

world, today, that ~~wxxxx~~ say, God in estblishing His church gave the authority over it to Peter, and the authority goes from Peter to those who succeeded him as ~~be~~ bishops ~~fxxx~~ of Rome. And therefore, if a person is going to be saved, he is going to be subject to and obedient to the bishop of Rome, whom we call the pope. That is what people in many parts of Europe said from 800 A.D. on. ~~xxxxxNxxxx~~ Not all the people, by any means, but many of them. And that is what there are people in every state of this country and in most of the countries of the world, there are ~~xxxxxxx~~ people who say it today.

Well, now, that being the case, it is of tremendous importance for us to know how/^{early} did this claim start, and how early was it recognized. And therefore, it is of importance to us to note that there was a bisho of Rome who wrote an important letter, Clement of Rome. We are not sure that he was bishop, he doesn't call himself ~~x~~ bishop in the letter at all, he doesn't even mention his name, but the letter has traditionally been considered as beingg from a man named Clement. Practically nothing is known about him. He probably was bishop. But the lettter said, from the church of Rome to the church at Corinth. And it goes on to give good advice to the church at Corinth, and it is a fine letter. Such as any good church might ~~wxxxxxxx~~ write to another~~xxxxx~~ church. Or to another church which needed advice. It is a good letter, but since the pope at Rome ~~xxx~~ today claims to rule the whole Christian ~~wxxxx~~ world, it is of importance to us to ~~x~~ know that the first letter that came out from Rome ~~xxx~~ giving advice to another church, was expressed in terms of Christian ~~xxxx~~ humility~~xxxx~~ to follow the Lord, rather than anything of dictation ~~xxxx~~ from one church to another, and that the man who wrote it made no claim in ~~x~~ it whatever to any special authority as bishop of Rome, or anything of the kind. That is of real importance to us to know.

And then it is of importance for us to know that 150 years after the time of Christ there was a man named Victor, who as bishop of Rome got the idea that his importance in the Christian world was pretty great, and he started in to tell the rest of the Christian world thow they had to do things. And ~~xxxx~~ Irenaeus of Frannce, one of our great Christian ~~wx~~ writers, 150 years