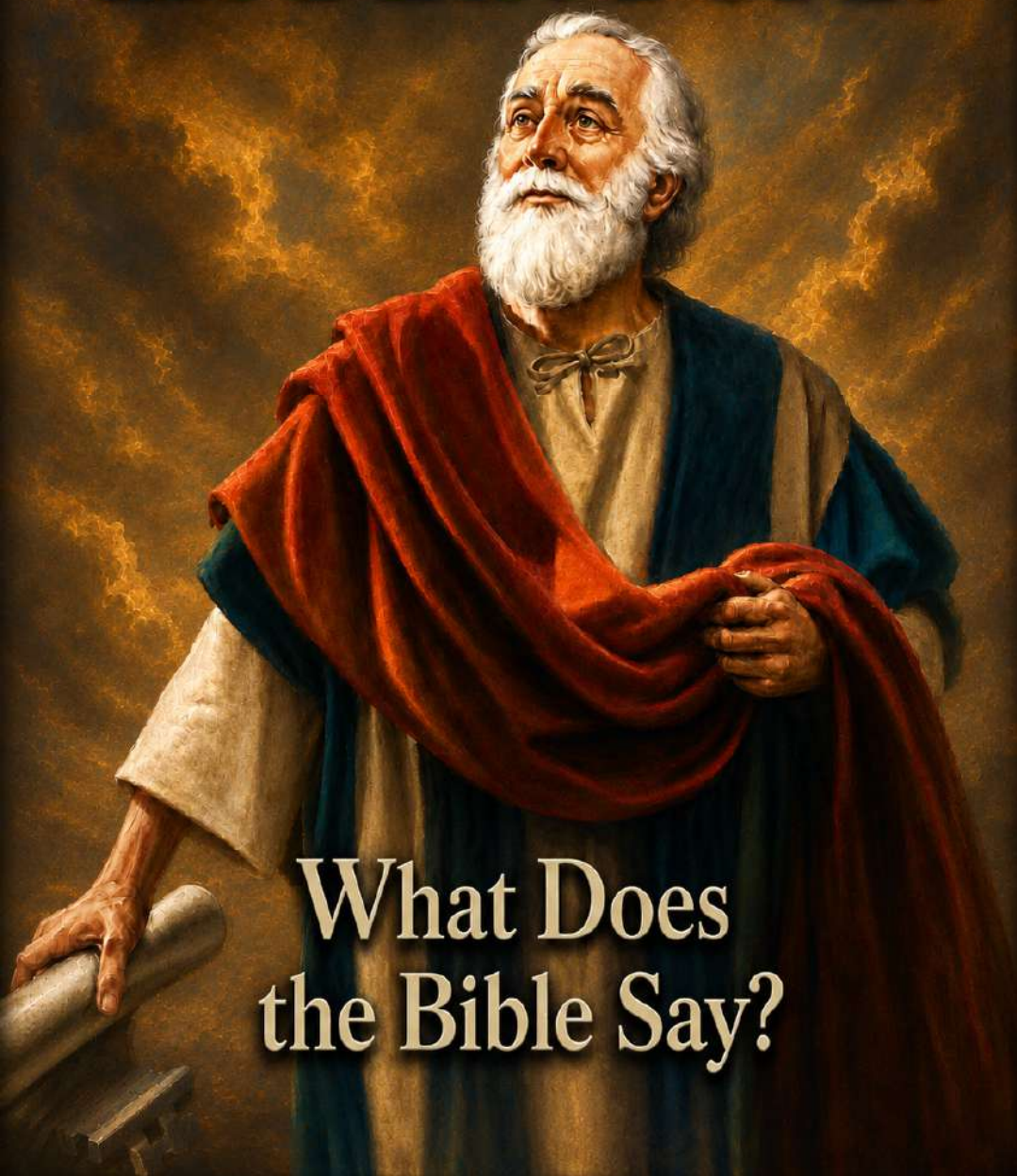


WAS PETER the First POPE?



What Does
the Bible Say?

Was Peter the First Pope?

&

Other Writings Related to Peter

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Note: Throughout this publication, it should be noted that the use of “you” and “ye” in the King James Version Bible quotes denotes a plural second person, as when one is speaking to a collective group, much like the Southern slang, “y’all.” “Thee” and “thou” refer to the singular second person.

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Note: What is claimed for Peter? Standing at the head of the Roman Catholic Church is the pope of Rome. This man, according to Catholic doctrine, is the earthly head of the church and successor of the apostle Peter. According to this belief, Christ appointed Peter as the first pope, who in turn went to Rome and served in this capacity for 25 years.

Beginning with Peter, the Catholic Church claims a succession of popes that has continued to this day. This is a very important part of Roman Catholic doctrine. However, do the Scriptures teach that Christ ordained one man to be above all others in His church? Can we find scriptural authority for the office of a pope or a supreme pontiff? Did the early Christians recognize Peter as such? Find the answers in this small book.

Was Peter the First Pope?

The Roman Catholic Church claims that Christ made the apostle Peter His successor, His vicar, or vicegerent, the visible and infallible head of the church, with the power to bequeath that office to his successors; that he was given power and authority over all the other apostles and over the entire church; that Christ built His church upon Peter, and delivered unto him the keys of the kingdom of heaven. She claims that Peter was the first bishop of the church in the city of Rome; therefore, all this privilege and power was handed down in succession to all the bishops or popes of that imperial city.

Scriptural Basis of the Claim

This claim, in so far as the Bible is concerned, is based upon the three following passages of Scripture:

1. "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that Thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" Matthew 16:13–19.

2. "The Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" Luke 22:31, 32.

3. "So when they had dined, Jesus saith unto Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these? He saith unto Him, "Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? Peter was grieved because He said unto him the third time, Lovest thou Me? And he said unto Him, Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed My sheep" John 21:15–17.

Gospels, Acts, and Epistles, the Only Authorities

This far-reaching claim in behalf of Peter and his successors demands a careful and critical examination and the first evidence to be considered is naturally found in the New Testament. What, if any thing, was conferred upon Peter by Christ's words? What privilege, if any, did Peter possess that the other apostles did not have? First of all, the Gospels, the Acts, and the Epistles necessarily contain the means of ascertaining what Peter enjoyed and exercised by virtue of Christ's words:

"I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will



build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" Matthew 16:18, 19.

Very shortly after Christ said these words to Peter, the Saviour bestowed upon the other apostles, and likewise upon the whole church, the power of binding and loosing. He said:

"Moreover, if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" Matthew 18:15–18.

It is apparent, therefore, that the words in Matthew 16:19, concerning binding and loosing, do not constitute a special privilege to Peter. They plainly put no difference between him and the other apostles.

Peter Beneath the Other Apostles

The second passage, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" (Luke 22:31, 32) seems to place Peter beneath the other apostles. All of them were to be tried, but Peter's fall and denial of his Lord are



Following the arrest of Jesus, Peter denied knowing Him three times. Then he went to the Garden of Gethsemane and wept bitterly. Peter thoroughly repented of his sin and he never claimed infallibility. See Matthew 26:69–75.

alone foretold. The worst sin the others would commit was they would be offended because of Christ and would flee like cowards. Peter would therefore stand in greater need of conversion than the others, and when that necessary change should take place, he was to strengthen his brethren who had not fallen as he had, to save them no doubt, from falling as he had done. Certainly, to strengthen them by confession of his weakness in denying the Lord, is not suggestive of exercising authority over them.

Peter's Privilege Not Above the Other Apostles

The words in the third passage, "Feed My sheep," most certainly confer no privilege upon Peter above the other apostles. The privilege of feeding the sheep was conferred upon even the local elders of the church. The apostle Paul, addressing the elders of the church of Ephesus at Miletus, said: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood" Acts 20:28.

The apostle Peter himself gave a similar exhortation: "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, . . . Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" 1 Peter 5:1-4.

Hence when Christ said to Peter, "Feed My sheep," these words bestowed upon him no privilege that was not given to the other apostles, or to the elders of all the churches.

The Kingdom of Heaven Defined

Now, in all reason, when Christ said to Peter, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it; and I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven," etc., if He meant to give Peter primacy over all the other apostles, making Peter His vicar, as the Catholic Church claims, we would certainly be justified in expecting that this fact would be revealed in our Saviour's words and actions after the utterance of these words to Peter, and also in the words and actions of the other apostles. But instead, what do we find?

A very little while after these words were spoken, the disciples came to Jesus, asking, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Matthew 18:1.

Often in the book of Matthew, the expression, "the kingdom of heaven," refers, not to the heaven where God's throne is, but to Christ's church on earth, in which is represented His kingdom. It is so used several times in the thirteenth chapter of Matthew: "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind" (verse 47); "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field" (verse 24). If Peter had been made the visible head of the church, the vicegerent of Christ, why did the apostles ask this question, "Who is the greatest?" Did they not know Peter had been made the greatest? Evidently not.



Christ ordained 12 disciples or apostles.

“It Shall Not Be So Among You”

Again, a little later, Peter said to the master, “Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed Thee; what shall we have therefore?” And Jesus said to *them*, “Ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” Matthew 19:27, 28. In these words, Christ placed all the apostles on an equality. There is no intimation here that Peter’s throne would be exalted above those of the others.

It was not long after this that James and John came with their mother to the Master, asking that one of them might sit on His right hand and the other on His left in the kingdom which they thought He was going to establish on earth. In Eastern kingdoms the two principle ministers of state, ranking next in authority to the monarch, were styled the vizier of the right and the vizier of the left. These were the positions for which James and John were seeking.

What was Christ’s answer to their request? If the Roman Catholic claim were true, Christ’s answer would have been that He had given the right-hand place to Peter, and He did not intend to create a left-hand place. But what He did say was to declare in the plainest language that not one of them was to exercise authority over the others. We read: “And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. But Jesus called them unto Him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they

that are great exercise authority upon them, but *it shall not be so among you*” Matthew 20:24-26. See also ver. 20–23; Mark 10:35–43.

There is more evidence of the same kind in our Saviour’s words to the disciples, recorded in Matthew 23. Speaking of the Pharisees, He said: “They bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, and love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your master, even Christ; and *all ye are brethren*. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ” Matthew 23:4–10.

Again, the apostles are placed on an equality. “One is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.” Peter is not to be called father, nor are any of the others. Peter is not exalted above his brethren.

