

Answers!

Lesson #18

Question #35: **If there ever was a first pope, would it have been Peter or Paul?**

Answer: **Paul.**

Explanation:

Our question is a hypothetical one that can be used to shed light on truth and error. The office of a Pope is not scriptural. It was invented by the Catholic religion. They have invented many things that are not scriptural.

The word "Pope" means Papa or Father. He is often addressed as "Holy Father". This is a violation of **Matthew 23:9** and a name of blasphemy for a human to claim (Revelation **17:3**). There is only one Father of the Church: God (**Ephesians 4:6**).

Consider...

- Paul had the care of all the churches – not Peter. "Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." (**2 Corinthians 11:28**)
- Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles – not Peter. See **Galatians 2:7-9; Ephesians 2:11**
- Peter was called "satan" once by Christ (**Matthew 16:23**)
- Paul once publicly rebuked Peter for error (**Galatians 2:11-14**)
- Paul wrote 13 books of the New Testament mostly to Gentiles. Peter wrote 2 books of the New Testament, mostly to Jews (**1 Peter 1:1**)
- Paul was for sure in Rome and ministered to the Romans (**Acts 28:16; Romans 1:7,15**). We do not know that Peter ever went to Rome, although it is vehemently taught by Catholicism (for example – St. Peter's Cathedral is in Rome.)
- Peter was the Apostle and Pastor of the Church at Jerusalem among the Jews. He remained there faithfully and Luke recorded this in **Acts 1-12**. Jerusalem is considered the mother of us all, not Rome (**Galatians 4:26**)

There is no Pope, but Paul, by far, would fit the description better than Peter.

Further Notes:

Answers!

Lesson #18

Question #36: **Did Peter alone receive the keys of the kingdom of heaven?**

Answer: **Yes.**

Key verse:

Matthew 16:19, [*Christ speaking to Peter*] "And I will give into 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."

Explanation:

The word "thee" is singular. This was a specific statement made to Peter alone. Peter's role would be unique in Christian history. He would be present to confirm that the gospel (the kingdom of God) is completely available to the Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans (half-Jew, half-Gentile). In other words - to all the world!

To the Jews - the day of Pentecost - **Acts 2:1-47**

To the Samaritan - a visit to Samaria - **Acts 8:14-17**

To the Gentiles - The conversion of Cornelius - **Acts 10 & 11** (See specifically 11:18)

In each case the Holy Ghost came upon the recipients of the gospel while Peter ministered to them: **Acts 2:4; 8:15; 11:15.**

Further Notes:
