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Opposed to the Teaching of Christ

The Persecuting Power of Rome

Papal Tyranny nearing its End

Coming Destruction at the Hands of Christ

# CHRIST OR ROME?

## **PAPAL CLAIMS AND TEACHING DIRECTLY OPPOSED TO THE TEACHING OF CHRIST. THE PERSECUTING POWER OF ROME. PAPAL TYRANNY NEARING ITS END. COMING DESTRUCTION AT THE HANDS OF CHRIST.**

The doctrines and practices of the ecclesiastical system of Rome being so absolutely contrary to the teaching of Christ and the apostles renders it a comparatively simple matter to perceive that the Church of Rome is in no sense established of God. The Roman Church claims that

“the body of the Catholic Bishops with the Roman Pontiff at their head . . . are the lawful messengers of God, the legitimate successors of the Apostles, the witnesses and authorised expounders of Revelation; for they, in an uninterrupted succession, keep up the Apostolic office, which, according to Christ's declaration, and through the promised special assistance of the Holy Spirit, is to last to the end of time.” (Catholic Belief, p.30).

On these grounds the Roman Church claims infallibility of interpretation for the Body of Bishops and the Pope, and in place of the Authorised Version of the scriptures has issued a version known as the Douay Bible which incorporates ancient writings not received as inspired by the translators of the Authorised Version, and is accompanied with approved notes which literally withhold the key of knowledge from her adherents.

**This claim to apostolic succession and to infallibility of interpretation is an infamous deception, and is built upon what one writer describes as “the evidence of tradition and uninspired ecclesiastical writers.”**

In the first place there is no evidence to show that Peter (according to the Roman Church the beginning of the uninterrupted succession of the Apostolic office) ever founded a church (ecclesia) at Rome, and even if he did it could have no possible connection with a church that history shows clearly to have been established by the Roman State, which, whether in pagan or so-called Christian dress, waged relentless persecution against the true followers of Christ. In 2nd Thess., 2.7, Paul refers to “the mystery of iniquity” already at work in his time, and then says

“he who now letteth (hindereth) will let (hinder) until he be taken out of the way.

**And then shall that wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the Truth, that they might be saved.”

**He who hindered was Pagan Rome** which subjected the apostolic churches to great and bitter persecution, as is especially apparent from the persecution instigated by the emperor Diocletian, A.D. 303, when

“the punishment of death was proclaimed against all who should presume to hold any secret assemblies for the purpose of religious worship.”

As a result of this decree, so Gibbon the historian informs us, multitudes of professing Christians turned back and obeyed the edict of Diocletian, worshipping the State gods of Pagan Rome. But Diocletian had stirred up such disorder in the state that he was forced to abdicate, and Constantius, a Caesar who had reigned under him, together with Galerius became joint emperors of Pagan Rome. Constantius was of a mild and humane disposition and gave protection to the Christians against their pagan persecutors. He was followed by his son Constantine (also favourably disposed towards the Christians) who ruled in conjunction with three other pagan emperors, Licinius, Maximin and Maxentius. Constantine overcame these emperors in the wars which inevitably arose over the question of Paganism or Christianity, and in the last great Battle of Scutari the Roman empire was re-united under Constantine as sole emperor.

## CONSTANTINE'S CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY.

Here then we have the identification of the "mystery of iniquity" of which Paul spake.

**Constantine adopted a so-called Christianity as the State religion, a "Christianity" evolved from the leavening of apostolic teaching with the false doctrines of Romish professors of the worship of idols.**

Ancient Babylonia was a land of idols (Jer. 50, 1-3, 35-40), and when the Babylonian dynasty was superseded by the Medo-Persian (B.C. 542), Cyrus, the Persian monarch, determined to rid Babylon of its idols and priests which had made the city so infamous. The defeated Chaldeans fled to Pergamos in Asia Minor where they founded a central college, and the worship of idols continued. The Kings of Pergamos were idol-worshippers, as Belshazzar and his predecessors had been in Babylon (B.C. 600), and the last King, Attalus III. in 133 B.C. left by will his whole dominions to the Roman people, and this worship was conveyed to Rome and incorporated with the rest of the idol-worship then prevailing in Rome.

