there is nothing in purgatory in Leo's writings but there is in Gregory's writings, you find these ideas beginning to creep into his life, there are not by any means, and we do find though that the attitude of Leo on the claim of superiority over everybody, Gregory took that over too, and there are things that we do not particularly like about the attitude in that regard, but present with all the good points, these points which demand as to what authority his position should have, but to increase the prestige of his position and to build up you have today.

(end of record)