

would come to a large area about a city block on which there would be a large ~~building~~ area, about a city block in which you would see a large building and a sign out front - the monastery of Basil the Great. There is, I believe, an Easternorthodox monastery there which is dedicated to him. He is a name which has been revered in the whole church east and west, but particularly in the eastern church; that shows how his name is still remembered to this day Basil died in 379, he did not have a long life but a very effective life. He was a man who was especially able as an administrator He had been in Athens, a student of rhetoric - a fellow student with Julian and Julian thought very highly of him and wanted to get his help in the emperial service but Basil was a very convinced Christian and he was dead against what Julian was doing. Basil went into the desert in Egypt and visited some of the hermits who were now beginning to multiply in number in the desert. He saw some of the Christians who were trying to turn away from all earthly pleasures and put their whole emphasis on devotion to the Lord and Basil was greatly attracted by them. So Basil went back to Capadotia and tried to devote himself, took his great property, he was from a wealthy family, and sold most of the wealth, had just a little to live on, gave the money to the poor and tried to devote himself with a few companions, to living on a very simple scale, with very little of attractive foods, and very little of that which would appeal to the natural man, to give himself to study and devotion. But Basil saw the nature of the situation ~~with~~ with Arianism such a vital force and he felt it necessary to make himself felt as a force in advancing the knowledge of the true faith at this time. So he went to a bishop of the town called Caesarea in Capadotia, not the Caesarea of the book of Acts which is in Palestine but a different town, and there he assisted the bishop and became his associate, for the administration of this whole area of Capadotia. Then the bishop died and Basil was made Bishop in his place. The Emperor Valens when he was succeeding at one time in getting Arianism established in the Eastern Empire, heard that here was a center in Capadotia where the Nicene Creed was being taught and believed and he made a trip up there to put an end to this thing. But Basil was able to face him with courtesy and yet in such a way that Valens backed down before him and he did not bother