

the persecutions, it would be purged out in the persecutions. And those who were no sincere in their hearts, would drop out of the church, and there was more of a feeling of satisfaction among the Christian people, of having the life apart from the world of fellowship with Christians. Then the time came when the church was absolutely free from persecution, and it was not only possible but desirable to want to be well thought of in the Roman church. And to join the church. With the coming of Constantine in power, and though he did not actually become baptized until the day before his death, he made Christians his leading officers, and his leading advisors, and it was a popular thing, instead of an unpopular thing to become a Christian. And more worldliness came into the church than ever before. And people more and more became disgusted and dissatisfied with the failure to find a haven apart from the wickedness of the world in the church, and they went out into desolate country.

And so the movement begins in its fullest force after Constantine becomes a Christian. There are slight beginnings of it in connection with some of the persecutions, with people fleeing from the persecutions, into the wilderness, but most of these who would do this would come back after the persecution was over. Not all, occasionally one would remain. The monast. begins as an individual thing. In its inception, no one had any thought of joining a community of monks. A community of any kind was the farthest from their purpose when they began. The thought was for an individual to get off entirely by himself away from the wickedness of the world. And so we have a few going in the end of the third century, but in the beginning of the fourth century we have a good many more going.

Number 2, is Beginnings in Egypt. When monast. began where the climate is easy. A person here would not go off into the wilderness and stay there and spend his life there, unless he was well equipped to handle it. But in Egypt a person becoming dissatisfied with the worldliness of Egypt could walk two or three miles into the desert and get into an area where he would be hardly ever troubled by human beings, but where there might be a little