This was the position in the days of Jesus Christ who was cruelly mis-handled and put to death by the authorities of Pagan Rome, at the instigation of the Jewish Sanhedrim, who hated the Son of God because he testified that their works were evil.

In process of establishing a Catholic Christianity as the state religion, Constantine sought the support of the Christians (Catholics, Novatians, Donatists, Paulists, etc.), a mixed community the greater part of which was Christian only in name, but firmly opposed to paganism. Of these the Catholic sect obtained favour with the emperor, and was called "The Holy Catholic Church." All the other sects were opposed to a state church:—

"What," said they, "has the Emperor to do with the Church? What have Christians to do with Kings, or what have bishops to do at court?"

Hence without ceasing to be anti-pagan they now became an anti-Catholic body.

## REAL CHRISTIANS.

Within this anti-Catholic community were to be found those, spoken of in Rev. 12. 17, "which keep the commandments of the Lord, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." These were Christians indeed, true followers of apostolic teaching, who when they realised the malignant paganism that Constantine's Catholic Christianity embodied would have nothing to do with it, but opposed it to the death for Christ's sake, showing by their rigid separation that the servants of God have no connection with the kingdoms of men.

**This is the distinguishing mark of real Christians. They are strangers and sojourners in the earth like Abraham and the faithful servants of God before them (Heb. 11. 8, 13), looking for a heavenly order of things (v. 16) to be established on the earth under Christ according to God's covenant with David (2 Sam. 7. 16; Luke 1. 30-33; Psalm 72; Rev. 3. 26; Rev. 5. 9-10).**

## PERSECUTING POWER OF ROME.

Hence the system of Paganised Christianity established by Constantine, in turn subjected both anti-Catholic parties, nominal Christians and Christians indeed, to fearful persecution. This is the subject of prophecy in Revelation 17, where (v. 4) the woman "arrayed in purple (royalty) and scarlet colour (sin), and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls (merchandise of the bodies and souls of men; blood-money)" is identified in verse 9 as the woman sitting on seven mountains.

Rome is built on seven hills, and is known in history as the "City of the Seven Hills," added to which John is informed (v. 18) that the woman thus shown to him in vision "is that great city which reigneth over the Kings of the earth." This restricts the identification to Rome, since at the time that John received the revelation no other city but Rome had dominion over the Kings of the earth.

**This woman, the ecclesiastical system of Rome (Constantine's Paganised Christianity) allied to the Roman State, is represented by the most abominable of woman kind, "the mother of harlots . . . having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication" (v. 4, 5). She is seen (v. 6) drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.**

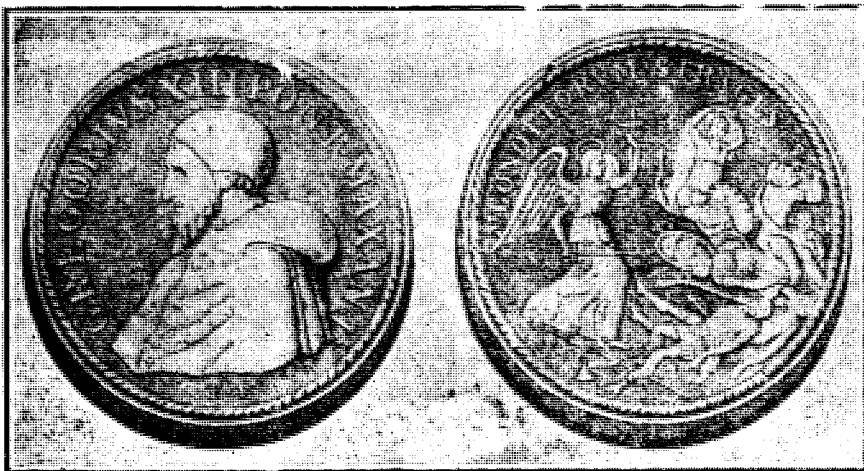
The same two parties are referred to in this community of saints and martyrs.

