

There was a great teacher of Rhetoric in Rome, one of the most famous of the teachers of Rhetoric of the day who had been converted to Christianity only within two or three years of the time when Julian became Emperor. This man who had been a great teacher for 40 years before, Julian sent special word to him and said "of course this wouldn't apply to you on account of your stand and a great teacher like you are. I hope you will give up this crazy superstition you have adopted but whatever your views you will not be stopped from teaching". Then this man said "if the Christians are not allowed to teach, I resign, because I am a Christian". He was a convinced Christian only converted in a few years before this. Then there was a man who was Julian's old tutor to whom he was greatly devoted and he tried to make him an exception but he refused also. He said "if the others are treated this way, then I also want to be with them". Now there were two Christians, Apollinarius and his son. We mention him in another connection later so perhaps it is worth spelling his name to you. Apollinarius. Apollinarius, a Christian leader - a leader in the Nicene Creed and his son said (his son was a grown man and an able fellow) and they said "we cannot educate with the great classics - the thing for us to do is to write new classics". So he set to work and on the model of Homer and Plato and the other writers- he tried to write books that would be thoroughly Christian. One of the Christian historians a few years later said "these books are just as good as the classics". But actually these books disappeared because you can't write great classical literature on demand like that. But they made the attempt, this shows the earnestness of their efforts. Now there is Christian literature that ranks with the great classics but it comes through the course of the ages. You just can't sit down on demand and prepare it. It takes special grace that the Lord gives only rarely. But the problem that the Christians met with Julian and the resistance that people made was constantly irritating him and he was making the restrictions harder and harder and finding little ways