

I believe I adked about the 2nd century and they talked about the 200s or something like that. That is unfortunate that the way we use terminology is such, that when we say the 20th century we mean the 1900s. It is unfortunate and yet it is a feature of all parts of history. Peopel today will write ~~it to~~ confusing the two thoughts.

It is a confusing feature of our language but such a common feature that is wise for use to become accustomed to it. I have tried to stress it from time to time and I believe there was only one who made that error. I do mention it again because it is an unfortunate thing that we ~~y~~ have to pay attention to in history and in this day.

Now e have been talking about the 4th century and the 3rd century is, next to the 15th century, the most important century in christian history, in the history of the church since th3 assension. The 4th century is most important to us in protestant circles while the R.C. might think the 13th century ~~waw~~ most important.

To them as to us, these centurys are of most importanced

In this century there are a nujmber of important developments and we cannot finish them even though chronologically we are very near the end. I have mentioned to you the two most outstanding features of the century, the two features which affect the whole century from beginning to end and they are two features which are particujlarly important becaus4 in both of them this century makes13

One of them is the downfall of paganism. The century begins with paganism evidently in complete control. Very soon after the beginning of the century persecution breaks out, the christian churches are practically all demolished, christian leaders are killed or sent to prison and an attempt is made to completely destroy christianity. The century ends with the R.Emperors, the men who give lip service at least, to christianity in every aspect of their government with practically all of the great beautiful pagan temples, in the beginning of the century ~~hav~~ing either been destroyed or turned into other purposes, and with paganism, ~~pr~~ practically completely disappeared. At the beginning of the century practically 75% of the people of the roman empire would have been labeled as followers of the pagan gods. 11½