- (1) Christians in faith and practice, the true and faithful members of the One Body of which Christ is the Head (Eph. 2, 19-21), men and women who in common with the apostles went to prison and to death rather than disobey the commandments of the Lord, men and women who were under divine command to eschew the sword (Rev. 13, 10; Matt. 26, 52).
- (2) Those men, known since the time of Luther as Protestants, who were by no means wholly subject to the law of God in Christ, but who were ready at any time to draw the sword in defence of civil and religious liberty.

These are the two witnesses spoken of in Rev. 11, 3, who were to witness for 1,260 days or symbolic years against Constantine's Catholic Apostacy embodied in the Roman Catholic Church. They are represented as being clothed in sackcloth, a symbol of mourning typical of a persecuted community. During this time their witnessing was to be effective, but at the end of the years "when they shall have finished their testimony," "the beast (Rome) shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them" (v. 7).

Constantine's Catholic Apostacy was officially enthroned in the Roman Empire A.D. 325, but twelve years before, in A.D. 313, Constantine and Licinius published the memorable edict of toleration in favour of the Christians. We may therefore look to 1573 (313 plus 1260) as the ending for a time of the special witnessing of the two antagonists of Papal pretensions. Actually this witnessing began to end in 1572.

On August 24th of that year the dreadful "Massacre of St. Bartholomew" took place at the decree of Charles IX. of France, when it is estimated that nearly 100,000 unoffending Protestants were murdered in cold blood. **Pope Gregory XIII. celebrated the event by having a medal struck (illustrated herewith) thus owning full complicity in the dark deed, and glorying in the massacre as a triumph of the Roman Catholic Church.** On one side of the medal is the head of Gregory XIII, while on the reverse the Catholic murderers of the defenceless Huguenots are represented by an angel holding in one hand a cross and in the other a sword, killing men, women and children in the name of Christ (symbolized by the uplifted cross in his left hand). In the background is a woman representing the Roman Catholic Church with arms uplifted rejoicing at the massacre. The writing on the medal in Latin ("Ugonottorum Strages, 1572") reads—"The Slaughter of the Huguenots, 1572."



Pope Gregory XIII

Slaughter of the Huguenots, 1572

“O dark BARTHOLOMEW, thy victims slept  
 Unburied in their blood, while proudly kept  
 Rome her rejoicings, and the pealing bell  
 Of great St. Peter's swung above the swell  
 Of the triumphant anthem; and Rome sang  
 Te Deums jubilant, and joy-bells rang,  
 And STRUCK THAT MEDAL which proclaims to-day  
 The slaughter of the Huguenots! None can say  
 'Tis false; let Memory blush, let Conscience bleed,  
 Stung by the token of the dreadful deed.”

(“City of the Seven Hills.”)  
 Grattan Guinness.

**Thus has Rome in the name of Christianity continually stained the annals of history with her diabolical crimes, in an attempt to force Roman Catholicism on peoples far and wide.**

Even England, the home of liberty and freedom of conscience, where the Bible is an Open Book, has come under the heel of the Roman Harlot as witness the great Catholic persecution of the Protestants in the reign of the Catholic Queen Mary who acted in conjunction with Philip of Spain, and the Papacy.

“The last step in the complete restoration of Roman Catholicism (in England) was the revival of the persecuting statutes of Henry IV. and Henry V. Strict investigations were made, a register of heretics, or, as it was afterwards called, a ‘Black Book of Heretics,’ was kept, and those who refused to recant could be punished with death. The first victims were Rogers, prebendary of St. Paul's, and Hooper, Bishop of Gloucester, and they were followed by many others, of whom the most noted were Cranmer, Ridley and Latimer. The leaders in the persecution were Gardiner, Bonner, Cardinal Pole (acting with the authority of the Pope), and the Queen herself, and the persecutions were most severe in Sussex, Kent, and the eastern counties. **It is estimated that in three years nearly 300 persons were burnt to death at the stake.** The effect of this severity was to implant in the nation a deep hatred of Romanism.

‘You have lost the hearts of twenty thousand that were rank papists within these twelve months,’  
 Bonner wrote to the Queen. The nation was henceforth decidedly Protestant and any attempt to introduce Roman Catholicism would have roused determined opposition.”

