

LIFE OF  
PETER

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### Course Goals

- To understand the scope and source of Peter's character transformation
- To imitate Peter's growth in Christ-like character
- To prepare to defend a scriptural view of Peter's role and authority in the early church

### Schedule of Lessons

| <b>Date</b>        | <b>Lesson</b>                              |
|--------------------|--|
| Sunday, Sept 20    | 1 – Meeting the Master                     |
| Wednesday, Sept 23 | 2 – A Weekend with Jesus                   |
| Sunday, Sept 27    | 3 – Peter Among the Apostles               |
| Wednesday, Sept 30 | 4 – Who Jesus Is and What He Came to Do    |
| Sunday, Oct 4      | 5 – Peter at the Transfiguration           |
| Wednesday, Oct 7   | 6 – The Last Supper and Crucifixion        |
| Sunday, Oct 11     | 7 – Begotten Again by the Resurrection     |
| Wednesday, Oct 14  | 8 – Using the Keys to the Kingdom          |
| Sunday, Oct 18     | 9 – Confronting the Jewish Leadership      |
| Wednesday, Oct 21  | 10 – Preaching in Judea and Samaria        |
| Sunday, Oct 25     | 11 – Preaching to the Gentiles             |
| Wednesday, Oct 28  | 12 – Peter's Sufferings                    |
| Sunday, Nov 1      | 13 – Peter on Suffering and False Teaching |

## Lesson 13

### Refuting Peter's Primacy

#### Objectives

- List the three basic views of how church governance is established and amended
- Explain two reasons why someone might not believe a scriptural or historical argument refuting Peter's primacy or the office of the Pope

#### Introductory Notes

According to Catholic doctrine, the authority of the present pope is based upon the claim that he is Peter's successor as "bishop of Rome." That conclusion is developed in this way:

1. Jesus made Peter the foundation of the church and gave him the keys (Matthew 16:18-19)
2. Peter went to Rome in 42 A.D. and served as Bishop until 67 A.D. (25 years)
4. The successor of Peter as Bishop of Rome was also his successor as head of the church
5. The present pope is "Bishop of Rome" and therefore the Bishop of the universal church

Of these, two need to be proved or disproved:

1. That Jesus made Peter head of the church
2. That Peter was Bishop of the church in Rome

#### Outline of the Argument

1. Evidence that refutes these claims
  - a. There is no scriptural evidence that Jesus made Peter head of the church.
    - i. **Matthew 16:18** does not prove it. Peter was to be the key-keeper, not the foundation.
    - ii. The foundation (the rock) was Jesus' identity as the Christ and Son of God, **1 Corinthians 3:11; 1 Peter 2:4-8**
    - iii. Jesus is the only head of the church, **Ephesians 1:22**
  - b. The other apostles did not understand that Jesus had made Peter head of the church.
    - i. They continued to argue about who was greatest, **Matthew 20:20-28**
    - ii. They sent Peter to Samaria, **Acts 8:14**
    - iii. Peter did not preside at the meeting in Acts 15. James both presided and stated the conclusion.
    - iv. In particular, the apostle Paul:
      1. Spoke of Peter with respect but with no suggestion of his primacy, **Galatians 2:6-9**
      2. Rebuked him publicly, **Galatians 2:11-21**
      3. Insisted that he (Paul) was not inferior, **2 Corinthians 11:5; 12:11**
    - v. Paul describes all the apostles, including himself and Peter, as co-equal foundation stones in the church, **Ephesians 2:20**; cf. **Revelation 21:14**
  - c. Peter could not have been Bishop of Rome for 25 years
    - i. The first writer to mention Peter's being Bishop of Rome was Jerome in 400 A.D.
    - ii. If he were in Rome from 42 to 67 it would be inexplicable that:
      1. Paul wrote a letter to the Romans (ca. 58AD) containing many greetings, yet none to Peter, **Romans 16**
      2. Paul wrote 4 letters from Rome (ca. 61-63AD) and did not mention Peter (cf. **Colossians 4:11**)
      3. When Paul was in Rome (67AD), he wrote, "only Luke is with me," **2 Timothy 4:11**
2. Additional evidence against Peter being the Pope
  - a. Peter was married (Matthew 8:14, 1 Corinthians 9:5)