Merely One of the Branches

After eating the Passover Supper with His disciples, the Master walked with them to the garden of Gethsemane, and on the way, probably seeing a grapevine, He drew a lesson from there, saying, “I am the vine, ye are the branches” John 15:5. Here again the Master placed all the apostles on an equality; Peter was merely one of the branches, as were James, John, and each of the others.

We have further disproof of the papal claim for Peter in Christ’s words to him as recorded in John 21:20–22: “Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; ... Peter, seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou Me.”

If Peter had received, awhile before this, jurisdiction over John and all the other apostles, as is claimed, Peter’s question would not have been improper or unreasonable, and it would have called for a corresponding reply from the Master. But Christ said, “*What is that to thee?*” In these words the Master asserted John’s entire independence of Peter, and gave no hint that He had given Peter jurisdiction over John.

Thus, not even in any of Christ’s words and actions as recorded in the Gospels, was there given any hint of Peter’s primacy and authority over the other apostles; no hint that He had made Peter His successor, His vicar or vicegerent, the visible head of the church.

Evidence in the Book of Acts

What evidence does the book of Acts contain with reference to Peter’s primacy? In the first part he is prominent. It is denied by no one

that he was a leading apostle. But do we find any evidence that he was looked upon by the other apostles or by the believers as the head of the church in Christ's place, having been appointed so by Christ, as is claimed from Christ's words in Matthew 16:18-19? His prominence is seen in Acts 1:15-18. The place of Judas must be filled, and Peter, it seems, was the first one to call the attention of the church to the prophecy in the Psalms that was to be fulfilled in appointing some one in Judas' place, made vacant by his treachery and suicide.

If Peter had been made the head of the church in Christ's place, he would have had the authority—and it would have been his duty to exercise it—to appoint someone to take the place of Judas, as the pope has authority to appoint bishops, and cardinals, etc. But nothing of the kind took place. The believers nominated two brethren, and after praying for God to guide them in the selection of the right one, they all voted as we would now say, and Matthias was elected. (See Acts 1:19-26.)

Peter Reports to the Church

There is more interesting evidence in the eighth chapter of the Book



of Acts. Philip the evangelist had been preaching the gospel in Samaria, and God had wonderfully blessed. In the fourteenth and fifteenth verses we read: "When the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost."

How plain it is from this narrative that there was in the church at Jerusalem an authority greater than Peter or John's. This authority was in "the apostles which were at Jerusalem." It is a true axiom that the sender is greater than the sent, and Peter acknowledged this authority in going down to Samaria. Would it not be inconceivable that the cardinals of the Roman Church would *send* the pope on such a mission? And would any pope allow himself *to be sent*?

In the tenth chapter we read of Peter's baptizing Cornelius and other Gentiles, and from the eleventh chapter we learn that the apostles and brethren at Jerusalem called him to give account of his actions. It will be plainly noted that Peter did not claim any authority for his actions, as

the Catholic Church claims he then had, or contend that they should obey him, but he practically admitted his accountability by defending himself, and showing his accountability to the church. It is therefore very plain that the other apostles and the church—and for that matter, Peter himself—did not know or acknowledge that Christ had made Peter the head of the church.

But the strongest proof against the primacy of Peter in the early church is found in the fifteenth chapter of Acts. A council had been called at Jerusalem to consider the teaching of some that Christians were under obligation to observe the whole Mosaic law, including circumcision.

James, not Peter, acted as chairman of the council and had a deciding voice, while Peter was merely a delegate, a debater, on a level with Paul and Barnabas. James terminated the discussion with an authoritative ruling, saying: "Wherefore *my sentence is*, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: but that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood" Acts 15:19-20.

This closes the evidence in the book of Acts. Peter is not mentioned again in the entire book after this council. **The apostle Paul becomes the central figure**, and Peter goes into total eclipse, so far as Acts is concerned. Like the Gospels, the book of Acts does not contain even a hint of the primacy of Peter, nor an inkling that the other apostles and the church recognized him as Christ's successor, having authority as the head of the church; but on the contrary, all the evidence shows there were others possessing and exercising more authority than Peter; for example, James and the apostles at Jerusalem.

The Testimony of the Epistles

What is the testimony of the epistles of the New Testament? The apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthian church concerning divisions therein, said: "Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas [Peter]; and I of Christ" 1 Corinthians 1:12. From this scripture it seems that it was a mark of division in the church for any one to say, "I am of Peter," but this certainly would not have been true if Peter had been the head of the church in Christ's place, as the Roman Church claims. Instead, it would have been a mark of unity for one to say, "I am of Peter." But Paul teaches here that it was just as wrong to say, "I am of Peter," as it was to say, "I am of Paul" or Apollos. Again, Paul says, "God hath set some in the church, first apostles," etc. 1 Corinthians 12:28.

This scripture shows that in the divinely ordered constitution of the church, there was no higher authority in the church than the apostles, and let it be noted that not one of the apostles is singled out as having

authority over the other apostles. So far, then, it is seen that Paul makes no allusion to the so-called privilege of Peter, but on the contrary uses language that shows no such thing was claimed or known in the days of the apostles.



Paul Withstands Peter

We come next to the book of Galatians. There is some very interesting evidence in the following verses:

“Of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man’s person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me: but contrarywise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; ... and when James, Cephas [Peter], and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do. But when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision” Galatians 2:6–12.

The seventh and ninth verses of this passage show that instead of Peter’s jurisdiction being over the whole church, he was restricted to a division of the church, that is, of the circumcision—converts to the gospel from among the Jews. Paul says that unto him was committed the gospel of the uncircumcision, and in another place he calls himself the apostle to the Gentiles. If Peter, then, were ever the head of any church, he was the head of only a portion of it, namely, the Jewish; for, as plainly stated in the Scriptures, Paul was head of the Gentiles; and if

the pope be his successor, he can claim no more; for it is evident that Peter could not hand down to his successors greater or wider authority than he himself had.

In the ninth verse, Paul speaks of James, Cephas (Peter) and John as pillars in the church. Now this language means that James, Peter and John were on an equality; or that James (James is mentioned first), as bishop of the church in Jerusalem, was in some degree Peter's ecclesiastical superior; and this seems to be implied by Peter's dissembling at Antioch, mentioned in verses 12 and 13. Peter had eaten with the Gentiles, but when a party came "from James," for fear of them, apparently, he withdrew and separated himself.

The evidence here, as elsewhere, is entirely contrary to the claim that Peter was the head of the church, and most certainly here is clear evidence in disproof of Peter's infallibility. He decides wrongly on a question of faith (Catholic writers have claimed that Christ promised infallibility to the church in its teaching), for the church ever after took Paul's view of the matter; and Paul, the younger apostle, withstands Peter to his face, instead of submitting to him, as he would have done without question had Peter been the vicar of Christ, the infallible head of the church.

Peter's Own Words and Actions

We will now consider Peter's own words and actions. Do they indicate he understood the Master had made him His successor, that he was the head of the church, the rock upon which the Master built His church? There are three passages of Scripture that have a bearing on this question:

1. "As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man" Acts 10:25-26.

2. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. . . . And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the Word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed" 1 Peter 2:5-8.

3. "The elders which are among you I exhort, which am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away"



Peter tells Cornelius not to bow to him.

1 Peter 5:1–4.

In the first passage, Peter seems to be entirely unconscious of his being the vicar of Christ, and his refusal to allow Cornelius to fall down and worship him is very unlike many of his so-called successors, who have been anxious for men to bow down and worship them. If this was

on account of his humility, it is a pity this virtue was not handed down to all popes who have followed.

In the second passage, **Peter refers to Christ as the rock foundation of the church.** He quotes from Isaiah 28:16: “Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.”

“A foundation stone,” “a tried stone,” “a sure *foundation*,”—these words Peter applied to Christ. Evidently he did not understand that the words of Christ, “Upon this rock I will build My church,” applied to himself. To the apostle Peter, Christ alone was that rock, and no other.

In the third passage, Peter speaks of himself as an elder, and places himself on a level with the other elders of the church. He admonishes them all, *not to be lords* over God’s heritage—that very office which is claimed for the pope. If there is any meaning at all in this language, it means that Peter did not understand that he had been made by Christ, lord over Christ’s church; and to Peter, Christ was the chief Shepherd. (This title also has been applied to the pope.) It is therefore perfectly plain from Peter’s own words and actions that he (Peter) did not know Christ had made him His successor, the head of the church, the chief Shepherd, and the rock upon which the church was built.

Peter Eclipsed by Paul

If the Roman Catholic Church had undertaken to prove that either James or Paul, instead of Peter, was the head of the church in apostolic times, a much stronger case could have been made, particularly as for Paul. However, James was bishop of the church at Jerusalem, and

that was the first church of Christian believers. But when Paul comes into the Christian church, Peter especially goes into eclipse so far as leadership is concerned. Even in the early centuries, ecclesiastical writers speak of Paul as *the* apostle. Augustine said, "So, when 'apostle' is said, if it be not expressed what apostle, none is understood save Paul." Chrysostom observed, "When you say apostle, at once all think of him (Paul), just as when you say Baptist they think of John." [1] [\[Source references begin on page 31.\]](#)

The apostle Paul was the greatest teacher of the apostolic church. Peter was not. Peter's writings in the New Testament are quite insignificant in comparison with Paul's. Paul wrote (as they are given in our Bibles) 100 chapters with 2,325 verses. Peter wrote 8 chapters with 166 verses.

Paul claimed and exercised apostolic authority in the church, as is seen from the following scriptures:

1. "I [Paul] speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am *the* apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office" Romans 11:13. He here claims to be **the** (not an) **apostle of the Gentiles**, claiming the Gentile world as particularly his.

2. "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given *order* to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" 1 Corinthians 16:1-4. Note: Paul, not Peter, gave *orders* to the churches.