(Normal History of England).

“Smithfield, we hear again thy moving name,  
 Thy smouldering ashes burst into a flame;  
 The Marian Martyrs burn; faggot and stake  
 And saintly flesh their smoking incense make;  
 Bishops stand scorching in the market place  
 Waist-deep in fire; now shines the lifted face,  
 And hands point heavenward! England thou didst light  
 A candle then, which burneth still, in spite  
 Of all its glooms to scare the pitchy night!”

(“City of the Seven Hills.”)

# ROMANISM

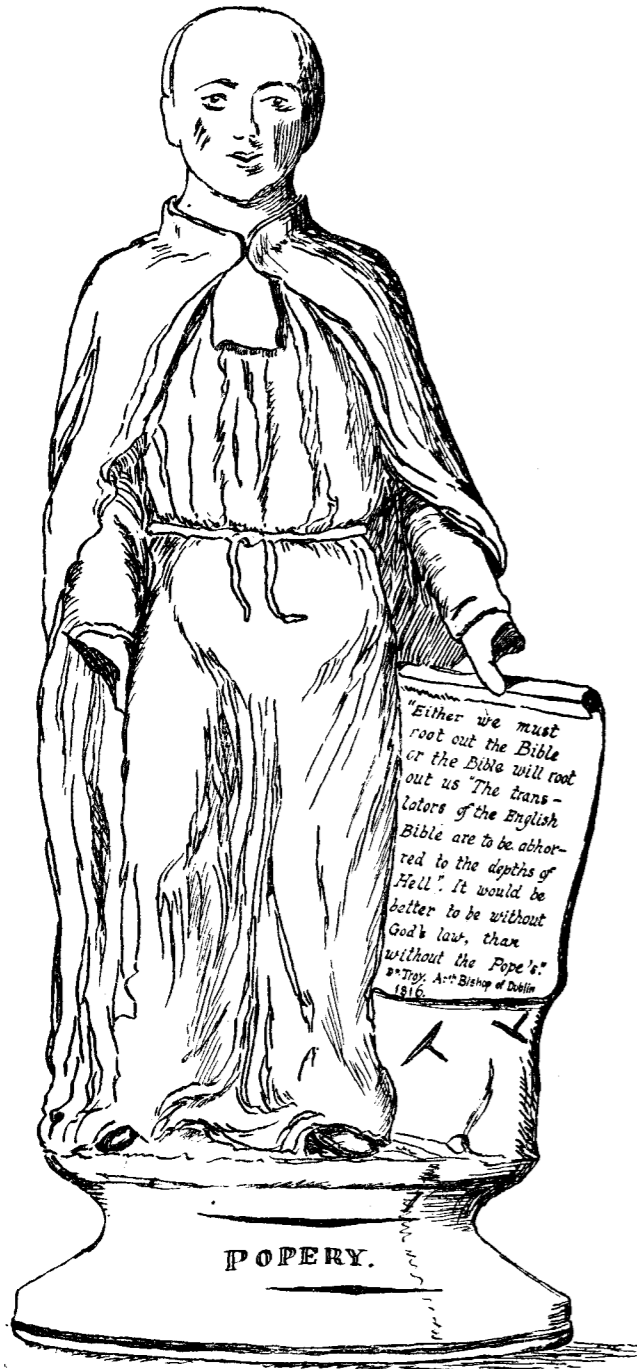
Either make the tree good, and his fruit good ;  
or else make the tree corrupt and his fruit corrupt.

For every tree is known by his fruit. . . . .  
A good tree cannot bring forth corrupt fruit,  
neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

MATT. xii., 33-35.

MATT. vii., 15-20.

