

## **Gregory and the Rise of the Papacy**

### *Medieval Church History – Session Four*

“But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.  
Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.  
And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.”  
—Matthew 23:8-10 NKJV

“The honour of a *father* is falsely ascribed to men, when it obscures the glory of God.”  
—John Calvin<sup>1</sup>

- I. Introduction
  
- II. Background to Gregory I
  - a. The Fall of the West
  
  - b. Justinian I (“the Great”)
  
- III. Gregory I (“the Great”; AD ~540-604)
  - a. Reminder about “Pope”
  
  - b. Life of Pope Gregory I
    - i. Early Life
  
    - ii. As a Deacon of Rome
  
    - iii. As Bishop of Rome (Pope)
  
  - c. Contributions of Gregory I
    - i. Administration

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<sup>1</sup> From Calvin’s commentary on Matthew 23:8.

- ii. Missions
  
- iii. Music
  
- iv. Literary Output
  - 1. *Magna Moralia* (A Commentary on Job)
  
  - 2. *Pastoral Theology*
  
- v. Theology

#### IV. Why Rome?

- a. Rome was the center of political and cultural power.
  
- b. Rome was thought to be the church Peter established.
  
- c. Rome was the recipient of the Apostle Paul's *magnum opus*.
  
- d. Rome was a church that suffered greatly under persecution.

#### V. The Development of the Papacy through the Middle Ages

#### VI. Conclusion

##### *Recommended Reading*

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Edited by John T. McNeill. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. 2 vols. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1960; IV.vii.1-22.