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500 Years after Luther!

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On October 31, 2017, it will be 500 years ago since Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg. These 95 theses revealed some of the Catholic Church's unbiblical traditions and teachings. People are amazed that a single man would dare to do such a thing. Imagine speaking against Rome - one man against an entire system.

The 95 theses were spread throughout all Germany and the rest of the world in a very short period of time. People quickly understood that the Catholic Church promoted many unbiblical teachings and traditions,

and therefore joined Luther's camp. Many lively debates resulted and the 95 theses caused people to think differently on their own.

Only the priesthood had the Bible; they were looked up to by the people. They were trusted to convey the word of God correctly. Martin Luther, with his 95 theses and preaching, revealed that priesthood's traditions and teachings were not in harmony with the Bible's teachings. There quickly arose two distinct camps - the Catholic Church vs. the teachings of Luther. Because Luther held fast to his findings



Luther before the Diet in Worms, April 1521.

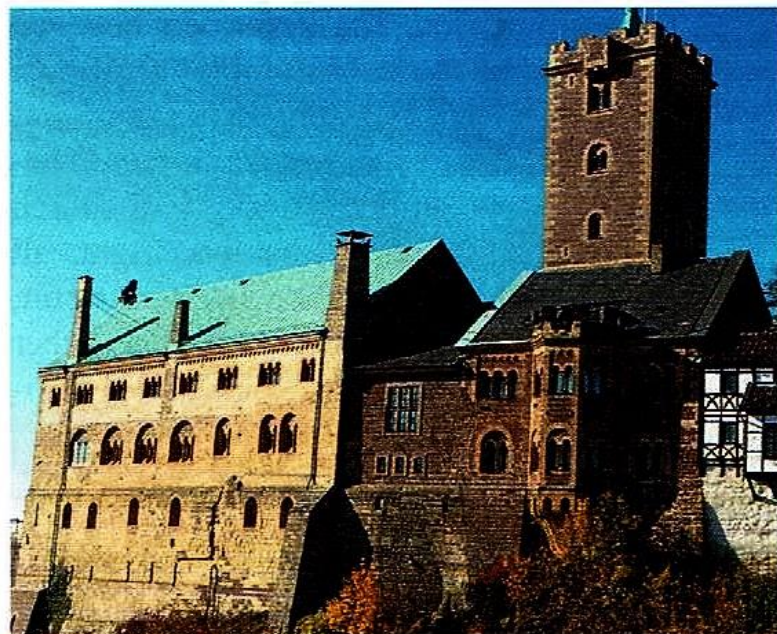
and to his teachings, he was ultimately summoned to appear before the Diet of Worms. The Diet wanted him to conform to the norms of the day and to renounce all that he had said and done. Nonetheless, Luther said: *"Prove from the writings of the prophets and apostles that I have erred. As soon as I am convinced of this, I will retract every error, and be the first to lay hold of my books and throw them into the fire."* He continued: *"I cannot submit my faith either to the pope or to the councils, because it is clear as the day that they have frequently erred and contradicted each other. Unless therefore I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture or by the clearest reasoning, unless I am persuaded by means of the passages I have quoted, and unless they thus render my conscience bound by the word of God, I cannot and I will not retract, for it is unsafe for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand, I can do no other; may God help me. Amen."* (D'Aubigné, book 7, chap. 8).

Protest by the Christian princes

Emperor Charles V wanted to stop Luther and the Reformation. He called for the Diet of Spire in 1529, much to the pleasure of the pope's men. Here it was decided to prevent the Reformers from spreading their teachings. It was furthermore decided that the Reformers should not come into conflict with, nor go against, the mass, and that not a single Catholic be allowed to adopt Luther's teaching.

Those Christian princes, who were positive about the Reformation, decided to reveal their protest before the national council. They wrote, among other things:

"We neither consent nor adhere in any manner whatsoever to the proposed decree, in anything that is contrary to God, to His holy word, to our right conscience, to the salvation of our souls... We are resolved, with the grace of God, to main-



Castle of Wartburg, mountain fortress where the reformer wrote many tracts circulated throughout Germany and translated the New Testament into the German language.

tain the pure and exclusive preaching of His only word, such as it is contained in the biblical books of the Old and New Testaments, without adding anything thereto that may be contrary to it." (D'Aubigne, book 13, chap. 6).

Their Protest gave to the reformed church the name of Protestant; its principles are the very essence of Protestantism.

With what authority?

Martin Luther and the Reformers were of the opinion that the Christian should follow the Bible and the Bible alone, when discussing faith and teaching. The Catholic Church on the other hand said that one should follow the Bible *and* tradition.

On this point, the breach was very clear.

The Catholic Church said that Luther and the Reformers should conform to the church's and the state's conclusions. The Reformers said they would only do so if their conclusions were not in opposition to the word of God. The Reformers believed that they had the right to follow their own conscience when dealing with faith and teaching. Rome, on the other hand, believed that when the majority in a church council had decided what was right, all should abide by their decision. As a result, each individual was to take a stand: either God's word alone, or the church's teachings (tradition) alongside the Bible.

Persecution

Because the Reformers would not bow down to Rome, the Catholic Church began persecuting them. The Reformers had gone against Rome's authority and they were now to be done away with. Old history books, which are very rare today, tell of a gruesome persecution. Many of the Reformers were cast into prison under inhumane circumstances, others were persecuted in lonely places in the Alps, others were given to wild animals, many others were tortured under the Inquisition, while others died by the sword. The stories about the Catholic Church's gruesome persecutions and punishments shook the world before and after Luther's time. Many of the Reformers received threats and were banned by the pope. When banned by the pope, anyone could kill them. Many of the Reformers were burned at the stake – as was Hieronymus, Jan Hus, Louis de Berquin, William Tyndale and many others. The body of John Wycliffe was exhumed and the bones were burned and the ashes

thrown into a nearby river. In England alone, there were 289 protestants burned at the stake during the reign of Catholic Queen Mary 1 from 1555-1558. In connection to this, it is noteworthy to see what Jesus said: *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."* (Matthew 25:40). The Catholic Church and its leaders have much for which they will be held accountable! Fortunately, it is God who will take care of this. He sees all things and He will judge righteously. It is worthwhile to think about this in connection with this verse: *"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."* (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

It is clear that there is forgiveness for all sins, if one repents, confesses his sin and asks for forgiveness, but we have never read or heard about the Catholic Church going before the cross, repenting and confessing all the gruesome persecution, torture and killing of people who had a different faith before, during and after Luther's time.

Think about it. The Catholic Church ordered the burning of people just because they had a different faith? Think about how the gruesome torture people endured under the Inquisition – just because they had a different faith? Consider those who died by the sword – just because they had a different faith? Think about those who were exiled, banned from society – just because they had a different faith; and the list could go on and on. At the same time, this church organisation is to be considered to be Christian. Does such behaviour have anything to do with Christ? No, it is none other than the Devil and Satan who is behind such

gruesome doings. It was not just for one day, or one month or one year that these gruesome events took place, but over several hundreds of years. It is also noteworthy that the former pope Benedict XVI was the leader of the Inquisition up until 2005. Today, the Inquisition has a new name – Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The current leader of the Congregation is Archbishop Gerhard Ludwig Müller.

The Reformers offered everything for God's cause. Even at the stake they witnessed for Jesus. What about ourselves: Do we realize what Jesus has done for us? Do we realize His great love and grace toward us? Do we offer all for God's sake?

Love your enemies

If we compare Jesus with the papacy, which has hunted down people who were of another faith, He says: *"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."* (Matthew 5:44).

What a completely different spirit from that of the papacy! God has created us with a free will so that everyone can make personal choices regarding religious issues. We should not force people to believe as I do or as you do. All should have the right to worship God according to their own conscience. It is wrong when imprisonment, torture and the sword are used to compel obedience. There is a big difference between killing ones enemies and loving them! God's children will love their enemies. Jesus, our Creator and Sustainer, loves all (John 1:3; Colossians 1:17). Jesus says: *"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you*

rest." (Matthew 11:28). He also says: *"All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."* (John 6:37). Jesus desires that we all shall come to understand the truth and be saved.

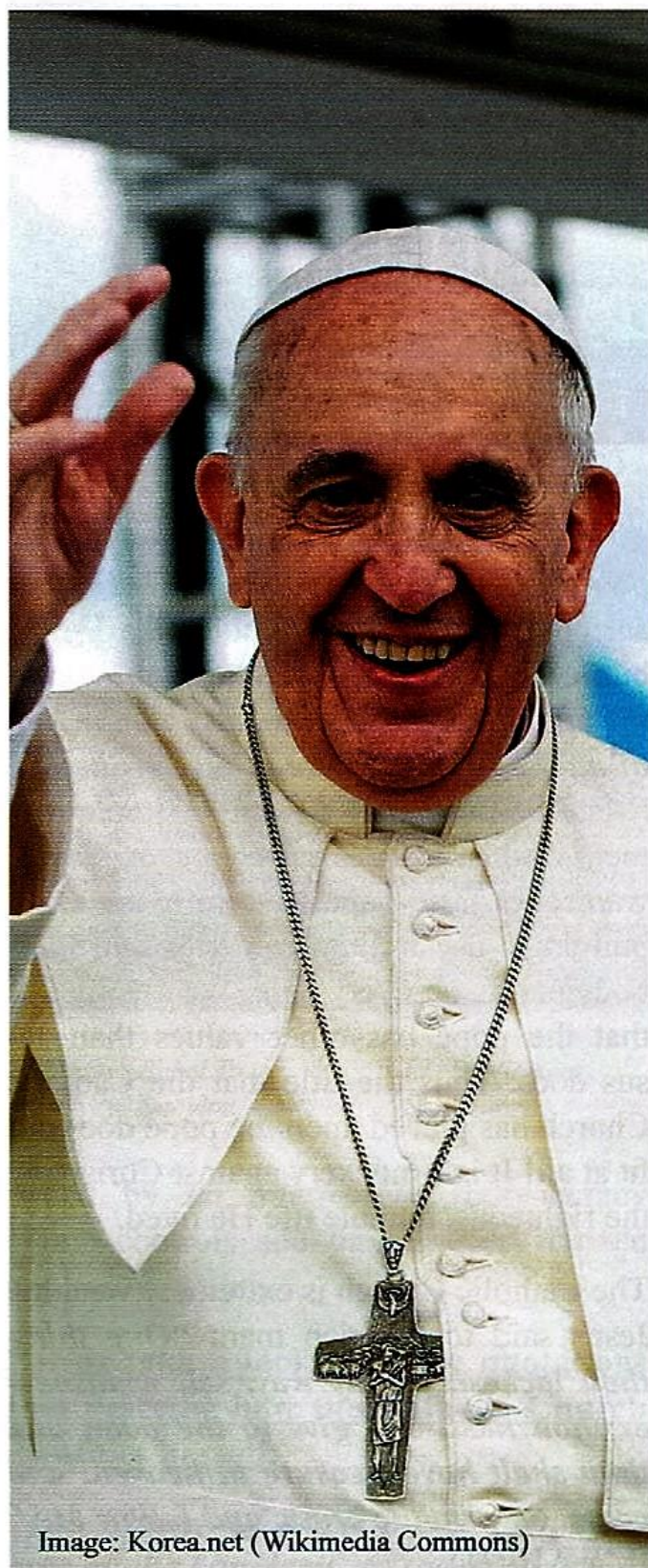


Image: Korea.net (Wikimedia Commons)

Is the pope Jesus' representative?

The pope sees himself as the Vicar of Christ on earth, but all should see that the



Seat of pope in the Vatican

popes do not represent Christ. The popes surround themselves with pompous display but Jesus said: ***"The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head."*** (Matthew 8:20). Jesus wore a simple garment while the popes have huge, expensive wardrobes. The popes live in extravagant buildings, use millions on trips and have bodyguards on every side. We clearly see that the pope has other values than Jesus does. Thus the title that the Catholic Church has placed upon the pope does not fit at all! It is a mockery against Christ and the righteous, humble life He lived.

The Catholic Church is extremely wealthy. Jesus said to the rich man: ***"One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."*** (Mark 10:21).

Since the Vatican has such enormous wealth, the pope himself should also follow this appeal, if he claims to be the humble Saviour's representative.

Martin Luther knew the Catholic Church from the inside and said: ***"It is a horrible thing to behold the man who styles himself Christ's vicegerent, displaying a magnificence that no emperor can equal. Is this being like the poor Jesus, or the humble Peter? He is, say they, the lord of the world! But Christ, whose vicar he boasts of being, has said, 'My kingdom is not of this world.' Can the dominions of a vicar extend beyond those of his superior?"*** D'Aubigne, book 6, chap. 3).

Global power

Many believe that the Catholic Church has changed since committing its horrendous acts during the time of the Reformation – but she has not changed. She has the same dogmas and teachings she has always had. She has merely clothed herself in Christian garments to be accepted. Now that she has been accepted and received power again, not just in the EU, but also globally, we will soon see what the papacy stands for. Just as she used the power of the state during the time of the Reformers, she will use the state and the international laws to aid in regaining power in our time.

Pope Paul VI wrote in a section entitled: ***Toward an Effective World Authority: "This international collaboration on a worldwide scale requires institutions that will prepare, co-ordinate, and direct it until finally there is established an order of justice which is universally recognised. Who does not see the necessity of thus***

establishing progressively a world authority capable of acting effectively in the judicial and political sectors.” – Pope Paul VI Populorum Progressio 1967,78.

Then the question arises: Which institutions is the Catholic Church working together with, in order to establish a new global order? I think we can all see them, through UN, EU, NATO, The African Union, IMF and so on.

The former pope Benedict XVI issued a decisive appeal to world leaders in his recent encyclical, stating: ***“There is an urgent need of a true world political authority, to manage the global economy with God-centred ethics...to end the current worldwide financial crisis.”*** - by Cathy Lynn Grossman, USA Today, 7/7/2009.

We must not forget that the Catholic Church desires to be a universal power. She wishes to have global control. It is Catholics who started the EU and it is the Vatican who is behind the idea of a New World Order. It is the international laws that are to govern in the New World Order and thereby gain power – global power.

In his bestselling book *The Keys of This Blood*, the Jesuit Professor and Vatican insider, Malachi Martin, revealed it all:

“Willing or not, ready or not, we are all involved in an all-out, no-holds-barred, three-way global competition. Most of us are not competitors.... We are the stakes.... the competition is about who will establish the first one-world system of government that has ever existed in the society of nations. It is about who will hold and yield the dual power of AUTHORITY AND CONTROL OVER EACH OF US AS INDIVIDUALS AND OVER ALL OF

US TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY... in the third millennium.... now that it has been started, there is no way it can be called off.... our way of life as individuals and as citizens... even the badges of our national identity... will have been powerfully and radically altered forever. No one can be exempted from its effects. No sector of our lives will remain untouched.” [Emphasis supplied] - Malachi Martin, *Keys of This Blood: Pope John Paul II Versus Russia and the West for Control of the New World Order* (1991), pp. 12-16).

Martin says the Pope will be “the victor in that competition.” On page 341 of his book, Malachi Martin makes it clear that this one-world government will be “dom-



Analogy: Babel Tower
Babylon

EU Parliament
Strasbourg

inated by an international bureaucracy which controls and directs every citizen and every nation...

Let us take a look at a few quotations that describe how the Catholic Church identifies herself:

“The Church of Rome is one monarchy over all the kingdoms, as the mind and of

the body, or as God in the world. Therefore, the Church of Rome must not only have the spiritual power, but also the supreme temporal power." (Pope Leo XIII, Apostolic Letter, 1879). Pope Gregory reiterated this view, when he said, *"The power of the Church is superior to the power of the state."* Dr. G. F. van Schulte, professor of canonical law, states: *"All human power is from evil and must therefore be standing under the Pope."* (T. W. Callaway: *Romanism vs. Americanism*, p. 120).

These references make it very clear that this political church is working toward gaining power by controlling governments and state powers. The Roman Catholic Church is working based upon the idea "de jure divino", a Latin phrase which means that the church has the holy right to rule over the entire world, powers, and people. It claims to have received this right from God Himself and will use all means to reach this goal – global domination.

Dr. Brorson, a renowned Catholic authority, once wrote: *"The pope has the right to pronounce sentence of deposition against any sovereign, when required by the good of the spiritual order... the power of the church exercised over sovereigns in the Middle Ages was not usurpation, was not derived from the concessions of princes or*

the consent of the people, but was and is held by divine right, and he who resists it, rebels against the king of king and lord of lords." (*Catholic Review*, June 1851).

Although this was written long ago, the Church of Rome says that it never changes. Dr. Brorson confirmed this position: *"What the Church has done, what she has expressed or tacitly approved in the past, that is exactly what she will do, express or tacitly approve in the future, if the same circumstances occur."* (*Catholic Review*, January 1854).

We will see that all types of rebellion against this power in these end times, as well as lack of recognition of the church's authority, will be punished, also by the EU.

Before the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), the Catholic Church called those of other faiths heretics. Since this Council, the heretics are now seen as separated brethren. The Catholic Church says she alone has the truth and that there is no salvation outside of their church.

The ecumenical movement

The Catholic Church today is trying to unite all church denominations through the ecumenical movement. They have asked the Jesuits in Rome to create a dialogue



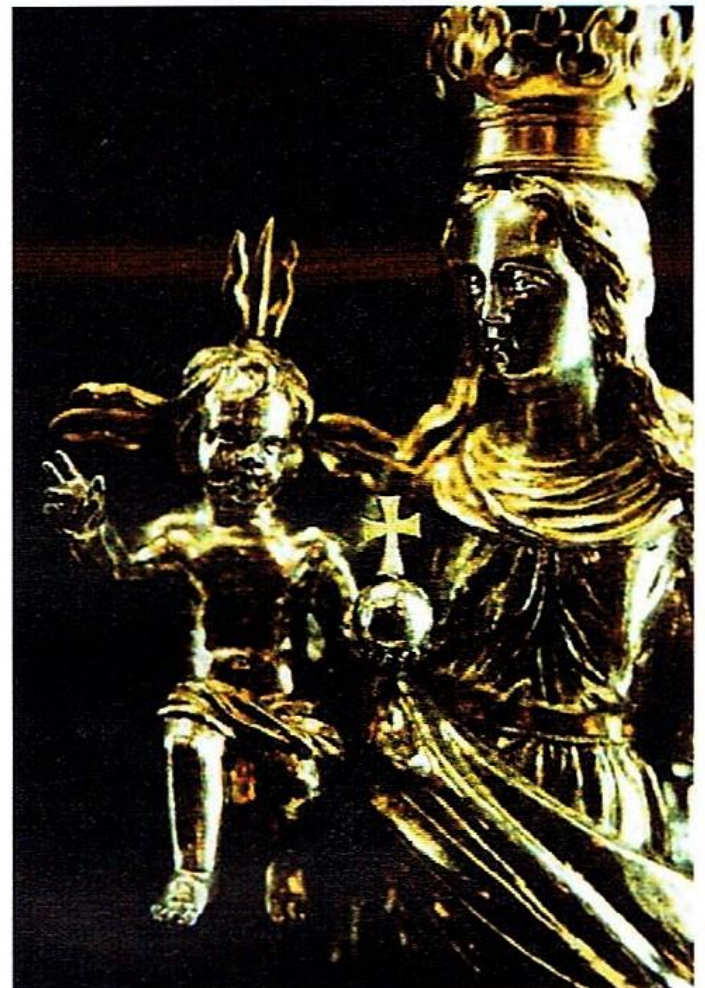
Purpose of ecumenical movement – unity of all religions.

between the church denominations in trying to gather them under the Catholic Church. We can see that there has been a change. The Catholic Church has not changed its doctrines, but it is Protestantism that has come closer to Rome.

Charta Oecumenica is the title of the preferred document they use in the ecumenical movement and it is clear from this document that they desire to work and do missionary work together. They seek unity upon those things they can agree and those things they disagree on are put aside. Jesus Christ desires that we shall come to unity in Him on all levels. Not a unity based upon democracy and majority vote, but on unity in Christ. Unity in the faith of Jesus – on all levels. If we cannot be one with the church councils, we must then follow Christ.

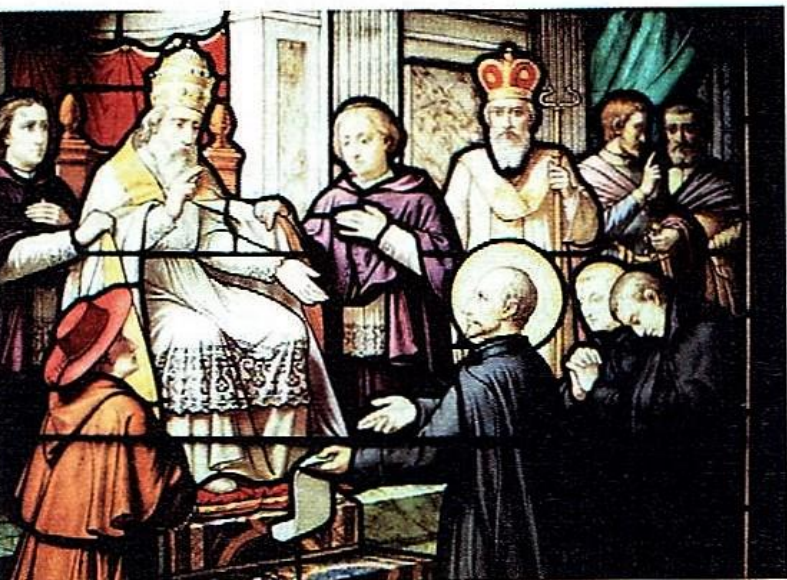
Those who do mission work, independent of a church denomination, are looked upon as offshoots or a type of traitor – and traitors are to be dealt with. Luther, Melancton, Tyndale, Calvin, Wycliffe, Hieronymus, Wesley, Hus, Zwingli, Berquin, the Waldensians and other were considered to be traitors. The ‘traitors’ desired to have the Bible and the Bible alone as the basis of their faith. As we have seen, the Catholic Church was determined to stop and do away with the traitors (Reformers) during the Middle Ages. Traitors today, the Reformers of today, are against the ecumenical movement. The ecumenical movement of today wants the Bible and tradition as the norm, while Reformers of today continue in the path of Luther and the Reformers of his time, having the Bible and Bible alone as the foundation of faith and teaching.

The Bible declares quite clearly that this persecuting power would receive a deadly wound and that the wound be healed. The papacy received a deadly wound in 1798, when Pope Pius VI was taken prisoner by Napoleon’s General Berthier and later died as a prisoner in France. The papacy received the Vatican state back again in 1929 through Mussolini and since that time has gained greater power and influence in the world. Pope John Paul II travelled around the world and established diplomatic ties with one country after another. Pope Benedict XVI continued his work, and now



Madonna with Child, a sculpture full of catholic symbols. Christ’s hand with three fingers up, as He should be a catholic. He has a globe in his hand, and the catholic cross on the top of the globe. It seems that Christ cooperate with the Catholic Church to rule with them over the whole world.

the new Jesuit pope, Pope Francis, continues to gather all regions of the world under the papacy's banner through the



Part of stained glass window in castle Loyola, Spain. Approval of Jesuits order by Paul the III in 1540 Rome.

ecumenical movement, in trying to gain unity with those who have deviated. In order to accomplish this, they legislate international laws – political, religious and economic/financial laws. The international laws are to be above national/local law and it is because of this that they can influence nations and people. Laws govern nations and when a nation is subject to international laws that are made by the globalists, who work for the New World Order, then that nation surrenders its independence and sovereignty. This development takes place on the political, religious and economic/financial level. It is a gradual occupation that takes place over many years – it is a development that takes place gradually and unnoticed. Soon those who are not loyal towards the international laws, whether the state's or church's laws, will be looked upon as insubordinate citizens. They will be subject to punishment and other forms of discipline. The papacy's abuse of power will be seen again, but the big surprise will be that those

who once protested against their abuse of power will now be their allies (Revelation 13:11-17). It is the Bible that reveals this and we believe in the word of God.