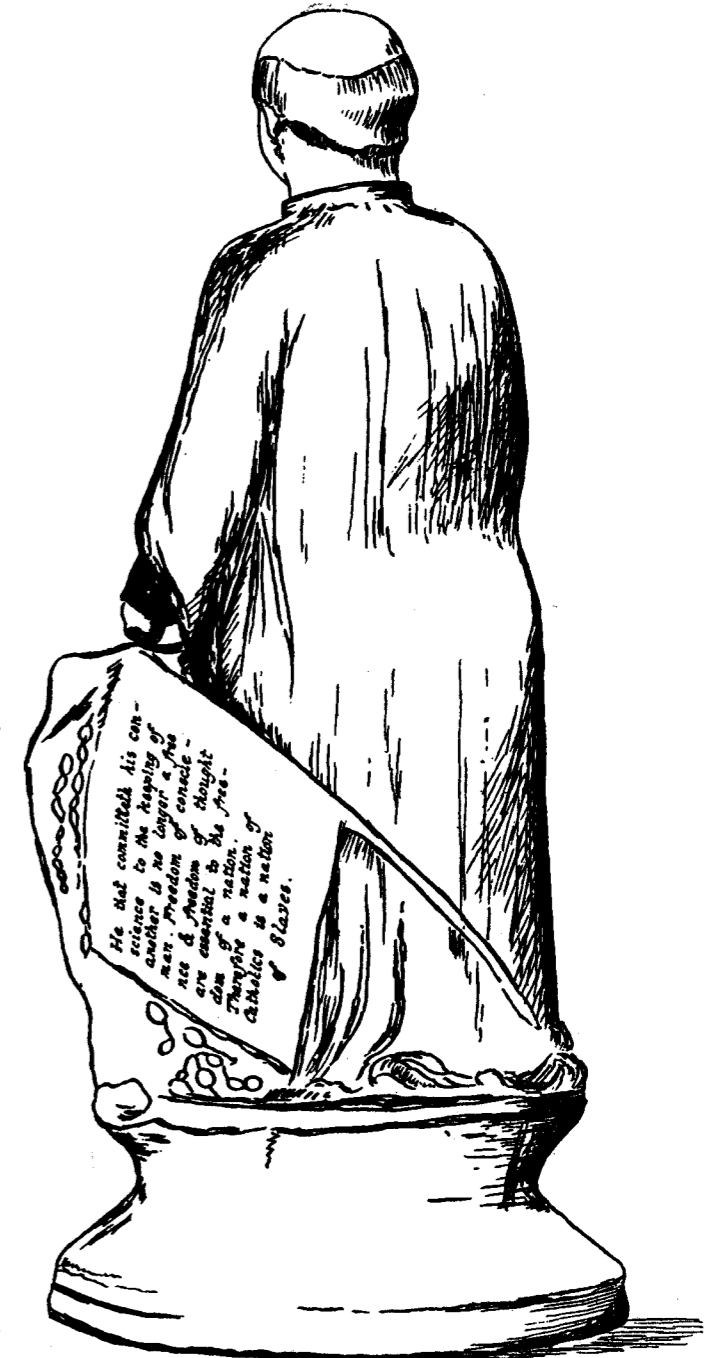


[Front View]

➔ The Tree.

Antique Staffordshire figure (9½ x 3½ ins.) probably made for the Methodists (whose activities in circulating the Bible, particularly in Ireland, had aroused the ire of Pope Pius VII.) to commemorate their conflict with the Roman Catholic Hierarchy at the beginning of the 19th Century.

(Reproduced from "The King's Estimate of the Bible," May, 1934.)



His Fruit. ➔

[Back View]

☞ To mention another period of Roman Catholic persecution who can read with equanimity of the awful cruelty perpetrated by the Duke of Alva on the defenceless Dutch when the country was overrun by the savage Spanish soldiery in a determined attempt to force Roman Catholicism on a Protestant people? The godly man is constrained to bow in thanks before God that the persecuting power of the iniquitous system of Romish ecclesiasticism has been broken.

Who can peruse the records of the Spanish Inquisition (that infamous institution set up in Spain by the Papacy in 1580 for the trial of "heretics," wherein the unfortunate victims were subjected to most diabolical tortures often ending in death) without realising that what the Papacy and pro-papal states in Europe suffered at the hands of the Napoleonic scourge was just retribution for Papal crimes committed in the name of Christianity?

