

I don't believe we can question his sincerity without questioning the sincerity of most political leaders. The question of sincerity of Constantine's conversion, it seems to me is something where there is no ground on which to really seriously present an argument against. As to guaranteeing it, that I say, we cannot do with any man. But now this is his character we are speaking of. I want to speak very briefly of (b) his baptism.

I have already mentioned to you that he was baptised ~~that~~ the day before he died and there are ~~books~~ <sup>books</sup> that say he was baptised the day before he was to die because he wanted to have all his sins under the baptism and not to risk being lost afterward. Now whether this proves that Constantine was an arminian or whether it proves that simply this is somebody's interpretation, I don't know. Evidence is not extensive on it. Some books say that the reason the baptism was put off this was because he always claimed he wanted to baptised at the Jordan as Christ had been and he was never able to fit it into his busy requirements of the administration of the empire, and finally gave it up and was baptised the day before his death. Now I don't think it is impossible that he felt that he was anxious to advance Christianity <sup>in</sup> the empire, and also anxious to hold the empire together and keep peace in the empire and establish a solid, lasting regime, different from that of the previous century when they changed emperors about every two or three years by assassination, and - 5½ - and ----- of the people in the empire, he might have felt that to take the outward step of actually becoming a member of the Christian group, would make it more difficult for him to do what he was endeavoring to do and therefore, he put it off until the end of his life. We just don't know. We do not have evidence and we do not have anybody who talked with him about it. We don't even know that he spoke his ideas to the people. But this, I think we can say, that Constantine was mixed up in wars and strife all through his life. He saw many of his best friends killed most unexpectedly in war and difficulty and Constantine certainly believed thoroughly in the Christian teaching of a heaven and a hell and was very anxious not to be lost.