

verse absolutely ~~is~~ isolated, and if you interpret this verse as meaning, Peter is the foundation upon which Jesus ~~g~~ builds his church, and everything must be built upon Peter, and Peter has had they say, successors, and these successors then are those upon ~~whom~~ whom the church is built, and what they say is fallible, and they are the responsible leaders whom we must obey or be outside of Christ's church, that is the position which is suggested by those great letters around the inside of the dome of that beautiful church. Now if you examine exactly what these words mean in the context, thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will ~~build~~ build my church, you find that from the earliest date of which we have record, and that isn't the very beginning. It does not go back clear to the 1st century, but from early days ~~ix~~ we have had some difference of opinion as to what it means by the rock. There have been some fairly early who have said the rock is Peter, but there have been some of the great fathers of the church who have said, This rock is not Peter. This rock is Peter's confession. Peter said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and Jesus said, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar Jona. Flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my Father which is in heaven, and I say unto thee, thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church. You Peter have declared this wonderful thing. You have pointed out this mighty truth that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the Living God, and this is the rock upon which the church is to be built. Now I believe if you read carefully the fathers who said the rock is Peter, those who did, and they are by no means all of them, and if ^{you read} those Protestants who today say that the rock is Peter, and there are some who do, you will find that they will say that they actually hold, not that here was a man who God gave this wonderful power to, and this man is the man, and his successors, upon whom Christ's church is to be built, but that this man here typifies the sort of man upon whom the rock of the church is to be built. The man who knows this mighty fact, that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God, the man who declares this fact with power, the man who stands upon this confession, that Peter gave. For, after all, the church is not built upon an abstract statement. The church is in the great sense built upon Christ. He is the chief point, but the church is built in