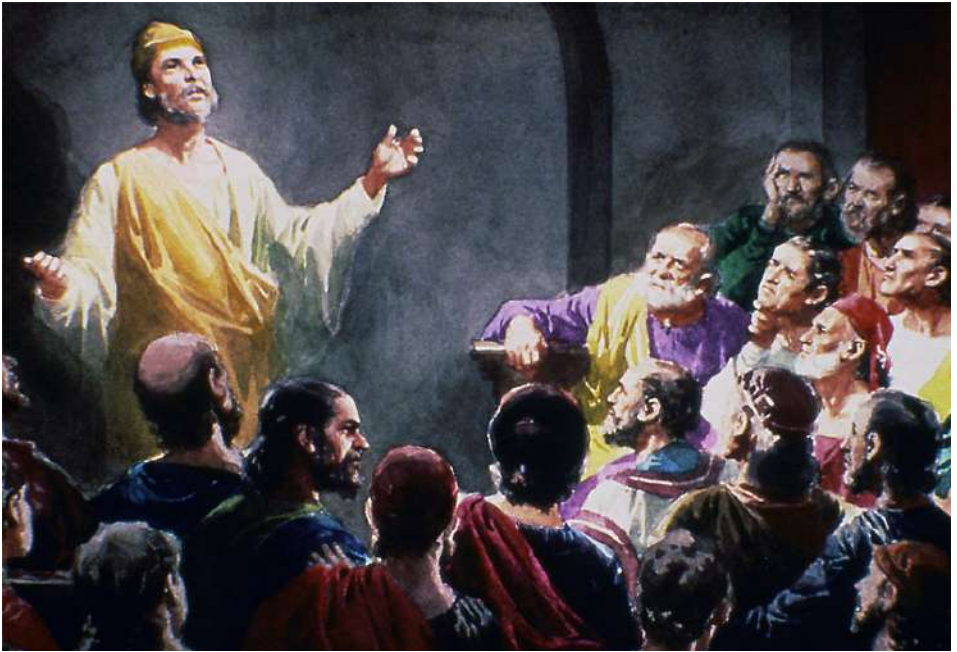
3. "But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I [Paul] in all churches" 1 Corinthians 7:17. He makes ordinances binding on all the churches.

4. "In nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles" 2 Corinthians 12:11. "For I suppose I [Paul] was not one whit behind the very chiefest apostles" 2 Corinthians 11:5.

In Galatians 2:9 Paul spoke of James, Peter and John as pillars in the Christian church. These doubtless were included in the "chiefest" of apostles. He says he was not one whit behind the very chiefest of them, making no exception even in favor of Peter, which he certainly would have done had he understood that Christ had made Peter the head of the church, as claimed by the Catholic Church.

5. "We *command* you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly" 2 Thessalonians 3:6. "If any man *obey* not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed" Verse 14. Here Paul lays down rules to be observed in the case of one walking disorderly, and *commands* obedience.

6. "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I *had ap-*



Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles.

pointed thee [Titus]" Titus 1:5. Paul sends out ministers with power to act in perfecting the organization of the church.

7. "Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me [Paul] daily, the care of *all the churches*" 2 Corinthians 11:28.

And besides all these things, Paul lays down many regulations for the observance of the Christian churches, as, for example:

1. Lawsuits between Christians. 1 Corinthians 6:1-4.
2. The unequal yoking of Christians with unbelievers. 2 Corinthians 6:14-17; 1 Corinthians 7:12-17.
3. Use of unknown tongues in public worship. 1 Corinthians 14:27-40.
4. Weekly offerings for the poor. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4.
5. Conduct and dress of women. 1 Timothy 2:9-15; 3:11.
6. Preparation for the celebration of the Lord's Supper. 1 Cor 11:18-34
7. Qualifications of elders and deacons. 1 Timothy 3:1-13.
8. Disfellowshipping of heretics. Titus 3:10.

Thus it must be clear to the reader that Paul was the more prominent apostle in the apostolic church, not Peter.

Who Is the Rock?

What was the meaning of Christ's words to Peter: "I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"? (See Matthew 16:18.)

First, let us consider the relationship between type and antitype; for

in this there is light.

1) The ceremonial or Mosaic dispensation, with its types, shadows and figures, was a type of the gospel.

2) The old-covenant sanctuary was a type of the new-covenant sanctuary. Hebrews 8:1–5; 9:1-5, 9–12, 23.

3) The service in the first was a type of the service in the second. Hebrews 8:5.

4) The shedding of the blood of innocent beasts, slain at the door of the sanctuary, was a type of **Christ's death** upon the cross. Their blood was a type of **Christ's blood**. Hebrews 9:12, 15; 10:4; 1 Peter 1:19.

5) The Old Testament church was a type of the New Testament church. Now the antitype is never lower than the type. This is the law of type and antitype.

6) Who was the Rock of the Old Testament church? It was the Lord, as many scriptures testify: "He is the Rock, His work is perfect: ... a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He" Deuteronomy 32:4. "The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God" 2 Samuel 23:3.

This is confirmed in the New Testament: "They drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ" 1 Corinthians 10:4.

Now if Peter be the rock of the Christian church, it follows that the rock of the New Testament church is lower than the Rock of the Old Testament church; for there certainly is a wide gulf between the Lord and Peter. It should give a true Christian a shock to think of the Rock of the Old Testament church being God, while the rock of the New Testament church is man. This is impossible in fact, and impossible of belief.

The interpretation that the Catholic Church places upon the words of our Saviour in addressing Peter, is contradicted by every bit of evidence in the New Testament, as we have seen in our examination of Scripture, and that interpretation has been disputed by Bible students for centuries.

In Christ's words to Peter, "I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18), two entirely different Greek words are used for "Peter" and "rock." Christ said, "Thou art Peter [*petros*, stone or pebble], and upon this Rock [*petra*, rock] I will build My church." They are nouns of different genders. *Petros* is masculine, while *petra* is feminine. *Petros* means "stone." Young defines it as, "a small stone" or pebble. *Petra* is "rock." Christ said to Peter, "Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, a stone" [pebble] John 1:42. The Greek word, *petros*, is here used. Fully to harmonize with the Roman Catholic contention, the verse would read, "Thou art *Petros*, and upon this *Petros* I will build My church;" or else *Petra* in both clauses: Thou art *Petra*, and upon *Petra* I will build My church."

Christ is the Rock

Christ is the rock upon which the church is built. “Upon this *petra*” (rock, referring to Himself), He said, “I will build My church,” and this, as we have seen, is the teaching of the entire New Testament. It was taught by Peter himself that Christ was the rock foundation of the



church. 1 Peter 2:4–8. The same precious truth was taught by the apostle Paul. He wrote, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 3:11.

Under another figure, Peter is merely a stone in the foundation, while Christ is the chief corner-stone.

Paul says again, “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone**” Ephesians 2:19, 20.

In this scripture all the apostles are placed on an equality. Peter is a stone in the foundation. So are James and John, Andrew, Bartholomew, Matthew and all the other apostles; and likewise are the prophets stones in the foundation. Peter is on an equal footing with them all, but not above his brethren. This is the plain and unequivocal teaching of the Bible on this question.

The Keys of the Kingdom

Nor did the Master give to Peter alone the keys of the kingdom. They were given unto all the apostles, and for that matter, the whole church. What are the keys of the kingdom? The keys are that which unlocks heaven to the sinner. What is it that locks heaven against one?

It is sin. The provision to take away sin, that man might not be shut out of heaven, is the key of the kingdom, and that provision is the gospel of our Lord. Now the privilege and commission to preach the gospel was given to all the apostles; and likewise to the whole church. The church really exists for no other work than to preach the gospel in all the world; if a man accepts it, the kingdom of heaven is unlocked to him.

The Power to Forgive Sins

It is certainly plain from the New Testament that the apostles did not understand they were given the power to forgive sins, personally, by the words of Christ to them, “Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained” John 20:23. [“If you tell people God has forgiven their sins, make sure they have turned away from them. If they have not turned away from them, they have not been forgiven.”] We do not find a hint anywhere in the New Testament they ever claimed or exercised the power to forgive sins. This they certainly would have done had they so understood it that way; for the importance of carrying out such a commission, had it been given them, can be seen without argument.

On the contrary, we find the apostles, including Peter, directing the people to God for the forgiveness of their sins. To Simon, who desired to buy the gift of the Holy Ghost with money, Peter said, “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, **and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee**” Acts 8:22.

And the apostle John said, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” 1 John 1:9. Likewise in the book of Hebrews we read the admonition of Paul, “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” Hebrews 4:16.

This throne of grace is in the heavenly sanctuary, and it is the only confessional of the Christian system.

The meaning of Christ’s words to the apostles is made plain by the words of the Lord to the prophet Jeremiah: “Before I formed thee ... I knew thee; ... and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. ... See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant” Jeremiah 1:5–10.

Did this mean that Jeremiah was given the power, as an individual, to uproot, to pull down, to destroy, or to upbuild nations? Certainly not; no more than Christ’s words gave the apostles power, as individuals, to forgive sins. Jeremiah was called of God to be a prophet unto the nations. When God sent a message to a nation through Jeremiah, if that nation accepted and walked in the light of that message, it stood and

was built up; but if that nation rejected the message through Jeremiah, it was to be uprooted, pulled down and destroyed. But Jeremiah was not given such power individually. The power to do this was in the message which he bore. All this is evident from the following verses:

Conditions of Forgiveness

“At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; if that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; if it do evil in My sight, that it obey not My voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them” Jeremiah 18:7–10.

So with the apostles. They were given the gospel message to proclaim. If a person accepted the message they bore, his sins were remitted and he was loosed from the bondage of sin; if he rejected it, he was still bound. The forgiveness of sin was in the message that they carried.

The priestly confessional is not of God’s ordaining. God alone forgives sins.

Claim of the Catholic Church

The Catholic Church contends that Peter was made Christ’s successor. They say the rock upon which Christ built His church is substantiated by tradition and by the testimony of the so-called Fathers of the church. If this were true, it would have no weight with many people, **but it is not true**. The creed of Pope Pius IV is the authoritative creed of the Roman Catholic Church. In that creed we read:

“I also admit Holy Scripture according to that sense which the holy mother church has held and does hold, to whom it belongs to judge of the true sense and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures; neither will I



The Church Fathers.

ever take and interpret them otherwise than according to the unanimous consent of the Fathers.”[2]

According to this creed, then, it must be shown that there is full agreement among the Fathers in their interpretation of Christ’s words to mean—that Peter is the rock upon which Christ built His church—in order to be accepted even by Catholics.

What does the Catholic Church mean by the “Fathers”? She means the theological teachers and doctors of the church from the age immediately following the days of the apostles down to St. Bernard, who is accounted the last of the Fathers, and who died in 1153. What then do the Fathers teach as to the rock of the church? How do they interpret Christ’s words, “Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church” Matthew 16:18?

Testimony of the Fathers

Writers who have made a specialty of studying the writings of the Fathers on this question, tell us that very few of the Fathers in the centuries immediately following the days of the apostles, made any comment at all upon our Saviour’s words in Matthew 16:18. This seems a bit strange if the church’s claims for Peter are true.

