

where you can trace a constant succession of leaders right back to the apostles. And in these claims, the established church in these places, does not believe in these books these other people are talking about, they hold that continuance in belief in these doctrines from the time of the apostles, and one of them would say, look how Peter and Paul, the great apostles, were in Rome, and exerted their influence there, and look at the great men who succeeded them. He is not interested in giving us history of the church of Rome, he is not interested in discussing whether the Roman bishop claims to be infallible, or not, that thought probably never entered his head, but he is interested in showing that in relation to these new movements that are sweeping through and leading many Christians astray that the fact that they have not been accepted by the established church in these places, where the apostles established churches, like Rome and these other places that he mentioned, is pretty good evidence/ ^{they are wrong.} You see, that is the type of evidence that we have from those days. We have discussions of vital church matters, in the course of these discussions incidental references are made to church hist., but we do not have records describing events in the ^{Christian} ~~Christian~~ church or to any event long after the time of the Book of Acts. ~~NEW~~

Now about 170 you begin to have a little more, you don't have a great deal of hist. really until after 300 A.D., I mean of written hist., and that is a long time. The period of the supremacy of paganism, is a period in ~~which~~ which our hist. written is very very scanty and we take the precious evidences we have and we study them carefully to see what we can learn. When we get to about 300 A.D. we come into a very different situation. Shortly after 300 A.D. Constantine, the Roman Emperor, declared himself to be the one who the Christian God was giving the victory. He claimed to see in the sky a great cross, and he claimed that his victories were ~~given~~ given him by means of the support of Christianity. He did not become, himself, a professing Christian until the day before his death, many years later, but he presided at church assemblies before that, called himself the bishop of the church, and declared how they should maintain order ~~within~~ within the Christian church. So, to all