

Church History Sr. 4

the West was first overrun by the barbarians and then the barbarians were won to, at least a nominal adherence to Christianity. In the East it was overcome not by barbarians but by Mohammedans and Christianity has never made any headway among Mohammedans and so that the Mohammedans finally recognized the Christians as believers in God and didn't treat them the way they treated the heathen. They subjected them to a great deal of petty persecution rather than to forcible extermination and gradually in the course of the century the church increased in power and in number tremendously although still a remnant has always remained in Mohammedanism. The Mohammedans have treated fairly decently those who were Christians and whose parents were Christians but if a Mohammedan turned Christian they killed him immediately. So that the result of that of course is that as far as education is concerned, or as far as money is concerned, the Eastern church has sunk way below the Western church and has become much more superstitious even than the Church of Rome. It has sunk as a result of the political situation of that time, and the Bishop of Rome has always claimed to be, ever since that time, the successor of Peter with the right to authority over the whole world but there's always been the whole country and the people of Greece and whatever remained in Mohammedan lands of Christianity which has refused to admit the claims of the pope even while following in most doctrines the same views which the popes were taking, and that, I think, is a pretty big argument against his claim. He never has been universally recognized. Never has the whole of the orthodox Christian church recognized the pope as having supreme authority. It's only after he expels those who don't recognize him that you can say that everybody who is left does recognize him, and in 1059 he went through the form of expelling about half the church. Of course, you have the same thing again in 1870 when at the Vatican council in Rome the declaration that the popes all are and always have been infallible in their pronouncements of doctrine was made by the council and affirmed by the pope and some of the leading catholic scholars in the world who have been most ardent in their defense of Roman catholicism refused to accept that in 1870 and