



The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

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June 18th, 2006

Which One Will You Take Your Stand With? Part II

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Last week we looked at the views on church authority. Some people look to creed books rather than the Bible only. Many look at these books to give them guidance in their work and worship. This week let us examine the Roman Catholic faith.

(1) Look at the Roman Catholic faith attitude toward the Bible. The Roman Catholic faith teaches two sources of revelation today are the Bible and traditions. Please notice this quote from one of their own books: "It is affirmed that the Bible, sacred tradition, and the teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the other" (The Documents of Vatican II, p. 118). The Catholics say the scriptures and traditions, but God said scripture, and God's word alone is all-sufficient. The Roman Catholic faith is making exactly the same mistake as the Pharisees did: "And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:9). They love to think of men above that which is written, and this is a violation of the scripture (1 Cor. 4:6). They love to change the truth into a lie (Rom. 1:25). Many Catholics have been deceived by the hierarchy of that faith by saying the traditions are as good as God's word, but notice what God thinks about the traditions

of men: "And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men: but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15). Regarding traditions of men He further said, "Every plant which my heavenly Father planted not, shall be meted up" (Matt 15:13). And the apostle Paul warned, "Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (Col. 2:8). "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Pet. 4:11). Human wisdom along with human traditions and human philosophy are all condemned. The only reliable source of God's words is in the writings of the apostles and prophets called the Bible.

(2) Purgatory: That there is a place where the dead go to suffer punishment in order to be purified. Notice what the Catholics advocate about purgatory: The state in which souls exist for a time after death to work out the temporal punishment due to venial sins or forgiven mortal sins. The soul is purified in this state to prepare it for its entrance into the delights of heaven and the Beatific Vision. "It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for

the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins” (2 Mac. 12:46)

We should first observe that this false teaching is based on apocryphal book which is not considered to be inspired Scripture except by the Catholic-oriented religious groups. Judas Maccabeus was not an inspired man. But what does the Bible say regarding sin remaining and needing to be burned away in punishment for the believer? Paul said, “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him (Christ)” (Rom 5:9). And again he said, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1). When one becomes a Christian, he is cleansed of his sins in water baptism, and is just by the blood of Christ, saved from the wrath of God, and under no condemnation. The scriptures are clear on that, and the Christian need not go to his grave with sin. In fact, he must not.

The Bible teaches that when a Christian sins he must repent of sin and pray to the Lord for forgiveness (Acts 8:22). He confesses his sin to God and the blood of Christ keeps on cleansing him of sin (1 Jno. 1:7-9). Christ is the propitiation for our sins (1 Jno. 2:1-2). He appeases the wrath of God and covers our sin. We do not face God laden with sins. Also, the case of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:20-31, the great gulf, and no crossing hence or thence, reverse’s the Catholic idea of praying to the saints to get souls out of purgatory. The doctrine of purgatory is an invention of the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic faith, it is false and the Bible does not teach or indicate any such place.

(3) Auricular Confession: The priest, in the place of God, can forgive sin and give the sinner some act to do to remove the temporal sin. It is not enough to repent and pray like the Bible teaches (Jas. 5:16; Acts 8:9-24). Why not follow the Bible, and confess only to God through Christ our Advocate? (1 Jno. 2:1-2).

(4) The Perpetual Virginity of Mary: It is taught

that Mary, after the virgin birth, never had children. But the Bible, clearly taken for what it says, shows the opposite. Her children are listed in Matthew 13:55-56. So, the doctrine of perpetual virginity of Mary is a human tradition.

Also, they worship Mary, that Mary is immaculate, the mother of God, spouse of the Holy Spirit. Look carefully at these scriptures: (Lk. 1:47 2:22; Jno. 2:3-5; Ex. 20:4).

(5) To call a man father: There is the custom of calling the priest “father.” But Jesus said, “And call no man your father on the earth; for one is your Father, even he who is in heaven” (Mat 23:9). It is a sin to wear a religious title as that which separates one Christian from another. Jesus clearly condemned religious titles such as Reverend, Priest, Bishop and Pope.

(6) The Lord’s Supper: Transubstantiation. Transubstantiation means to “change into another substance.” This is one of the cardinal doctrines of the Roman Catholic faith. They call this the sacrifice of the mass. They believe that the bread and the wine were changed into the literal body and blood of Christ at I “mass” when the priest would say the words of consecration, this is my body. The Bible does not teach this view, it is man made in origin. If this were true, would not this make them a group of cannibals?

Note that Christ was not yet crucified when he instituted the Lord’s Supper - “This is my body.” It could not have been literal. The Lord’s Supper, as portrayed in the Scriptures is not a sacrament, but a memorial. Our Lord said, “This do in remembrance of me”(Lk. 22:19; 1 Cor 11:24). As Christians eat that bread and drink of that cup, they “do show the Lord’s death till he come” (I Cor. 11:26). The Lord’s Supper, therefore, looks backward to His death, forward to His coming, and inward as a man examines himself in connection with the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:28).

The Roman Catholic doctrine is not Bible doctrine. We ask that you reason with us on the Bible only!