

No. 3 is the Arian Controversy to the Death of Constantine

I think it would be a good thing for you to remember the date of the death of Constantine, not that the precise date is so important but to realize that it is a little more than a third of a century past when Constantine dies. So you have a little more than the first third of the century taken up with the persecution and then with the life and activity of Constantine, who reigned until his death in 337. Now between 325 and 337, these remaining 12 years, we have already noticed the other acts in the life of Constantine, those which are of importance to church history. But now we want to see the matters which happened in those 12 years in relation to the Arian Controversy. So first under that because <sup>of</sup> the great importance of the man, we will mention a. The Work~~s~~ of Athanasias. We want to mention the fact that three years after the Council of Nicea, Bishop Alexander of Alexandria died and on his death bed he expressed his wish that the young deacon not get 30 years of age, Athanasias who had been with him at the Council of Nicea should be elected in his place. Now there were some who thought that Athanasias was much too young to be a bishop. There were some who felt that one of the old experienced presbyters ought to be made the bishop and there were several who felt quite sure that they themselves ought to be the most qualified for the position. But the mass of the people recognized the great ability of Athanasias and he was overwhelmingly elected to be the bishop of Alexandria. So in 328 Athanasias became the Bishop of Alexandria and he relinquishes that position at his death in 373 so you see there is a period of 45 years from the time when he became Bishop of Alexandria until he died. Athanasias was as able an administrator as the ~~was~~ world has ever seen as far as the world is concerned. Not only that but he was a man of absolute devotion to the doctrines of the Bible, a man who was inflexible and constant in his stand for the full deity of Christ and in his opposition to the Arian denials on this point. He was well rounded in his theological views and very good in his understanding of most doctrines but not one to fight over small things or to make an issue on every sort of matter that might be raised. On secondary matters he was