

would regard him very highly, but I doubt if there is any theologian of the western church who would consider that there was any man in the ancient church who was more important than St. Aug., after the apostle Paul. Be a man a Roman Catholic, some might think that Jerome was equally important, I doubt if many do. ~~They~~ Be one a protestant, I am sure he would think that ~~St~~ Aug. was more important, regardless to what part of protestantism he might hold. A Roman Catholic, certainly, would hold that one or two of the great leaders of the early Christian ~~church~~ was Aug., I doubt if at this point he would put anyone greater than he, although he might put Jerome on the same level. And consequently, ~~Jerome is~~ ~~great~~ Aug. is of great importance for us, for our study.

I made a statement last time, at the end of the hour, that somebody questioned me afterward, as to what I meant. And I think it would be good to explain it to everyone. Because it is rather vital. I said that Jerome was a much greater scholar than Aug., but Aug. was a much greater thinker than ~~Jerome~~ Jerome. I think most would agree upon that ~~statement~~ statement. Aug/ was a great scholar. Next to Jerome he was probably the greatest scholar of the ancient world. But when it comes to scholarship in the usual sense of the word, Jerome was far superior in that to Aug. That is, Aug. had a knowledge of facts. A great wide fund of information, surpassing almost anyone of the Ancient World, except for Jerome and Origin. Jerome probably had double the coverage of the reading and knowledge of acts, that Aug. had. Aug. did a fair amount of ~~patient~~ patient research. ~~Digging~~ Digging things out with great care. Jerome did far more than Aug. did. ~~There~~ There was probably no ~~one~~ one else in the ancient church except Origin, who did as much as Aug. But ~~Aug.~~ Aug. had a faculty of thinking things through, and ~~seeing~~ seeing their inter-relationship. Of piercing to the depth of a problem and of seeing things in perspective. Which was far beyond anything that ~~Jerome~~ Jerome ^{could do.} Now, a person can have a great gift of ~~reading~~ thought, of reason, of thinking into things, / without any scholarship, it simply means that he goes wild. He has all sorts of wild ~~theories~~ theories, and there is little accomplished. Now, a person can