

heard these little ditties putting forth Arius Theology. Pretty soon, other people were rising up and saying, "this isn't scriptural, Jesus is God, he is truly God, there is one God and Jesus is God and the Father is God. They are separate but there is one God." So the whole empire was convulsed by this within a year. It spread all through the empire and here was Constantine who had just become emperor of the whole empire, had just put a complete end to the persecution all over the empire and wanted Christian principles and Christian ideals to be supreme in all the empire and the Christians were at each others throats, fighting about the deity of Christ. So, Constantine wrote a nice letter to Arius and Alexander saying, "nobody can understand these things. Quit talking about these things. Go ahead and preach the gospel, the work you were called to and stop convulsing the empire over these things." But Constantine's letter only made them all the more determined to stand for the truth and not to keep quiet for any reason. So the discussion was all over the empire and the pagan theaters were making fun of the Christians about this and using a little terminology to imitate and ridicule them, when Constantine said "something must be done to bring to clear understanding what the truth is." He said "I don't know the truth on this but you get the Christian bishops who suffered for the cause of Christ, these men who have spent their lives studying the Word of God. You get them together and let them examine the matter and decide exactly what the truth is, so that people can agree on the truth and go forward to preach the gospel." So Constantine thought of the idea of holding an ecumenical council. So he gave the order to hold the ecumenical council, the first and perhaps the best. Certainly one of the greatest ever to be held and one which is recognized by all important sections of the Christian Church as having done a great service in clarifying terminology on this matter. In the council, finally the thing came to between two words, homo----- and -----6 and Carlyle I think it was, a young man said "how silly to divide the world in arguing over one letter. How silly it was" he said, but later on he said he thought about it more and saw that if the wrong decision had been made then, Christianity would have disappeared and the whole progress of Christianity hung on this matter of the one letter. Well after all it is silly to say one letter.