

as being the religion of practically all of the people of the empire. The great change in all of Christianity came in this century. So we have seen some of it now and we have much more to see later how in this 4th century, the Christian Church from a small persecuted church, very sizable group, but compared to the whole empire very small group, greatly persecuted, became that which was established and what all decent people would consider themselves as belonging to. The complete triumph in the external world of Christianity is something which did not take place under Constantine of course. But it is something that took place in the course of the century and there are various things that entered into it. I hope you will be on the watch for them and will note the various things that come under this text. I will not give you one head covering this whole thing through the century but I might conceivably ask you a question some time - describe the advance of Christianity as against heathenism during this century. Then I would want you to bring together the different strands that we will touch on. Now that itself is enough to make the century of tremendous importance but in addition to that there is another entirely different strand - the strand of the Arian Controversy and this is something which did not last for five years or for ten years, but which characterizes the century as a whole. The rise of Arianism, its triumph, its great success, its decline, its ultimate failure - all come within this century. It is something which had most far reaching effects in the church and upon the world and is a tremendously important matter so tremendously important that a great part of our ~~century~~ attention during this remaining study of this century will be devoted to it and it will be easy for you to overlook some of the matters which relate to that first strand which is equally important. These two strands run through this century and it is the century of most tremendous importance in these two regards. Therefore it is extremely important that you have an understanding of what Arianism is and of the great points in connection with the events which relate to this century. I say the great ones, because if you were to study all the meetings that concern themselves with Arianism, all the resolutions, all the announcements, all the decisions, all the vital activity, that happen through it