

Record 95

We are going to put stress again on the vital things that we are trying to know. As you remember we have ~~be~~ been looking at the church history ~~of~~ in centuries. Not because there is anything magical in knowing ~~anything~~ a particular date, knowing in what century it had occurred, but because, if ~~it~~ it has any meaning at all, the meaning is in the ^{relation} ~~realization~~ of the events, one to another, and if you get something that happened in the third century and something that happened in the first mixed up, you have about as much understanding of it as if you would try to explain what is happening in Washington today by conflict between George Washington and Pocahontas. They are just about as far back from us now as the centuries were from each other. And ~~it~~ it is important to know what things are ~~xxxx~~ related to each other, and what seemed to be at the time quite in the distant past.

I have been taking it, too, in general, in thirds of a century, because that is about the normal course of a person's active life. And ~~xxxx~~ what happened in a different third of a century is ~~a~~ usually of interest to you, you have heard about it, but you don't have much direct connection with it. You may have been a little boy, perhaps, you hear about it, but by the time you are active it is history. We used this third of a century dating pretty generally until we got into this fourth century. In the fourth century we have had to depart from it because the movements don't fit nearly so neatly in thirds of a century as they did in the previous centuries. We found that this century began with the great persecutions. The greatest the church had ever seen, and this persecution is at an end by 313. So really a sixth of a century, in this century, forms an era by itself. The great outstanding ~~and~~ lasting of this great persecution.

We have noticed particularly two things, as we have gone through it, ~~xxxx~~ as far as the big movements are concerned, one is the progress of the Christian faith in its spread through the Roman Empire. And from the view