

The great persecution of Diocletian led people to either rush forward and declare they were Christians in order to suffer in part, but some others would want to get away from an Empire which was under such wicked control, to a place where they could give themselves to contemplation. So with the world as it was and as worldliness came into the church, there were those who left just because of their disgust with the particular section of the professing church with ~~these~~ ^{which} they were in contact. I don't think you can say it was with a clear realization of what it would mean to the church to have the state have as much control and therefore say this development came from that. It was from things which entered into the empire.

question

There was not a type of organization of the church at this time in which=====6½ when you get an organized group~~s~~ such as the Novations, an organized fgroup which was definitely organized but which was not recognized by the other churches as being in communion with them, they call it -----7 When you get a group~~s~~ which had some point of doctrine which they feel is wrong they call it ----- but these monks in the desert, the question of whether any of them were either schismatic or heretical would require examination of the individual.

Now there is one other very important thing about this century which we will hardly get to touch on in this ~~century~~ semester but it differs in the features we have mentioned thus far in that it does not relate to the century as a whole. It is not a change which took place in the beginning or the end of the century but is a very important matter in connection with the century. This is that the two men who in their affect on future developments, perhaps are the most important men in ancient church history. Of course I am omitting Biblical history when I say this. These are the only men in ancient church ~~wh~~history who would rank along Luther and Calvin in their importance. These two appear right at the end of the 4th century so that is another reason of great importance for this century. One of these men exerted his great influence mostly during the 4th century because he was getting along in years by the end of the century consequently we will discuss him under the 4th century. The other of these two men while a fair portion of his life was lived in the 4th century had the greatest influence during the 5th century, so we will discuss him during the 5th century.