Cyprian, bishop of Carthage,[3] who lived and wrote during the latter part of the third century, said, in explanation of this passage, that it serves to explain “the honor of a bishop and the order of the church. So that the church is founded upon the bishops.” Letter 27.[4] And the second time he refers to the text he says, Argument #4: “The Lord, that He might set forth unity, arranged by His authority the origin of that unity, as beginning from one. Assuredly the rest of the apostles were also the same as Peter, endowed with a like partnership both of honor and power; but the beginning proceeds from unity.”[5]

Origen, who lived and wrote in the third century, says, in commenting on the text in question: “The rock is every disciple of Christ from whom they drank who drank of the spiritual rock which followed them. ... But if thou thinkest the whole church is built by God on Peter alone, what dost thou say of John, the son of thunder, and every one of the apostles? Or shall we say that the gates of hell were not able to prevail against Peter in particular, but that they were to prevail against the other apostles and perfect ones?”[6]

Hilary of Poitiers, called a doctor of the church, said: “Upon this rock of the confession is the building up of the church. This faith is the foundation of the church. Through this faith the gates of hell are powerless against it. This faith hath the keys of the heavenly kingdom.”[7]

Jerome, who wrote in the latter part of the fourth century, said: “Christ is the rock who granted to His apostles that they should be called rocks. God has founded His church on this Rock, and it is from

this Rock that Peter has been named.”[8] [9] [10]

And in another place: “But thou sayest that church is founded on Peter, albeit the very same thing is also done upon all of the apostles, and they all receive the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and the strength of the church is established on them all equally.”[11] [12]

And still again in another place he says: “Upon this rock the Lord founded His church; from this rock the apostle Peter derived his name. ... The foundation which the apostle, as architect, laid in our Lord Jesus Christ alone. On this foundation the church of Christ is built.”[13] [14]

John Chrysostom said: “I say unto thee, thou art Peter, and upon this rock, will I build My church;’ that is, on the faith of his confession.”[15-16]

Augustine, writing in the first part of the fifth century, said, in explaining Christ’s words to Peter: “At the same time while I was a priest, I wrote a book against the letter of Donatus, in which I said in a certain place of the apostle Peter, that the church was founded on him as on a rock, an interpretation which is also sung by the lips of many in the verses of the blessed Ambrose where he speaks of the cock, ‘**Lo! Even the very church’s rock melts at the crowing of the cock.**’

“But I know that afterward I most frequently have thus explained what the Lord said, ‘Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church,’ that it should be understood as upon Him whom Peter confessed, saying, ‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,’ and that Peter, named from this rock, represented the person of the church, which is built on the rock, and received the keys of the kingdom of heaven. For it was not said to him, ‘Thou art the rock’ (*petra*), but ‘Thou art Peter’ (*petros, pebble stones*). For Christ was the rock whom Simon confessing, as the whole church confesses Him.”[17] [18] [19]

Cyril of Alexandria said: “That which He {Christ} named a rock, referring to His name, was naught else, I think, than the unshaken and most firm faith of the disciple, on which also the church of Christ was founded and established.”[20]

Janus (J. J. Dollinger), himself a Catholic, says on this point: “Of all the fathers who interpret these passages in the Gospels (Matt. 16:18, John 21:17), not a single one of them applies them to the Roman bishops as Peter’s successors. How many Fathers have busied themselves with these texts, yet not one of them whose commentaries we possess—Origen, Chrysostom, Hilary, Augustine, Cyril, Theodoret, and those whose interpretations are collected in catenas—has dropped the faintest hint that the primacy of Rome is the consequence of the commission and promise to Peter! Not one of them has explained the rock or foundation on which Christ would build His church of the office given to Peter to be transmitted to his successors, but they understood by it, either Christ Himself or Peter’s confession of faith in Christ; often both together. Or else they thought Peter was the foundation equally with all

the other apostles, the *twelve* being together the foundation stones of the church.”[21] [22]

And it is also well to note the fact that the Fathers give similar testimony with reference to the keys of the kingdom. Origen says: “What, are the keys of the kingdom of heaven given by the Lord to Peter only? And shall no others of the blessed receive them?” [23]

Ambrose, another Father of the church, said: “Therefore the Lord gave the apostle that which was previously a part of his own judicial authority. ... Hear Him saying, ‘I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.’ What is said to Peter is said to all the apostles.” [24]

Augustine said: “The Lord Jesus, as you know, chose before His passion His disciples, whom He named apostles. Amongst them Peter, almost always alone, was permitted to be the representative person of the whole church. Because of that personification of the whole church which he alone supported, it was his to hear, ‘I will give

thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.’ It was not one man that received these, but the unity of the church, when it was said to him, ‘I will



Kissing the foot of an idol of St. Peter at the Vatican. Too many kisses has caused the foot to be worn out. If Peter would not allow Cornelius to worship him, would he allow anyone to kiss his feet?



give thee that which is given to all.” [25]

It must be seen by the reader that a Catholic cannot be loyal to his own creed and at the same time accept such an interpretation of Matthew 16:18 as makes Peter the rock on which Christ built His church; for surely sufficient evidence has been produced to show that the Fathers do not unanimously interpret Matthew 16:18 to mean that Peter is the rock; their interpretation is far from it indeed.

Was Peter Bishop of Rome?

The Roman Church asserts that Peter was the first bishop of the Christian church in the city of Rome, that he actually sat as bishop there for twenty-five years, dying there as a martyr in the year 67 A.D.; and since, it is claimed, Peter was made Christ’s successor, the head of the church universal, and given power to bequeath his privileges to his successors, the bishops of Rome in succession have been the vicars of Christ, or the heads of the church; and that also, since Peter was the first bishop of Rome, the Roman church became the mother church of all Christendom.

As to Peter’s being the first bishop of that church, the New Testament is silent. At the outset this seems somewhat strange if the Roman claims for Peter are true. It would seem reasonable to expect that if Christ did make Peter the head of the church, that his first episcopate was in the city of Rome; the fact of his being bishop there would be mentioned not once but many times in the New Testament. The silence, therefore, of the New Testament is one of the weightiest arguments against the belief that he was the first pope of the universal church.

Testimony of Paul’s Letters

The apostle Paul, while he was in Rome, wrote, as every Bible student knows, four or five epistles, namely, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, Philemon and Second Timothy, the last being written just before his martyrdom, as indicated by the language in chapter 4, verses 6–8. This was about 67 A.D. It is claimed that Peter was in Rome, occupying the bishop’s seat, during these years that the above-mentioned epistles were written from Rome. But in all these epistles there is absolute silence regarding Peter’s leadership over the church.

In Paul’s letter to the Philippians, he sends greetings from “all the saints” at Rome (Philippians 4:22); so if Peter was in Rome at that time, he was reckoned by Paul merely as one of “the saints.”

In the second epistle to Timothy, Paul says, “Only Luke is with me” (2 Timothy 4:11), and because of this, he asks Timothy to bring Mark to Rome as a worker. Now if Peter were in Rome all this time as bishop, as is claimed, does it not seem strange that Paul never once refers to the fact? Does it not seem strange that if Peter were sitting at

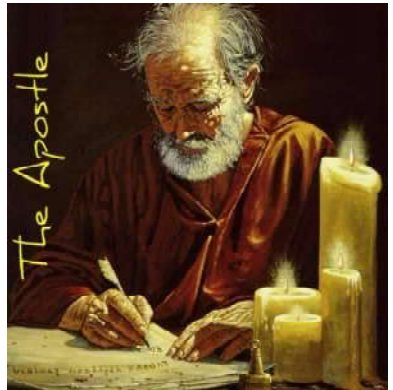
that very time as Christ's vicar, as head of the church, Paul never mentions it? Indeed, Paul's act of calling for Mark to come to Rome as a worker, would seem to show conclusively that he, rather than Peter, had charge of the work in that city at that time, the very time that it is claimed Peter sat there as head of the whole church.

The Supremacy of the Roman Church

Nor is it true that the church in Rome was recognized as the mother church, holding supremacy and exercising jurisdiction over all the churches in Christendom. Every reader of church history knows that the Roman church had a gradual growth into power, her power becoming greater with the lapse of time, gradually overcoming resistance; and this is one strong proof of her real character.

In the first century there were five leading and influential churches, namely, Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria, Constantinople and Rome. At the very beginning of Christianity, Jerusalem was the leading church and exercised the most authority, as is plainly seen in the book of Acts (Acts 8:14; 15:2, 22), while for a long time Alexandria and Constantinople shared equal precedence with Rome.

There is evidence of this in the history of some of the councils of the early church. The Council of Nicaea, A.D. 325, a general council, was called upon to settle the Episcopal jurisdiction of the bishop of Alexandria. It decreed: "Let the ancient customs prevail in Egypt, and Libya, and Pentapolis, that the bishop of Alexandria should have authority over all these, since this is the accustomed practice for the bishop of Rome also; and similarly in Antioch and the other eparchies (i.e., primatical sees of the first class), let the precedence be preserved to the churches." [26]



It is clearly manifest from this decree that at that time, the beginning of the fourth century, Rome, Alexandria and Antioch were on an equal basis, all of them called "sees of the first class." History informs us this decree meant the patriarch of Alexandria should have the same authority over Egypt, Libya and Pentapolis as the bishop of Rome had over the churches of central and southern Italy, with the islands of Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica. This limitation shows clearly no universal jurisdiction was then conceded to, or exercised by the church in Rome.

Testimony of the Church Councils

The fourth general council was held in Chalcedon, 451 A.D., and it, too, has a strong disproof of the acknowledged precedence of the

church in Rome. Its decrees are weighty in evidence on this point. In Canon 28, the council decreed as follows: "In all respects following the definitions of the holy Fathers, and acknowledging the canon of the 150 God-beloved bishops which has just been read, we likewise make the same definition and decree concerning the precedence of the most holy church of Constantinople, or new Rome.

"For the Fathers with good reason bestowed precedence on the chair of old Rome, because it was the imperial city, and the 150 God-beloved bishops, moved by the same view, confer equal precedence on the most holy throne of new Rome, rightly judging that the city honored with the empire and the senate should enjoy the same precedence as Rome, the old seat of empire, and should be magnified as it was in ecclesiastical matters also, being second after it."^[27]

Thus in a general council, Constantinople is placed on a level with Rome, and that in the latter part of the fifth century; and every reader of history knows that this rivalry continued between Rome and Constantinople (it began a long time before this council) until Justinian, in the year 533 A.D., decreed that the bishop of Rome should be "the head of all the churches."^[28]

The Roman church had a gradual rise to her high pinnacle of power. In the earlier centuries, as we have seen, the Roman church was not above other churches, like Jerusalem, Alexandria, Antioch and Constantinople. But this church was located at the old capital of the great Roman Empire, and gained precedence because of that fact, which is plainly mentioned in the decree of the Council of Chalcedon, which has just been noticed as being a reason of the exaltation of the Roman church.

