

pagan spheres, all over the empire, they were making fun of the Christian controversy about Arianism, and whether there was a time when Christ was not or there was never a time when He was not. And they found that this was threatening the unity of the Christians, and Constantine ~~w~~ said, we have got to ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ find some way ~~xxxxxxx~~ to solve this, and so he called the Council of Nicea.

We looked in some detail at number 2, the Council of Nicea. I don't think we need to reiterate much about that, because we have said a good bit about it. Perhaps, however, I should remind you of two or three of the most important facts about the council. It was the first great ecumenical council, and every great professing Christian denomination within the last fifteen years has declared its acceptance of the conclusions of the first four great ecumenical councils, of which Nicea was the first, and in many ~~xxxxxxx~~ ways the greatest. So this Council of Nicea is very important in Christian history and I think it ~~w~~ is wise for every Christian minister and missionary to know the precise date of this council. 325 A.D. We should all certainly know what it was meant to consider, this matter of Arianism. And what the decision was in the course of the council. You remember they were faced with the problem of the stand on this matter, and the middle of the road was led by Eusebius of Caesarea, the great historian, came forward with a beautiful creed which had many lovely things to say about Christ, but the Arians said that was fine and they said they would accept it. Then the opponents of Arianism very wisely said, this creed sounds beautiful, it has wonderful things to say about Christ, it has things it says about Christ which we don't see why any honest person could say and still follow the teachings of ~~xxxxxxx~~ Arianism. But they said, they followers of Arius are ready to accept this creed, therefore, this creed is not sufficient to show the error of their teaching. It will not give a clear word on this vital problem.. And so they ~~xxxxxxx~~ said, it is necessary that we have something in the creed that they will object to, in order to make clear the difference between these teachings they are spreading, and what we as Christians really believe. And the one