" Know ye not what they did in ' Christian ' Spain,  
How blazed the fires until there did remain  
Of thousands, not a witness in the land,  
Who for the Holy Gospel dared to stand ?  
Ah ! ' tis but yesterday these very eyes  
Saw in Madrid a heap which doubt defies  
Of martyr's ashes ; saw it opened wide  
In the broad daylight ; marked how side by side  
The ashes of the saints and of the stake  
**Did still protest,** and one memorial make."  
( " City of the Seven Hills. " )

### ROME NEVER CHANGES.

" Semper Eadem " ( Always the Same ) is the boasted title of the apostate persecuting Papal Church. As a certain writer has said :

" Catholicism has learnt nothing and forgotten nothing. It is tolerant now because its strength is broken. It has been fighting for bare existence, and its demands at present are satisfied with fair play. But let it once have a numerical majority behind it and it will reclaim its old authority. **The principles on which it persecuted it still professes.**"

### DESTRUCTION OF ROME BY CHRIST.

It is written ( Rev., chapter 17 ) that the beast ( v. 12 ) *i.e.*, the secular and ecclesiastical system of Rome receives strength from confederate nations ( v. 12, 13 ) to " make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them ; for he is Lord of Lords and King of Kings ; and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful " ( v. 14 ).

**In no sense can this be said to have taken place yet, but rather the opposite, for Pagan Rome slew the Lamb of God at his first appearance on earth.** But God raised him from the dead and exalted him in immortality to His right hand there to await the time when **he, after receiving power and authority, should return to the earth to root out transgressors,** according to the parable of the nobleman going into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return ( Luke 19. 12, 27 ).

Aiding Christ in this glorious work, and acting under his instructions, are the " called, and chosen and faithful " ( Rev. 17, 14 ), the Kings and priests of the future age to be inaugurated by Christ on earth ( Rev. 5, 10 ).

They witness the utter destruction of the Roman Catholic Harlot, modern Babylon, in whom is found " the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth " ( Rev. 18. 2, 24 ).

Having in 1929 received recognition as a separate Italian State by Mussolini, the Italian dictator, and in addition claiming nearly three hundred million followers in the

world, she conceives in her heart of assuming that place amongst the nations of Europe she once held, according to a medal struck by Pope Leo XII., 1825, showing a woman seated on the globe, with a LATIN CROSS in her left hand, and a cup in her right hand, with the legend "Sedet Super Universam"—meaning "She sits above the Universe."

Prophecy requires that before her destruction she is to experience a short revival of power—in alliance with the nations of Europe (Rev. 17, 12-13)—leading her to boast

"I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow."

(Rev. 18, 7.)

But this symbolic hour of seeming triumph is brought to a swift and terrible end for  
**"Her plagues shall come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her" (Rev. 18, 8).**

### OTHER SCRIPTURAL IDENTIFICATION OF ROME.

The Truth "as it is in Christ Jesus" is in complete contrast to the Roman Catholic Faith, which is absolutely apostate. The apostle Paul writing to Timothy warns him and other believers of this "System of Apostacy," showing how it might be clearly identified.

"Now **the Spirit speaketh expressly**, that in **the latter times** some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and **doctrines of devils** (demons):

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, etc.**"  
(1 Tim., 4, 1-3).

The main characteristics spoken of in these verses are peculiar to Rome who in particular is guilty of

- (1) Doctrines of Demons.
- (2) Forbidding to marry.
- (3) Commanding to abstain from meats.

### DOCTRINES OF DEMONS.

Ancient writers reveal that many who were worshipped as demons by pagan nations had been men—princes, heroes or sages, who were deified or regarded as demons after death.

In comparing the saint-worship of Rome papal with the demon-worship of Rome pagan these writers show that it is one and the same practice, the saint-worship of Rome being the worship of the "Souls of worthy men deified after death."

"The gods of the heathen" (pagan nations), says the psalmist, "are demons" (Psalm 95, Septuagint Translation), and the apostle Paul confirms the truth of this when he applies it to the Gentiles of his time, saying, "The things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God" (1 Cor., 10, 20).

This points back to the worship of ancient Babylon whose kings were deified, *i.e.*, worshipped as gods.