The church at the former capital of the empire began to be looked upon as the leading church, and its bishop as the leading bishop. As missionaries went forth, they gladly hailed from the Roman church, and it began to be called the mother church. Disputes arising among the churches or among the bishops were carried to the Roman bishop for settlement, because he was the bishop of the mother church at the ancient capital of the empire. And when the seat of political power was transferred to Constantinople, very naturally the bishop of the mother church of the West became the most prominent figure in Rome.

After the removal of the capital from Rome to Constantinople, in the fourth century, the claim that Peter had been made Christ's vicar, that he was the first bishop of Rome, and that the popes of Rome were his successors, began to be especially urged, and to substantiate these claims forged and fabricated sayings of earlier popes, and decisions of earlier councils were brought forward. Words were put in the mouths of popes which they never uttered. Decrees of Councils were brought forward that were wholly forged

and fabricated.

Janus says: "Like the successive strata of the earth covering one another, so layer after layer of **forges and fabrications** was piled up in the church."[\[29\]](#)

These culminated in the famous Isadorian Decretals of the ninth century, which all scholars today acknowledge as forgeries. Thus the Papacy arose to its height of power and prestige. This will not be denied by any unbiased reader of church history.



The Papal Chain Examined

As a mark of apostolicity, the Catholic Church claims an unbroken succession of popes from St. Peter to the current pope elected. This claim will not, however, stand the test of history. It seems impossible for the reader of church history not to see that the so-called papal chain has been broken in a number of places; but of course the Roman Catholic Church cannot admit to this, no matter how much evidence is produced, as it is the keystone of the arch of all her arrogant and unscriptural claims.

However, from Victor, bishop of Rome in 193 A.D., to Clement VII in 1523-24, there were nine popes who were guilty of heresy, nine whose elections were disputed, nine whose elections were doubtful, fourteen who were guilty of simony (that is, of buying the papal chair), and nineteen who were guilty of intrusion. Yet all these, excepting three, are counted as links in the papal chain, in spite of the fact that it is contrary to Roman canon law for one to be accounted as pope who has secured the papal chair through simony or intrusion. And as to doubtful elections, Bellarmine, a famous Roman Catholic author, says, "A doubtful pope is no pope."[\[30\]](#)

Doubtful Popes

That there have been in the line of papal succession not only several very “doubtful popes,” but desperately immoral and wicked popes, is admitted by Catholics themselves. The early years of the tenth century were what “New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia,” article “Christopher, Pope (903-904),” denominates “the darkest [period] ever known in papal Rome, when its barons were making and unmaking popes at their pleasure.” [31]

Further light is thrown upon the uncertainty of the papal succession at that time by the same authority, which says, article *Sergius III*:

“He seems to have ceased to act as a bishop after the death of Formosus, and was put forward as a candidate for the Papacy in 898. Failing to secure election, he retired, apparently to Alberic, Count of Spoleto. Disgusted at the violent usurpation of the papal throne by Christopher, the Romans threw him [Christopher] into prison, and invited Sergius to take his place.” [32]

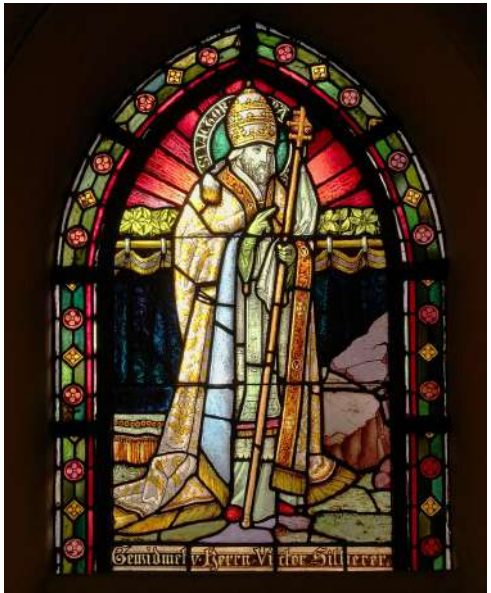
Both Christopher and Sergius are acknowledged as popes of Rome in the line of succession from St. Peter.

Coming down from the tenth to the latter half of the fifteenth century, we find the case of Rodrigo Borgia, Alexander VI, Pope from 1492 to 1503. Of this man “The New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia” says:

“Borgia, by a bare two-thirds majority secured by his own vote, was proclaimed pope on the morning of the 11th August, 1492, and took the name Alexander VI.” “That he obtained the Papacy through simony was the general belief.” —*Article, “Alexander VI.”* [33]

Of Borgia’s character previous to his elevation to the papal throne, but while a priest and occupying high official positions in the church, “The New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia” says this:

“In his twenty-ninth year he drew a scathing letter of reproof from Pope Pius II for misconduct in Sienna, which was so notorious as to shock the whole town and court. ... Even after his ordination to the priesthood, he continued his evil ways. ... Toward 1470 began his relations with the Roman lady, Vanozza Catanei, the mother of his four children.” [33]



Victor I, Bishop of Rome, 189-199

Such were some of the popes, and such is the line of the boasted “apostolic succession.” Bear in mind, also, that these statements are not from Protestant authors, but from a recognized Roman Catholic authority. Remember that our only object in introducing such evidence is to show that unless Catholics are ready to assume and are able to defend the position that character and regularity of selection have nothing whatever to do with the apostolic succession, **they cannot consistently contend that there has been such a succession from Peter’s time down even to our own day. Clearly there has not been, and hence their claim falls to the ground.**

Of the events of the period to which Cardinal Boronius, the greatest of all Catholic historians, refers as the “the darkest ever known in papal Rome,” says:

“It is evident that one can scarcely believe, without ocular evidence, what unworthy, base, execrable, and abominable things the holy, apostolical See, which is the pivot upon which the whole Catholic Church revolves, was forced to endure, when the princes of this age, although Christian, yet arrogated to themselves the election of the Roman pontiffs. Alas, the shame! Alas, the grief! what monsters, horrible to behold, were then, by them, intruded on the Holy See, which angels revere! what evils ensued! what tragedies did they perpetrate! with what pollutions was this See, though itself without spot or wrinkle, then stained! with what corruptions infected! with what filthiness defiled! and by these things blackened with perpetual infamy.” [34]

There is another serious break, that of the Great Schism of 1379 to 1417. During this time, two and sometimes three rival popes were claiming to be the pope. It was difficult even then to decide which had the better claim. Gregory XI was pope before the schism, and Martin V was elected at its close. This covered a period of thirty-eight years. But when Martin V was elected, there was only one cardinal living who had been created before the death of Gregory XI. Therefore the majority of votes cast for Martin V in 1417 were void. It must be evident, then, there are some broken links in the so-called chain of apostolic succession.

Blasphemous Claims

Growing out of the assumption that Christ made Peter His vicar, some very extravagant, and what some consider blasphemous claims have been made for the pope. The following is taken from Ferraris’ “Ecclesiastical Dictionary” (Roman Catholic), article “Pope.” The latest edition of this book was issued from the Press of the Propaganda at Rome in 1899, which shows that it has the approval of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy. “The Catholic Encyclopedia” (Vol. VI, p. 48) speaks of it as a “veritable encyclopedia of religious knowledge,” and “a precious mine of information.”

“The Pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God, and the vicar of God.” [35]

“The pope is of such lofty and supreme dignity that, properly speaking, he has not been established in any rank of dignity, but rather has been placed upon the very summit of all ranks of dignities.” [35]

“Hence the pope is crowned with a triple crown, as the king of heaven and of earth and of the lower regions.” [35]

“Moreover the superiority and the power of the Roman pontiff by no means pertain only to heavenly things, to earthly things, and to things under the earth, but are even over angels, than whom he is greater.” [35]

“So that if it were possible that the angels might err in the faith, or might think contrary to the faith, they could be judged and excommunicated by the pope.” [35]

“The pope is as it were God on earth, sole sovereign of the faithful of Christ, chief king of kings, having plenitude of power, to whom has been entrusted by the omnipotent God direction not only of the earthly but also of the heavenly kingdom.” [35]

“The pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth with most ample power of binding and loosing His sheep.” [35]

The following is from the writings of Augustinius de Ancona (Roman Catholic), *On an Appeal from the Decision of the Pope*:

“Therefore the decision of the pope and the decision of God constitute one [i.e., the same] decision, just as the opinion of the pope and of his disciple are the same. Since, therefore, an appeal is always taken from an inferior judge to a superior, as no one is greater than himself, so no appeal holds when made from the pope to God, because there is one consistency of the pope himself and of God Himself.” [36]

“We hold upon this earth the place of God almighty.” [37]

The following is from an oration of Christopher Marcellus (Roman Catholic) in the fourth session of the Fifth Lateran Council, 1512 (an address on the pope); “History of the Councils,”



by Labbe and Cossart, Volume XIV, column 109:

“For thou art the shepherd, thou art the physician, thou art the director, thou art the husbandman; finally, thou art another God on earth.” [38]

And the following gloss on the “Extravagantes Communes,” book 1, “On Authority and Obedience,” chapter 1, reads:

“Christ entrusted His office to the chief pontiff; ... but all power in heaven and in earth has been given to Christ; ... therefore the chief pontiff, who is His vicar, *will have this power.*” [39]

When Pope Benedict XV died, his death was officially pronounced by the papal secretary of state thus: “Our Lord the Pope is dead.”

The Papacy not Apostolic

Sufficient evidence has been produced, though volumes more could be added, to show any one that the Papacy is not apostolic.

Any reader of the New Testament knows there is no likeness between the apostolic church and the papal hierarchy. Instead of the Papacy's being apostolic, **it is the fruitage of a great falling away**, or apostasy, that came into the church in the centuries adjoining the age of the apostles. The apostle Paul had a vision of its coming; for it was in the embryo stage in his day. In writing to the Thessalonians, he said:

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God,” or as the Revised Version puts it, **“setting himself forth as God.”** 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4.

