

February 22, 2026



**WEEK 25 – PETER’S GREAT CONFESSION (Matt. 16:13-20, pp. 195-201)**

The readings this week focus on Peter’s confession that Jesus is the Christ.

**How do people form their opinions about Jesus?**

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**Why would people have thought Jesus was “John the Baptist,” “Elijah,” “Jeremiah,” or “one of the prophets?”**

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**What does the title, “Christ”, mean and how does that clarify who Jesus is and what He came to do?**

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*“A king comes to conquest, and Jesus came to storm the gates of hell.”*  
(CFM, 197)

**How did Jesus wage war against sin, death and the devil?**

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**How does Jesus continue to wage war against His enemies today?**

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*“The church is where God’s kingdom is breaking through against the ‘domain of darkness,’ (Colossians 1:13), where the gates of hell will not prevail, where the spiritual war will be fought.” (CFM, 199)*

**Where do you see the domain of darkness at work in our community today?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does it mean that ‘the gates of hell will not prevail?’**

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**Since Christ assures us of His absolute power and victory over the domain of darkness, how should we respond when we see darkness at work?** (see Ephesians 6:10-20) \_\_\_\_\_

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**What are the keys to the kingdom?** \_\_\_\_\_

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A common objection to the absolution is that “man does not have the authority to forgive sins.” **Is this a legitimate objection?** (see Mark 2:1-12, John 20:19-23) \_\_\_\_\_

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**How are the keys rightly used?** \_\_\_\_\_

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Another objection to the absolution is that it takes all sins were already forgiven on the cross, so it is unnecessary. **Is that true?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the value of absolution in the life of the sinner?**

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**What do we lose if we reject the absolution and never ‘forgive the sins of repentant sinners’?** \_\_\_\_\_

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***For Next Time:***

*WK 26 – JESUS PREDICTS PASSION THREE TIMES (Luke 9 & 18, pp.203-209)*