

of the emperor Julian. ~~and~~

The third event of this century in relation to the destruction of paganism, comes at the end of the ~~x~~ century, and we won't look at that until a little later, but it is, you might say, the dying gasp of paganism. And it comes ~~at~~ at the end of the century, and by the end of ~~xxx~~ it, paganism is practically a historical memory. I don't mean that everybody was a true Christian, by any means, but I do mean that the pagan religion which was so powerful and ~~x~~ so common, was simply something that was set off in the corner somewhere, by the end of the century.

Now the other movement about which we know a good ~~x~~ deal more, than we do of this particular movement, is one which also is particularly important in this century. And that is the constant effort which Christianity had had from the very beginning to keep its eyes on the truth of the Scripture. To keep its teaching pure, to keep going, in other words, forward in the mind of Christianity, instead of diverging off in this ~~xxxxx~~ direction until it becomes a philosophy with more in common with paganism than with Christianity ~~xxxxxxx~~ as neo-platonism was. Or off in this direction until it becomes like eventually manichaeism, or some sort of polytheistic mythological sort of a teaching, instead of being something that followed the actual teaching of the Word of God. Ever since the Lord gave us the parable of how the woman took the leaven and put ~~xxxxxx~~ it in the meal, and it spread until it leavened the whole lump, Satan has been trying to do exactly that thing. He has been trying to put false teaching into the mouth of Christianity and cause it to grow and spread through it until the whole Christian organization would ^{be} ~~put~~ shot through and permeated with it. And the history of the Christian Church cannot be understood unless we are aware of this movement which has always been there. And sometimes in a small degree, and sometimes in a great degree, and sometimes a very vicious effort of Satan to destroy Christianity has gotten a good start and has then been wiped out. Sometimes a movement which wasn't, perhaps, quite as vicious has succeeded in spreading through the lump to such an extent that it has almost overwhelmed it.