



### **"In later times some will depart from the faith"**

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ isn't hard to find in the Bible (Matt 16:18; 1 Cor 3:11; Jude 3; Acts 11:26; 1 Pet 4:16; John 17:20-21; Eph 4:3-6).
- The Holy Spirit warned in the first century that this \_\_\_\_\_ would be disrupted (Acts 20:27-31; 2 Thes 2:3-4; 1 Tim 4:1-3; 2 Tim 4:1-4).
  - One of many examples from the past 2,000 years: the establishing of presiding elders, \_\_\_\_\_, dioceses, metropolitans, and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Rise of a \_\_\_\_\_, "Ruler of the world, Vicar of our Savior Jesus Christ."

### **Much-needed input from the New Testament**

- Such is never mentioned, unlike the \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 10:1-4; Eph 4:11).
- Christ alone is exalted as the \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph 1:22-23; 5:22-24), \_\_\_\_\_ priest (Heb 4:14) great \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 13:20) and \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 23:8-12) of his church.
- Was Peter the first pope? A few things to consider: Peter...
  - Never identified himself as the " \_\_\_\_\_ " of Christ (1 Pet 2:4-8; Acts 4:10-11).
  - As an \_\_\_\_\_, didn't exalt himself above other elders (1 Pet 1:1; 5:1-2).
  - Described all Christians as \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Pet 2:9).
  - Refused the \_\_\_\_\_ of his fellow man (Acts 10:25-26).
- So what did Jesus mean in Matthew 16:18 by "on this rock" and "the keys of the kingdom of heaven"?
- Thanks be to God that we are not and never will be \_\_\_\_\_! (Heb 13:8; Matt 28:18-20; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 1 Pet 5:4).