

take each period as if you never knew what was ahead, and deal with it simply seeing what happened then. That of course, is the way in which hist. is unfolded. And when the church in the third century never dreamed of what would happen in the fifteenth ~~century~~ century. And naturally they couldn't take into account anything learned from the fifteenth century. But the church in the 15th cent. was tremendously influenced by what had happened in the third cent. And in the third cent. there are events which had great importance to the 15th cent., which the people of the day did not realize at all. So, for us to understand it, it is very good for us to have an idea of the whole run of ch. hist., in order to understand one particular phase of it. And I would like that we not go through it simply with each period, as if you knew absolutely nothing about what came later. But to have some idea of the whole of ch. hist., in order to see its relationship to these different periods.

For instance, in the ~~first~~ first and second cent., there were very few of those who thought of the bishop of Rome as being of any particular importance outside of Rome, very few. And men who wrote in those days, did not discuss the question is the bishop of Rome head of the universal church or not, the thought never entered their head. At least we have no evidence of it being ~~there~~ there. And ~~they were~~ they were ^{not} particularly concerned with whether Peter went to Rome, or whether he was bishop of it. Those things didn't strike them as being of great importance. But now we have an organization which claims to represent the overwhelming mass of Christians, which claims to be the true ~~church~~ church, apart from which salvation is impossible. And this group claims that from the very beginning of the Christian church, Peter had been recognized ~~and~~ and his successors, the bishops of Rome, as the infallible ~~heads~~ heads of the church, whom it was mortal sin to disobey. ~~the~~

Well, now, since ~~that~~ that claim is held today by so many people, it becomes of great importance to us to examine the evidence in those centuries, and to see what the inferences are from the statements which people wrote, or from