

introduction of state control over the Christian church. Now you will occasionally read that Constantine made Christian the state religion which of course is an utterly false statement but if the person is an expert in some other line, not in ch. history then it is plain that he has an error in his mind, as constantine while he reigned the old religion was the official state religion of the empire. Constantine bore the title of Pontifex Maximus which was the name of the head of the Roman pagan religion as it existed for many centuries. He bore that title still. It wasn't until you get to Gratian, that he refused the title because he said = it was a pagan title. Constantine recognized that about 25% of his people were Christians but was anxious to help them in every way but moved very carefully not to arouse the great pagan opposition and the pagans recognized Constantine as a very able man, one who brought peace to the empire, one who introduced many items of social legislation which were due to his Christian outlook but which brought benefits to him, and the people of the empire as a whole thought very highly of Constantine. When Constantine died, they voted to enroll his name among the Gods as one of the pagan gods, as they had done with most of the emperors.<sup>3</sup> Now as far as Con. himself was concerned he thought that was a lot of nonsense, mumble jumble. In fact his words showed his contempt for the pagan religion in such a way that he aroused the opposition but he never proceeded in any direct way., to make Christianity a state religion during his time. McSorley in his outline history of the church makes the definite statement "Gratian made Christianity the state religion" I don't know why he makes such a statement ~~but~~ I think you can say there is never an action which says this now is done, Christianity is now the state religion but as you see the changes which take place, perhaps this time would be as good as any to say that such a change really took place because ~~Gratian~~ Gratian refused to take the title of Pontifex Maximus, the pagan title and Gratian also ordered that the altar of victory be removed from the senate house in Rome which was the pagan altar in front of the senate house and the services began and ended with a pagan altar. Beautiful altar and beautiful decorations. Gratian ordered it removed, then afterwards it was brought back and later was destroyed. In his doing this you might say he took a big step toward making Christianity a state religion. On the other hands you could say he just had no time for paganism.