Every reader of Church history knows that this falling away did come, and that it developed a system at the head of which a man set himself forth as God, as seen by the above quotation. In the apostolic church, **Christ was the only head of the church, the only High Priest, the only Mediator between God and man** (1 Timothy 2:5), and **the rock foundation of the church**. And His one sacrifice upon the cross of Calvary was sufficient to atone for the sins of the whole world. (See Romans 6:9, 10; Hebrews 7:27; 9:25–28; 10:10–12.) Amen and amen!

Sources

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Note: Issued in the form of a bull in December, 1564 by pope Pius IV. The original may be found in Richter, *Canones et decreta Concil. Trident.* p. 574 in Cramp, *Text-book of*

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- [3] New Advent Home, Fathers of the Church, Epistles (Cyprian of Carthage) Epistle 26, Argument of Letter XXVII.
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- [10] <https://www.nairaland.com/1503616/please-there-anything-like-purgatory/28>
The above source also commented: "Even some of their Roman Catholic 'fathers' take a similar attitude as the Eastern Orthodox people that all the bishops are equal and, not only that, they are also all successors of Peter."
- [11] This is a quote from Jovin 2. But another quote by Jerome is as follows:
"But, you [Jovinian] will say, 'it was on Peter that the Church was founded' [Matt. 16:18]. Well . . . one among the twelve is chosen to be their head in order to remove any occasion for division" (*Against Jovinian* 1:26 A.D. 393). See [10] for source:
- [12] <https://www.catholic.com/tract/origins-of-peter-as-pope>
- [13] Jerome's commentary on Matthew 7:26, p.98. Jerome said: "I follow no leader but Christ and join in communion with none but your blessedness [Pope Damasus I], that is, with the chair of Peter. I know that this is the rock on which the Church has been built." The introduction to Jerome's commentary, p. 3 is very interesting.
- [14] [https://isidore.co/CalibreLibrary/Jerome,%20St_/Commentary%20on%20Matthew%20\(7526\)/Commentary%20on%20Matthew%20-%20Jerome,%20St_.pdf](https://isidore.co/CalibreLibrary/Jerome,%20St_/Commentary%20on%20Matthew%20(7526)/Commentary%20on%20Matthew%20-%20Jerome,%20St_.pdf)
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- [33] <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01289a.htm>
- [34] Baronius, paragraph 335.6 <https://m.egwwritings.org/en/book/933.2819>
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- [37] Pope Leo XIII, in an encyclical letter dated June 20, 1894, paragraph 7 <https://www.papalencyclicals.net/leo13/113praec.htm>
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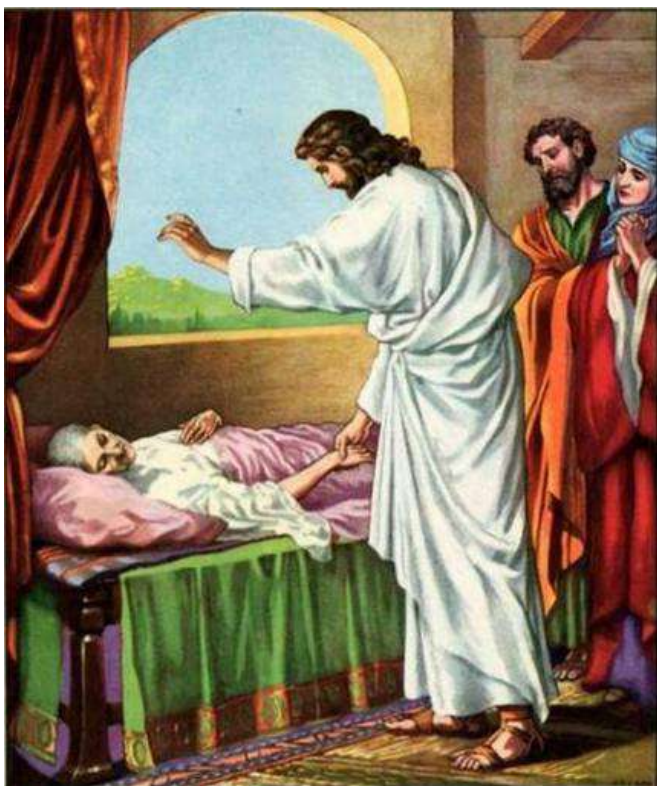
Peter Had a Mother-in-law; All Popes Take the Oath of Celibacy

“And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon [Peter] and Andrew, with James and John.

“But Simon’s wife’s mother [Peter’s mother-in-law] lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell Him of her.

“And He came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.”

Mark 1:29-31



A Roman Miracle

A pretty maid, a Protestant,
was to a Catholic wed:
To love all Bible truths and tales,
quite early she'd been bred.
It sorely grieved her husband's heart
that she would not comply,
And join the Mother Church of Rome
and heretics deny.

So day by day he flattered her,
but still she saw no good
Would ever come from bowing down
to idols made of wood.
The mass, the host, the miracles,
were made but to deceive;
And transubstantiation, too,
she'd never dare believe.

He went to see his clergyman
and told him his sad tale.
"My wife is an unbeliever, sir;
you can perhaps prevail;
For all your Romish miracles
my wife has strong aversion,
To really work a miracle
may lead her to conversion."

The priest went with the gentleman,
he thought to gain a prize,
He said, "I will convert her, sir,
and open both her eyes."
So when they came into the house,
the husband loudly cried,
"The priest has come to dine with us!"
"He's welcome," she replied.

And when, at last, the meal was o'er,
the priest at once began,
To teach his hostess all about
the sinful state of man;
The greatness of our Savior's love,
which Christians can't deny
To give Himself a sacrifice
and for our sins to die.

“I will return tomorrow, lass,
prepare some bread and wine;
The sacramental miracle
will stop your soul’s decline.”
“I’ll bake the bread,” the lady said.
“You may,” he did reply,
“And when you’ve seen this miracle,
convinced you’ll be, say I.”

The priest did come accordingly,
the bread and wine did bless.
The lady asked, “Sir, is it changed?”
The priest answered, “Yes,
It’s changed from common bread and wine
to truly flesh and blood;
Begorra, lass, this power of mine
has changed it into God!”

So having blessed the bread and wine,
to eat they did prepare.
The lady said unto the priest,
“I warn you to take care,
For half an ounce of arsenic was mixed
right in the batter,
But since you have its nature changed,
it cannot really matter.”

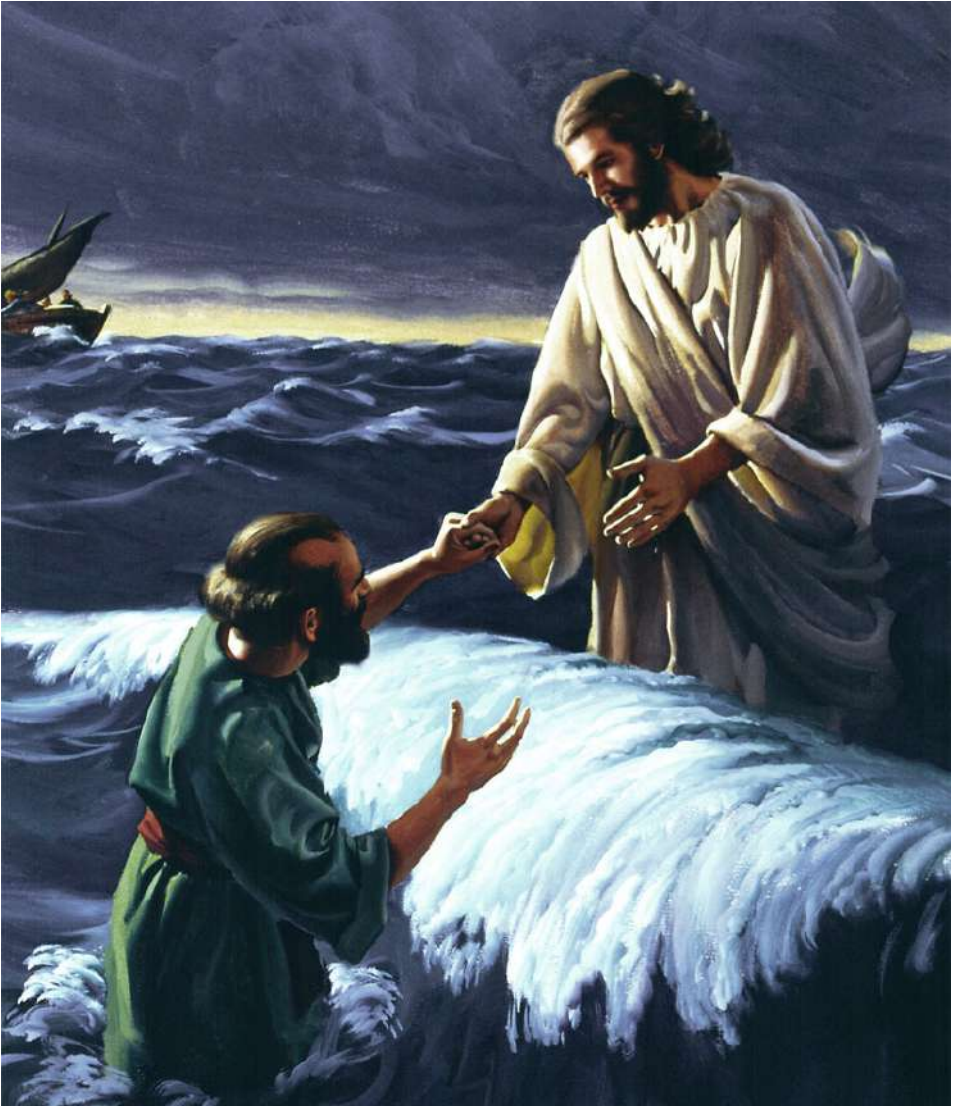
The priest was struck real dumb —
he looked as pale as death.
The bread and wine fell from his hands
and he did gasp for breath.
“Bring me my horse!” the priest cried out,
“This is a cursed home!”
The lady replied, “Begone; tis you
who shares the curse of Rome.”

The husband, too, he sat surprised,
and not a word did say.
At length he spoke, “My dear,” said he,
“the priest has run away;
To gulp such mummery and tripe,
I’m not for sure, quite able;
I’ll go with you and we’ll renounce
this Roman Catholic fable.”

Author Unknown

The Character of Peter

Although Peter and John were chosen disciples of Christ, and were counted among the twelve, they were still imperfect in character. Peter was of a zealous, ardent temperament, and ever manifested great earnestness in the cause of Christ. At one time the disciples were on the sea, and the record declares the ship was in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves, for the wind was contrary; “and in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a



spirit [ghost]; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water. And He said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" Matthew 14:25-31.

