

of the Scripture, from the viewpoint of this, there has been no century in history which has been more important, although there are one or two others that are as important, as this fourth century. Because, in this fourth cent., the church had no sooner survived the great persecutuion as came to be free from it and ready to go forward without interference, than a false teaching showed its head in a way which appeared to be absolutely harmless. And yet the terrific danger of which was immediately recognized by others. And this ~~fas~~ flase teaching which showed its head after the beginning of the time after the great persecution was met in the Council of Nicea, the church faced it, saw what was wrong with it, made a clear definite statment against it, which has been accepted by the whole Christina church, by all brnaches, of the Christian church since 400 A.D. (end of record)

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This statement, this unbelief, which was immediately denied at the Council of Nicea was able, nevertheless, to gain such control that it looked as if it would become absolutely dominant. There is no false movement which has persited longer or been more important in its effect in all of Christian history than this Arian movement. We could take a whole year looking at the coinflict between Christianity and Arianism in the fourth century. So much has been preserved, we know so much about the details and ramifications of it, we will not be able to take more than a bare glimpse of it. But it is very important that we are aware of its most vital teaching, and it is also important that you have this in your mind to the point where, sometime in the future, you may find it a valuable study to take up/ One of the books which devotes a whole volume to the details of this ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ dissenttion and ~~XXXX~~ go through it yourself and get an idea of how the conflict ~~XXXXX~~ ebbed and flowed through the century and what the forces were that finally ~~XXXXX~~ overcame ~~and~~ it, more in detail than we are able to look at it during this course.

Now I had already begun our discussion of the Arian controversy, before