

a very real sense upon men who have turned to God and who follow God's purposes and God's declarations. Now I am not going to try to ~~decide~~ decide today with you, whether the rock is Peter's confession, or whether the rock is Peter. If you take the rock and Peter in the sense which I have just mentioned, it certainly does not lead to any conclusions that every follower of Christ is obligated to ~~follow~~ follow the words of the bishop of Rome. But what I want to do this morning is to call you attention to how closely knöt this passage is from v. 13 on, as far as I read you. To point out that these sections are closely tied together, and to express th you the thought that the person who stresses verse 18, has no right to neglect v. 23. V. 23 is given in close connection with this in the gospels, and we are not 3/4 something happened and something else. It is tied together in v. 21. From that time forth when this declaration was given, when this was understood, then Jesus began to put his stress on this great theme of the sacrifice of Christ and his resurrection. It is closely tied together with it, and you cannot divorce them and separate them altogether, and if we are going to learn about Peter from v. 18, we must also learn about Peter from v. 23, and I would suggest that it is a very interesting thing that any R. C. who has a R. C. Bible has not only v. 18, but also v. 23, right there in close proximity, and it is pretty hard to reconcile v. 23 with the claim which the R. C. church makes for the authority of the successors of ~~the~~ Peter. Has ever a successor of Peter been worthy to be mentioned quite in the class with Peter, that great apostle. Would any one of them claim to be as great actually as Peter himself? And yet Peter, the greatest in some ways of the apostles, one of the very first of the apostles, Peter, to whom Jesus said, Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, to this same man, Jesus said, Get thee behind me, Satan, for thou art an offense unto me, for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus to his disciples, Jesus said to the disciples, Don't follow Peter, follow me. Jesus said to the disciples, Peter is setting you a false example here. He is an offense to me, but he turned to his disciples and said if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me, not do as