

Church History Sr. 4

they put that notice up that he excommunicated them. (Student) Well, there wasn't much he could do then. If he didn't have power enough to remove the patriarch of Constantinople and change him, for him to side with the Bishop of Rome permanently would simply mean he'd probably lose his own throne. It is an attempted, a good political move which failed, and it simply brought out into clear light the fact that these two different sections of the church had developed separately. Now of course in the West you also have two sections which had developed separately. You have the Celtic church which did not pay much attention to the Virgin Mary or to the saints, which was built upon the Scripture and the study of the Scripture and which put Christ thoroughly at the center--this church which St. Patrick had founded in Ireland and which had sent missionaries all over Europe and which had done such a tremendous work, but the pope gradually gained control over the Celtic church until he got it entirely under his power and forced them to accept his authority and the Roman way of doing things. That was quite a struggle and lasted quite a long time. He didn't succeed similarly in getting authority in the East. In the East they continued as a separate church. Now the Eastern church did not have the same unity of organization which the Bishop of Rome was gradually building up. They didn't have that same unity of organization and in recent years it's been fairly split into distinct sections. Its largest section in recent years since the Mohammedans conquered most of the Eastern area before this time, the Mohammedans conquered most of the Eastern area before this time and in 1453 they conquered Constantinople and then they went to Bulgaria and still further and conquered all that area. It soon came that the largest section of the Eastern church was Russia. The Eastern church had sent missionaries into Russia and had secured--all of Russia had become nominally Christian and there came to be a patriarch in Russia who was subject to the Czar and he was the head, the patriarch there was the head of the Russian portion of the Holy Oriental Orthodox Apostolic church. There was also a patriarch in Athens and one in Constantinople but the man in Constantinople under the Turks didn't have much chance to do anything. The Russian church became the leading part of it, though there still are the Greek section and other sections of it, but under the circumstances