This incident illustrates much of the character of impulsive Peter. Faith and unbelief were blended in his words and actions. He said, "Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water." The Lord had assured the disciples, "It is I; be not afraid." And, as the Bible says, when Peter saw the waves around him and the boisterous winds, he forgot the power of his Lord and began to sink; but at his cry of weakness, Jesus was at his side to grasp his outstretched hand and lift him from the billows.

Peter's Weakness

When the Lord sought to prepare the minds of His disciples for their last great trial in His betrayal and crucifixion, Peter felt that he could not bear to have the words of the Lord fulfilled; and stirred with indignation at the thought of the injustice so soon to come upon Christ and His followers, he exclaimed, "Be it far from Thee, Lord; this shall not be unto Thee." The impression which Christ desired to make upon the minds of His followers was one directly opposed to the impression that Peter's words would make, and He rebuked His disciple with the sternest rebuke that ever fell from His lips. He said, "Get thee behind Me, Satan: thou art an offense unto Me; for thou savorest not the things that be of God; but those that be of men" Matthew 16:22-23.

Although Peter had been long with the Master, he had a very imperfect conception of the plan of salvation. He did not desire to see the cross in the work of Christ; but it was through the cross that life and hope were to come to dying men.

When Jesus had told of His death, declaring that all His disciples would be offended because of Him, Peter had said, "Though all men shall be offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offended." He assured his Lord that he would go with Him both to prison and to death; but Jesus knew Peter much better than the disciple knew himself, and He said to him, "Verily I say unto thee, that this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice" Matthew 26:33-34.

At the very first trial, Peter failed. When Jesus bowed in agony in the garden of Gethsemane, Peter was sleeping with the other disciples, and could not watch with His suffering Lord one hour. The thrice-

repeated prayer was uttered that the bitter cup of woe might pass from the Saviour. Borne down with superhuman agony, Jesus staggered to His disciples, longing for human sympathy; but He found that instead of watching they were sleeping. From His quivering lips came the mild rebuke to Peter, "What, could ye not watch with Me one hour?" Then He framed these tender words: "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" Matthew 26:40-41.

Jesus had said many things concerning the hour of trial that was to come upon His disciples when He should be made the object of mockery and reproach. But the disciples could not believe they would manifest such unfaithfulness, especially Peter.

Where Is Peter?

When Jesus was actually in the hands of the armed men, where were the boastful disciples?—They had fled. Even Peter was in the rear, far from his suffering Lord. When the cruel trial began in the judgment hall, had Jesus a defender in the ardent Peter? Was he then by the side of his deserted Lord?—No, but with those who were mocking and reviling. It is true that Peter had a deep interest in the trial, and he did desire to be at the side of his Lord; but he could not endure the scorn and the reproach that would fall upon himself if he should take his place as a disciple of Christ.

When one of the women of the palace said to Peter, "Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee," he denied before all the company, saying, "I know not what thou sayest." He who had made so confident a statement of his fidelity to Christ, now denied his Lord at the question of a maid in the palace. Did he now move nearer to his Lord?—No, he pushed his way out to the porch, seeking to escape the prying eyes of the enemies of his Lord; but again he was recognized, and another said to him, "This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man."

Peter was irritated that he could not find an escape from the eyes of his enemies; he returned again to the hall where he could better view the trial, but he stood among the mockers and revilers of Christ. The third time he was recognized, they said to him, "Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee." Peter had been ready to take up arms in defense of Christ, but to acknowledge the Lord when he was the object of scorn and derision was more than he had courage to do. He was a moral coward, and with curses and oaths he denied that he knew his Master. (See Matthew 26:69-74.)

Peter had been warned of this temptation; but he did not realize his danger, and therefore had not prepared himself for the trial. He had been filled with self-confidence and deemed that he was able to withstand any temptation, assuring the Lord that though all others should

be offended, he would be ready to go with him to prison and to death. **When Peter took his stand with the revilers of Christ, he placed himself on the enemy's ground, and he fell.** This will always be the fate of those who are filled with self-confidence.

The Crowing of the Cock

At Peter's third denial of his Lord, the crowing of the cock reminded him of the words of Jesus. Surprised and shocked at what he had just done he turned and looked at his Master. Jesus turned His eyes upon Peter with a grieved look of sadness, but blended with compassion and love. All through the rest of Peter's life, the memory of that look was

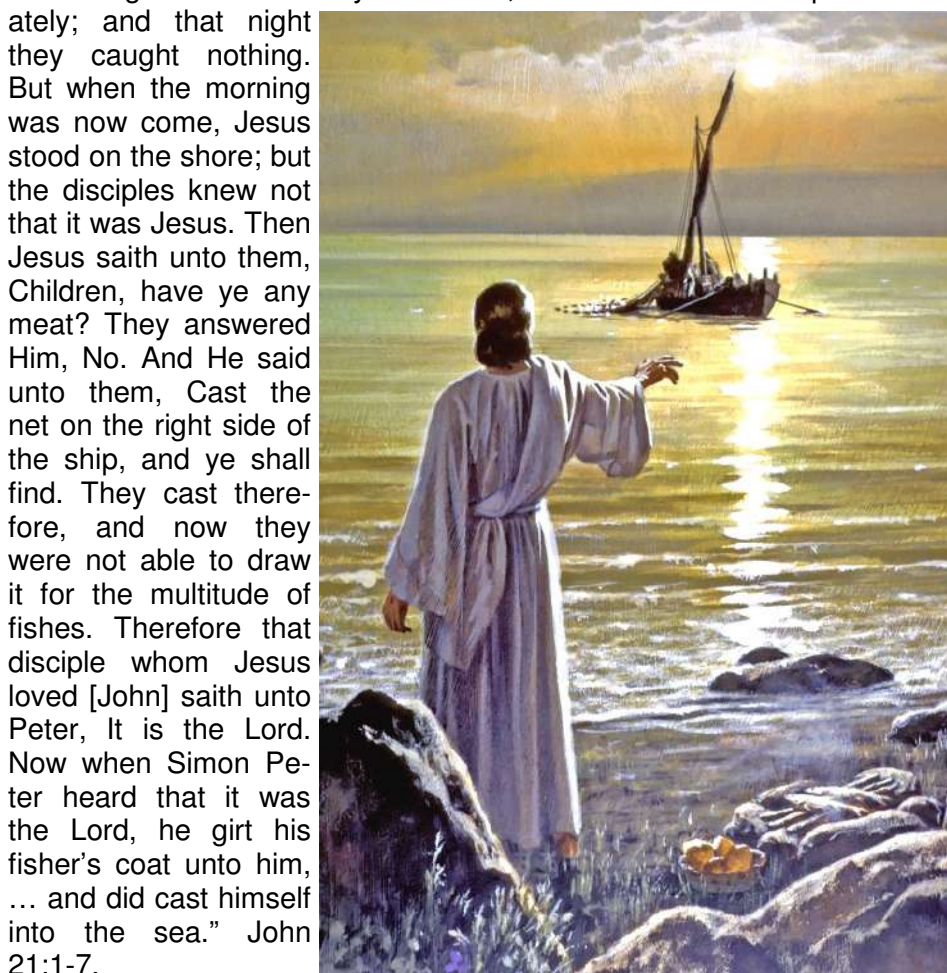


with him. His sinful boasting, his Lord's warning, his denial of the Saviour, all came to him like a flash of lightning; and casting one last look upon his suffering, insulted Lord, he hurried away from the sound of false accusations and reproach. He rushed from the palace, plunged into the darkness, and weeping bitterly, hurried to Gethsemane. That look of Christ broke his heart, but at the same time it gave him hope. He began to see himself as he really was. Memory was alive, and his sins were pictured before him in all their heinous light. Peter threw himself on the very spot where a few hours before Jesus had prayed and wept in agony, and there the disciple prayed as he never before had prayed. With deep repentance and terrible remorse he pleaded for forgiveness. That look of Christ had assured him of pardon and he rose a converted man; but he felt that although Jesus would forgive him, he could never forgive himself. His self-confidence was gone; never again were the old boastful assertions repeated.

Jesus knew all the sorrow and remorse of His erring disciple, and when the heavenly messengers appeared to the women at the sepulcher, they told them of Christ's resurrection, and bade them tell the disciples **and Peter** that He went before them into Galilee. How eagerly did Peter receive this word of love and compassion! He knew his Lord still thought of him, still loved him, **and he took this message as a sign of forgiveness.**

At the Sea

After His resurrection, Jesus showed Himself to His disciples at the sea of Tiberias: "and on this wise showed He Himself. There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of His disciples. Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore; but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered Him, No. And He said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved [John] saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, ... and did cast himself into the sea." John 21:1-7.



Public Confession

When the disciples came to land, they found that Jesus had prepared them fish and bread. "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? Peter was grieved because he said unto Him the third time, Lovest thou Me? And he said unto Him, Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed My sheep" John 21:15-17.

After this public confession Peter received his commission. A work broader and more delicate than had heretofore been his was appointed him. Christ bade him feed the sheep and the lambs. In thus committing to his stewardship the souls for whom the Saviour had laid down his own life, Christ gave to Peter the strongest proof of confidence in his restoration. The once restless, boastful, self-confident disciple had become subdued and contrite. Henceforth he followed his Lord in self-denial and self-sacrifice. He was a partaker of Christ's sufferings; and when Christ shall sit upon the throne of His glory, Peter will be a partaker in His glory.

A Truly Converted Man

In the answers that Peter gave to the Lord's thrice-repeated question, a different spirit was manifested from what we find in the boastful assurances before the crucifixion of Christ. **Peter was now a converted man, and showed in his life that transforming grace had taken possession of his heart. As firm as a rock, he ever after stood boldly up to witness for Christ.**

The evil that had led to Peter's fall and shut out the Pharisee from communion with God is proving the ruin of thousands today. There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable.

Peter's fall was not instantaneous, but gradual. Self-confidence led him to the belief that he was saved, and step after step had taken him in the downward path, until he could outright deny his Master. Never can we safely put confidence in self or feel, this side of heaven, that we are secure against temptation. **Those who accept the Saviour, however sincere their conversion, should never be taught to say or to feel that they are saved. This is misleading.** Every one should be taught to cherish hope and faith; but even when we give our-

selves to Christ and know that He accepts us, **we are never beyond the reach of temptation in this world.** God's word declares, "Many shall be purified, and made white, **and tried**" Daniel 12:10. **Only he who endures the trial unto the very end will receive the crown of life.** (James 1:12).

