

1/3/63 Pre Reformation C. H. #42=1

By the end of the century, Christian practices were performed with connection with important every act of the state and the emperors were making laws prohibiting religions contrary to Christianity and the empire had come to consider the church in as many ways a part of its jurisdiction which it could handle as it chose. Of course that is a very harmful situation which took place but a development, unless you are going to specifically introduce and practice the idea of separation of church and state, it is a hard thing to prevent from happening. You have a government in which the emperor was theoretically absolute and this government changes from paganism to favoring Christianity. I don't think we can blame any individual for this change which took place but we can recognize that the change did take place during this century and it was a change which profoundly affected the eastern portion of the empire far more than the western portion. Now there are a few other matters about this century which I call your attention to = an important development of this century which we haven't spoken of yet but will more later = this is the development of Monasticism.

Monasticism is something which has developed through the centuries and there have been other centuries which have been much more important in this development than this one. Consequently it is not as important in this century as in the others but it is a fact that at the time of 300 AD there may have been as many as 20 or 50 or 200, nobody can prove but these are men who are living off in the desert somewhere by themselves, devoting themselves to the study or what they consider to be the service of God and trying to keep themselves from all connections with the wicked world. There may have been two or three as we have no proof, or we have some who say there weren't any at 300 AD, but who can prove that there were not a considerable number more. This we can say = that by 400 AD there were thousands of them so that is a tremendous development during this time. Now Monasticism as we find it in the R. C. church today is something that was absolutely unknown at 300 AD because at 300 AD if you had asked the people (the Christians) about Monasticism in the church or monks or even hermits, 99% would have no idea at all what you were talking about.