

it occupies the first half of this period of vision, and so we have really got to take it up here if we 8 in any chronological way. The only ~~thing~~ ^{thing that} ~~it~~ might come earlier than is the controversy with the Manichaeans, but I am not going to give that a separate heading. That began, in a way, before his conversion. And it was active in the early years of his ~~ministry~~ // ministry, and even at the very end of his life he found this deacon was secretly a Manichaean, and so he wrote a good many works against the Manichaeans. But his ~~debates~~ // debates against the Manichaeans, and his acts of opposition to them, was largely in the first year of his bishopric, and after that the Manichaeans seem to have been pretty well routed in North Africa, and were no longer a great force there, ~~as~~ as they had been before. But this other movement was one which Augustin began immediately to combat, and this is one, in some ways, the less praiseworthy activities of his life, this with the ~~the~~ Donatists. I ~~didn't~~ // didn't say it is something deserving of condemnation at all, but I say of the less praiseworthy. We Protestants, at least, can feel far greater sympathy with the other controversies than we can with this controversy with the Donatists. And it is something which is very hard to evaluate, because of the different ~~attitudes~~ // attitudes taken by different writers about it. ~~I~~ Before I would want to make a real evaluation of this controversy with the Donatists, I would want to take about a ~~year~~ // year and just study it. And I feel, in many aspects of it, that I have to suspend judgment ~~about~~ // about it. But the outstanding ~~things~~ // facts of it are very vital and should be known. You know what the Donatists were. They were at one time perhaps the largest Christian group in Africa; at least they were so close to it that they were ~~either~~ // either the majority or very very ~~close to~~ // little under the ~~majority~~ // majority. They ~~were~~ // were a church which had been active in Africa for over a century. (I mean at the end of Augustin's life--thinking of when he had become bishop, they had been active there for about 70 years). But 70 years, when he became bishop, the Donatists had become active there, ~~but~~ ^{and} the movement was ~~an~~ ^{The}