☞ "Catholics believe that the Saints reigning with Christ are to be honoured and invoked, that they offer prayers to God for men, and that their relics are to be held in veneration." ("Catholic Belief.")

So that the Roman Catholic Church upholds and practises the "doctrines of demons" which Paul showed should be a distinguishing mark of the Apostacy. Pagans supplicated "departed spirits" which they called "demons"; Catholics supplicate "departed spirits" which they call saints, believing that by venerating their relics and images in observing Saints' Days, etc., they will be assured of their blessing. The doctrine and practice are one and the same thing.



The whole thing is wrong at the root and constitutes blasphemy of the Word of God since the Bible nowhere speaks of the dead being alive in any state whatsoever, *e.g.*,

“For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

For the living know that they shall die; but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.” (Eccles. 9. 4-5).

The Bible speaks of responsible dead ones as being asleep (1 Thess. 4. 13-16; Heb. 11, 13; Daniel 12. 1-2), and that they can only be awakened by Christ, the Resurrection and the Life (John 5. 28-29).

Added to this Christ is the only one alive from the dead, and he alone is the divinely constituted mediator between God and men (1 Tim., 2, 5).

#### **FORBIDDING TO MARRY.**

■ This is another feature which identifies the Roman Catholic Church with the Apostasy. The Catholic Church imposes celibacy upon her clergy as a condition of their ordination, and yet Peter (whom the Catholics claim was the first bishop of Rome) was a married man (Matt., 8, 14). The doctrine of celibacy is absolutely unscriptural as Jesus Christ himself showed when referring to the beginning:

“For this cause (because they are male and female) shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh” (Matt. 19, 4-6).

In imposing celibacy upon her clergy the Roman Catholic Church also directly opposes the words of God through the apostle Paul who concerning bishops in the apostolic churches said—

“If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.  
A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, etc.”  
(1 Tim. 3. 1-2).

or, “it behoveth a bishop to be blameless, the husband of one wife, etc.”

Therefore the Catholic Church in “forbidding to marry” imposes unscriptural and unnatural restraint upon her clergy, and moreover is again guilty of blasphemy of the Word of God.

#### **COMMANDING TO ABSTAIN FROM MEATS.**

This is yet another characteristic which distinguishes the Roman Catholic Church above all others. The practice of fasting from meats of all kinds on Friday of each week, and the adoption of set days and periods in the year for the same purpose is clearly a mark of the Apostasy foretold by Paul. Such fasting savours of the hypocritical fasting of the nation of Israel who honoured God with their lips while their heart was far from Him (Isaiah 58). In adopting the same practice while teaching lies in the name of the Lord, the Catholic Church is preparing for itself the judgments of God, which will shortly descend upon it as it did upon Israel of old.

The following table will show how completely the Roman Catholic Church has departed from the Truth, “teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matt. 15, 8-9).

**ROMISH PERVERSION OF THE SCRIPTURES.**

**ROME TEACHES,**

**THE BIBLE TEACHES,**

**NATURAL IMMORTALITY OF SOUL.**

"Words of Life," p. 41. Sections II., IV.

**MAN IS MORTAL.**

**Immortality is Conditional.**

Genesis 3, 19; Romans 5, 12; 2 Timothy 1, 10; Psalm 89, 48; 1 Timothy, 6, 15-16; 1 John 2, 17; Rev. 22, 14.

**HEAVEN-GOING AT DEATH.**

"Words of Life," p. 40, Section III.

**DEATH IS THE CESSATION OF BEING.**

**A State of Utter Unconsciousness.**

Psalm 6, 5; Psalm 146, 3-4; Ecclesiastes 9, 5-6; Isaiah 38, 18-19.

**A TRIUNE GOD.**

God, the Father } "Words of Life,"  
God, the Son } p.p. 17, 18.  
God, the Holy Ghost }

**GOD IS ONE—THE FATHER.**

Deuteronomy 6, 4; Isaiah 45, 5; 1 Corinthians 8, 6; 1 Timothy 2, 5; Mark 12, 29.

