

Well this Council of Trent then, it is very interesting - it would be interesting to take two or three hours and see exactly how the Jesuits maneuvered things, but we won't be able to take time to do that. The main thing I want you to have in mind is ~~the fact~~ the fact that it was their clever maneuvering which caused the Council to do what it did. And if the Jesuits had done nothing else in their whole history than this, I think it would be enough to justify the statement which I made that in my opinion, the Roman Catholic Church would have disappeared within a century after the Reformation, would have completely disappeared were it not for the foundation of the Jesuit Order. Because the Council crystallized and made it a definite position which could be maintained over large numbers of people. Before that you had in the church a majority, doubtless, believing that a general council should have authority. Well, of course, there was a little group actively working to get the Pope to be made the supreme authority but they never could have established that view if they had not had it officially established by the Council of Trent. And even more important than that, probably one-fourth of the bishops and leaders of the Roman Church at this time had been greatly affected by the teachings of Luther and others about salvation by faith to the point where they wanted to the doctrine put in that direction. And many of them might gradually have drifted away on account of that view or else it might have become dominant throughout. But the Council of Trent made that absolutely forbidden within the organization and it resulted in there being no further opportunity for a bishop here and there to study sympathetically the views of Luther or to get these views directly from the Bible without even hearing of Luther because these views were officially proscribed and condemned by the church as a whole in quite a thoroughgoing way - going right straight down the line. Well then not only was this group ended as far as the vital force in the Roman Church was concerned but also there was a much