Those who accept Christ, and in their first confidence say, I am



saved, are in danger of trusting themselves. They lose sight of their own weakness and their constant need of divine strength. They are unprepared for Satan's devices, and under temptation many, like Peter, fall into the very depths of sin. We are admonished, "Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall" 1 Corinthians 10:12. Our only safety is in constant distrust of self, and dependence on Christ.

It was necessary for Peter to learn his own defects of character, and his need of the power and grace of Christ. **The Lord could not save him from trial, but He could have saved him from defeat. Had Peter been willing to receive Christ's warning, he would have been watching unto prayer. He would have walked with fear and trembling lest his feet should stumble. And he would have received divine help so that Satan could not have gained the victory.**

Assurance

It was through self-sufficiency that Peter had fallen, and it was through repentance and humiliation that his feet were again established. In the record of his experience every repenting sinner may find encouragement. Though Peter had grievously sinned, he was not forsaken. The words of Christ were written upon his soul, "I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not" Luke 22:32.

The same compassion that reached out to rescue Peter is extended to every soul who has fallen under temptation. It is Satan's special device to lead man into sin, and then leave him, helpless and trembling, fearing to seek for pardon. But why should we fear, when God has said, "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me?" Isaiah 27:5. Every provision has been made for our infirmities, every encouragement offered us to come to Christ.

Christ offered up His broken body to purchase back God's heritage, to give man another trial. "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them" Hebrews 7:25. By His spotless life, His obedience, His death on the cross of Calvary, Christ interceded for the lost race. And now, not as a mere petitioner does the Captain of our salvation intercede for us, but as a Conqueror claiming His victory. His offering is complete, and as our Intercessor He executes His self-appointed work, holding before God the censer containing His own spotless merits and the prayers, confessions and thanksgiving of His people. Perfumed with the fragrance of His righteousness, these ascend to God as a sweet savor. The offering is wholly acceptable, and pardon covers all transgression.

The nearer we come to Jesus and the more clearly we discern the purity of His character, the more clearly we shall discern the exceeding

sinfulness of sin and the less we shall feel like exalting ourselves. Those whom heaven recognizes as holy are the last to parade their own goodness.

Victory in Christ

The apostle Peter became a faithful minister of Christ, and was greatly honored with Divine light and power; he had an active part in the upbuilding of Christ's church; but Peter never forgot the fearful experience of his humiliation; his sin was forgiven; yet well he knew that for the weakness of character which had caused his fall only the grace of Christ could avail. He found in himself nothing in which to glory.

Jesus had said to Peter, "Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: **but I have prayed for thee**, that thy faith fail not; and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" Luke 22:32. Peter had severe trials to pass through, but although he was called to go to prison and to death for Christ's sake, never again did he waver from his allegiance.

Note: This story and its lessons were gleaned from Scripture—Matthew 14, 16 and 26; Luke 22 and John 21 and commentaries. Most of the Bible narrative was written by E. G. White, April 7, 1891. Parts of this narrative were also published in a magazine called *Review & Herald* and a book called, *Christ's Object Lessons (COL)*. (The paragraph in the box below is from COL, p. 160.)

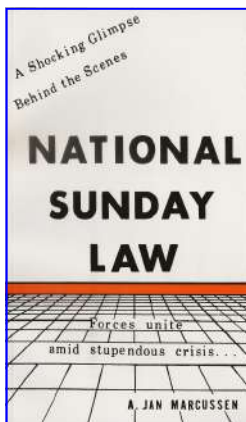
The purpose of sharing this story is to show that Peter was a normal, fallible person just like people today. He could not have been the first pope of Rome, for popes are considered to be infallible. Besides, it is a fact—there was no Catholic Church at the time Peter lived on this earth, regardless of their claims.

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that Popes are the successors of the apostles who faithfully fulfilled Christ's commission. The truth is, Catholic clergy are the successors of the apostate Jewish leaders who shared the very same spirit of persecution, their thirst for political power, and desire to pervert the truth of God.

None of the apostles or prophets ever claimed to be without sin. Men who have lived nearest to God, men who would sacrifice life itself rather than knowingly commit a wrong act, men whom God had honored with divine light and power, have confessed the sinfulness of their own nature. They have put no confidence in the flesh, have claimed no righteousness of their own, but have trusted wholly in the righteousness of Christ. So will it be with all who behold Christ.



Blessings to all as we prepare to serve the God of heaven, Jesus Christ. God alone is infallible, His Word is true; and in Him "is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" James 1:17. **The true vicar of Christ on earth is the Holy Spirit, the third Person in the Godhead. God needs no other representative in this capacity.**



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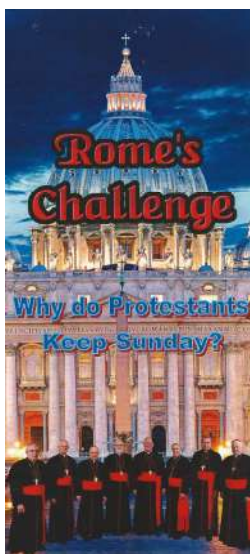
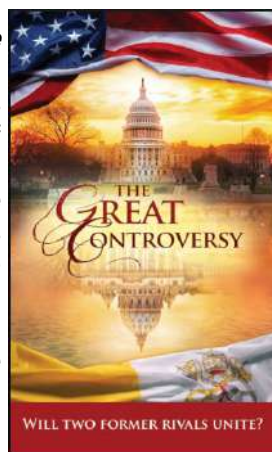
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In our news magazines we have mentioned *The Great Controversy* frequently. If you have not read it, be sure to do whatever you can to obtain a copy. It is a fascinating history book that outlines the survival of Christianity from the apostles to our day and beyond. It gives a summary of reformers who lived during the **Dark Ages**, 538 to 1798 A.D. What organization was trying to squelch the reading of Scripture? Why were Christians persecuted for owning a Bible? Why did they not want the Bible to be available to the public? Will this organization have power again to control the masses? This book tells the story and gives the answer to these questions! Call or write to get a copy.



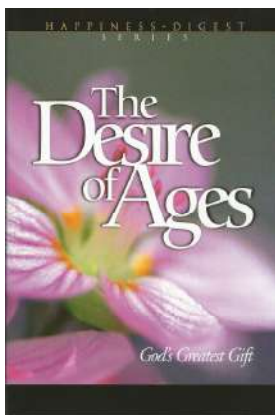
Rome's Challenge was written a number of years ago by the Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore, Maryland and published in the *Catholic Mirror* in 1893. It was a series of articles that have been reproduced in booklet format.

These articles were the result of the protest of Protestants to having the World's Fair open on Sunday in Chicago, Illinois in 1893.

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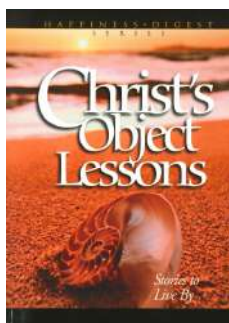
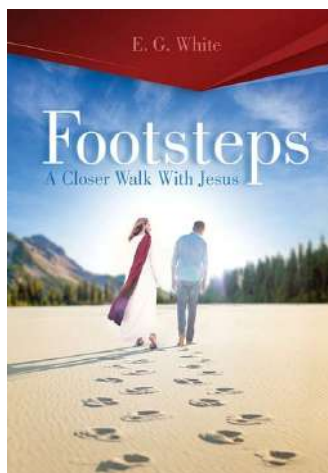
Included is information about the 12 disciples who followed Jesus during His 3 1/2 year ministry.

Footsteps: A Closer Walk with Jesus (It has a 2nd title: Steps to Christ)

Our Father in heaven is the source of life, wisdom and joy. When life brings problems, separation, accidents, disease or disappointments we can find true happiness in knowing that we are the children of God and that He cares about us.

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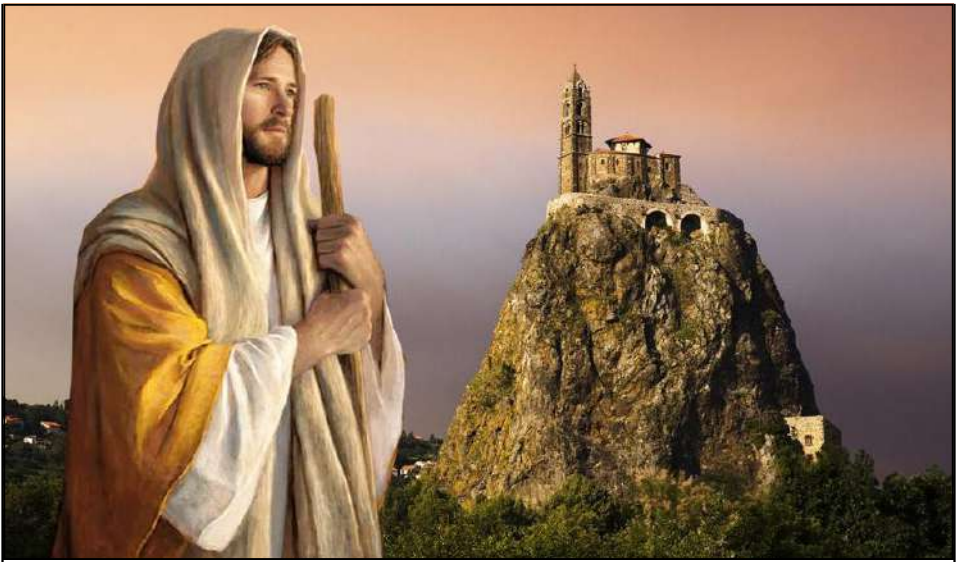


The stories of the Master Teacher as recounted in this volume draw practical down-to-earth lessons from the common scenes, objects and incidents of life. These stories abound in helpful guidelines to positive thinking, buoyant living, and in adopting THE MIND OF CHRIST.

This volume is destined to lead its readers to a deeper, more meaningful walk with Christ, the source of light from above.

The crowd gathered early and swiftly. It soon became apparent that the narrow beach of Galilee would not accommodate the crowd. It was a mixed lot—peasants, fishermen, the educated, rich and poor, religious leaders and people from distant nations. Then He began to speak. Here is His sermon in book form: [The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached!](#)





The Church Has One Foundation

By Samuel J. Stone, 1866

The church has one foundation, 'tis Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation, by water and the word;
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder, men see her sore oppressed,
Though foes would rend asunder the Rock where she doth rest,
Yet saints their faith are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forever more;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.