**"THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON."**

"Words of Life," p. 18, Section II.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE POWER OF GOD.**

Psalm 139, 7-10; Job 33, 4; Psalm 104, 30; Acts 1, 5-8; Judges 14, 6; Job 26, 13; 2 Peter 1, 21; Acts 8, 17-19.

**THE IMMACULATE NATURE OF CHRIST.**

"The Divine nature of Jesus is one and the same as that of the Eternal Father, and of the Holy Spirit, and His human nature is in all things like ours, sin and tendency to sin excepted."  
(Catholic Belief, p.8.)

**JESUS WAS OF OUR NATURE,**

notwithstanding the mode of His conception and His anointing with the Holy Spirit. He was raised up as a Second Adam (constituted of flesh and blood as we are and tempted in all points like unto us, yet He did not sin) to remove by obedience, death, and resurrection, the evil consequences resulting from the disobedience of the First Adam. Hebrews 2, 14-18; Hebrews 4, 15; Romans 8, 3.

**INFANT BAPTISM.**

"Catholic Belief," p. 58. "In Baptism all infants . . . heirs of the Kingdom of heaven."

**BAPTISM IS AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE**

required of all who believe the Gospel that Jesus Christ and the Apostles taught. Mark 16, 15-16; Acts 8, 12; 2, 38-41; 1 Peter 3, 21; Romans 6, 3-6.

**A KINGDOM BEYOND THE SKIES.**

See Proposition II.; and "Catholic Belief" p. 185, paragraph (ii).

**CHRIST WILL REIGN ON THE EARTH.**

in accordance with God's promise to David (2 Samuel 7, 10, 16, 28-29); confirmed by the Angel Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1, 30-33). See also Daniel 2, 44; Psalm 2, 8-9; Zech. 14, 9; Matthew 19, 28.

**THAT ONLY ACCEPTANCE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC TEACHING WILL BRING SALVATION.**

"Catholic Belief," p. 217, paragraph 7.

**THAT ONLY BELIEF IN, AND OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL THAT CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES PREACHED WILL BRING SALVATION.**

Mark 16, 15-16; Romans 1, 16; 2 Timothy 4, 7-8; Rev. 2, 26-27.

**" BE YE SEPARATE." (2 Cor. 6, 17).**

Strict separateness from Rome is enjoined in Rev. 18, 4. This is a general warning [to discerning people both Jew and Gentile. lest they should be engulfed in the catastrophe which awaits Rome at the hands of Christ—"therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death and mourning and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her" (v. 8).

"Rejoice over her (destruction), thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all" (v. 20-21).

**The apostles and prophets, and men of like precious faith, are representative of the true church of Christ, the One Body, of which Christ is the Head.**

Christ calls the faithful members thereof his "friends" (John 15, 14), because they do his commandments, enduring unto the end "that they may have right to the tree of life" (Rev. 22, 14).

Since the time that Christ was on earth God has been taking out of the Gentiles a people for His Name (Acts 15, 14). This is done through the preaching of the **gospel** which is **the glad news concerning the coming Kingdom of God upon the earth.**

Christ commanded the disciples

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16, 15-16).

Where then men receive the teaching of the gospel with thankfulness of heart, and affectionately and faithfully embrace it as a matter of faith, realising the need for redemption from a nature under sentence of death (Gen. 3, 19; Rom. 5, 12) the seed of the Kingdom may be said to have fallen on good ground where it will germinate, and if carefully nourished by the Word of God, will produce fruit to the glory of God, and the eternal well-being of the recipient thereof.

"He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap Life Everlasting" (Gal. 6, 8).

R. H. LANDER.‡

You are earnestly invited to send to any of the addresses below for a 56-page booklet, **"A Declaration of the Truth,"** which sets forth the **Gospel of the Kingdom as taught by Christ and the Apostles in the 1st Century.**

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MR. W. S. BASSETT, "Sidley," 192 Long Lane, Bexley Heath, Kent.

MR. L. J. BENNETT, "The Flats," Wetherby Road, Knaresborough, Yorks.

MR. H. C. GATES, 91 Durbar Avenue, Foleshill, Coventry.

MR. D. H. SPUFFORD, 64 Broome Manor Lane, Swindon.

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