

Church History Sr. 12

Mary. Often Christ, the Virgin Mary and the saints seem simply to have taken the place simply of the old heathen gods. This, of course, as time went on came to be more and more due to the activity of the Jesuits who were particularly interested in extending the organization. We can easily see the fault of the Roman catholic church in this respect. They were so organization-minded to extend their organization, to get people to recognize the pope as the head of the religion, to get them to say the forms and go through the ceremonies which they had, and it is easy for us to look at them and to rejoice that we in protestantism are safe from that sort of a control and yet I think that we should pause and should watch out lest we find ourselves falling into the same error. No matter how splendid our organization may be, no matter how fine our group may be it is very easy for us to get into the frame of mind where extension of the particular organization, the particular men or the particular group becomes a motive that is primary in our activity. It is never so in the New Testament. That which is primary is the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. It is getting to the heart of the Person. In the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord. That is what God has promised us is going to happen. Well, now does that mean that particular word is vital? The Roman catholics in all the territories where their missionaries have gone have people recognizing the name of Jesus but is the vital thing the name, as a combination of sounds, or is it that which the name stands for? As a matter of fact if one of you were to go to someone in Palestine in the time of Christ and speak about Jesus he would have no idea in the world what you were speaking about. I don't know of any other language there is in which the name of Jesus begins with a J sound. That's an English innovation. The letter is pronounced like a y in most other languages and of course in the Aramaic the s's of Jesus, the first s was pronounced like we pronounce an sh. It isn't a matter of the combination of sounds; it's a matter of what it stands for, of Jesus Christ the Son of God who died on the cross for our sins and in evaluating any organization it is very important that we ask the question, Are these spreading the recognition of this organization or the development of its