

Pre-reformation Church History

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Constantine's character and achievement - I don't know as I have mentioned that - I think I had finished speaking about 9 - the alleged nation of Constantine. We have no contemporary evidence about Constantine giving anything to the Bishop of Rome but it seems most likely he would have given him something as he gave presents to his friends most everywhere and he gave things to the leaders of the Christian church in all parts of the empire. The later tradition of some centuries later that he turned over Italy to the Bishop of Rome, is something that has no early evidence whatever. There was a document which was treasured through the Middle Ages - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  - nation of Constantine, but this was proven to be forgery before the time of Martin Luther, about a century before. Martin Luther reprinted the proof of it and distributed it at one time during his career, but it was before the reformation started that it was proven and it had been recognized as true that someone in the middle ages had written this, and then that the church had thought it was genuine. So that, as far as Constantine as an evidence for the temporal power of the Pope is concerned, there just is no evidence for that. It is quite likely that he gave him the 5 - in Rome. It would be rather strange if he did not do something of that sort. Then number 10 is Constantine's character and achievement. Under this - small a - is his character. We have not mentioned the part of his character which is considered as the worse part of his character. We have not mentioned it yet because it does not have much to do with the church. But - you should be aware of the fact that Constantine in 326, the year after the Council of Nicea, was in Rome (I mentioned his visit to Rome at that time) but there at Rome he came to believe that his son Crispus was conspiring against him or was leader of a group against him. We don't know details of this but we do know that the son was killed and everyone considered that he had been killed by orders of the emperor. Then the wife of Constantine was suffocated in the bathroom. It is considered that this also was at the order of Constantine. The fact that he never returned to Rome after this time fits with the idea that he had very unpleasant memories of this experience in Rome. His experience with the