

those who are still in their education and leaving out those who are the generation that is largely passed from the scene though a few men remain in positions of leadership, and you have three complete generations and so the people of the first of the three generations are more or less shadowy figures back in the days of grandpa, and that is still in the one century and if you get a realization of that then we understand that even though we may spend a very little bit of time on one of these centuries it is just as long as what the third or fourth century or these others in which we took much more time to learn something about the facts and progress of the Gospel and in these centuries there were just as many people. There were just as many Christians. There were just as many people who were active. There were just as many people who were thinking and arguing, who were living and planning. There is just as much activity in these centuries as in the earlier centuries and so you do not get an understanding of all of these people through all the ages as we rush through it, you can't, but we spend a longer time when there were people who have left an effect that has affected us more particularly and when in the periods when they seem to be following on in the previous line and not making so much change or when they were making changes which in turn disappeared before our time, those we are going to pass over much more quickly because they are of less immediate interest and concern for us and therefore this seventh century which we took maybe 1/6 as long as we took on the 3rd or 4th century or the 5th, but I hope that you will always remember that it was actually just as long, has just as many people in it, and there were just as many generations. So now we go on to the eighth century and we are going to rush through the 9th century and a number of these centuries. The 8th century, we are only going to concern ourselves with three main heads under the 8th century. The first of these, A the iconoclastic controversy. Now, I assigned that to you today also you are already familiar with it so there is no need of our taking time to go over it here. Just to touch a few of its main features.