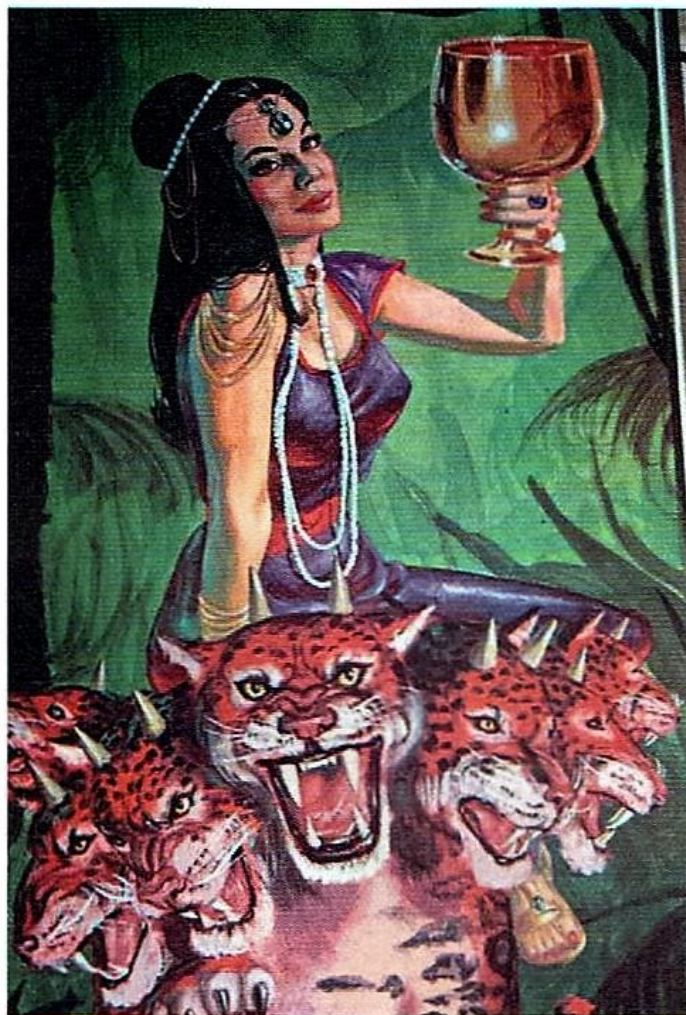
Rome never changes

Is it surprising to you that Protestants are now extending their hand toward Rome and are working together with Rome? It is clear that Protestants have forgotten how Rome persecuted those of other faiths as in the time of Luther. As we have seen, there were many who were imprisoned, persecuted and tortured because of their faith. So if we don't know our history or our Bible, we will not know what will happen in the future. Rome never changes and history repeats itself. The Catholic Church has just clothed itself in the garments of Christianity. This system today is a wolf in sheep's clothing. They operate with a white and black pope. The white pope charms the masses with all his pomp and wealth, while the other pope, the leader of the Jesuits, works in secret, in darkness. It is the Jesuits who are the Vatican's secretly trained soldiers. In accordance with the Jesuit oath, they shall create war in order to destroy governments and thereby have that regime align itself with theirs. They are encouraged to infiltrate other denominations and be a Lutheran amongst the Lutherans, a Baptist amongst the Baptists, a Pentecostal amongst Pentecostals, an Adventist amongst Adventists, etc. Through education they can gain position and through these positions influence that denomination to take part in the ecumenical movement. They are completely loyal toward the pope and if they wish and if it is necessary, use the sword's edge or any other form of weapon to accomplish their goal.

Those who read the Jesuit oath, which they swear to the pope before they begin their duty, will come to understand this. (See www.endtime.net - The Elite Tightens the Grip). Most Protestants close their eyes to Rome's ingenuous strategy in order to come into unity within the religious world.

Day of celebration

Now that they will celebrate the Reformation and Martin Luther's 500th anniversary, one could imagine a revival of the Reformation spirit and people be reminded about Martin Luther's battle against the Catholic Church. But the fact is that Protestantism is nearly completely dead today. In this celebration it may be possible to hear that, during Luther's time, there were some people who were dissatisfied with the sys-



tem during that time and that the Reformation was a result of misunderstanding, bitterness and insignificant conflicts. We are now in a new era. Everything has changed. Now we would like to have unity and not disunity. We will see that both Catholic and 'Protestant' church leaders will engage in efforts to achieve unity instead of conflict, and in many places 'Protestant' Church leaders, together with Catholic Church leaders, will arrange ecumenical gatherings in many different places and celebrate Luther - also with the Jesuit Pope Francis. The Bible says that they will be so united that *they have one mind*, but the Bible reveals that these powers war **against** Christ and those who faithfully stand on the side of Christ. (Revelation 17:12-14).

The ecumenical movement gathers both Catholics and Protestants around the same table. We repeat: Unity is a good thing, but it should be unity in Christ and not based upon majority decisions and religious lobbying. Jesus said: *"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."* (John 17:21).

It should not be unity for unity's sake, but unity in Christ.

If Luther were alive and could see how they would celebrate his reformation together, he would reprimand both Catholics and apostate Protestants. It is apostate protestants who are flirting with Rome.

We see that the Holy Scripture is fulfilled, for example, *"and all the world wondered after the beast [papacy], and for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy [papal] sorceries were all nations deceived."* (Revelation 13:3 and



Catholic celebration of the eucharist

18:23). The papacy uses sorcery, which is so clever that the majority have no clue about what is taking place. But when they have succeeded in gaining all to go along with their international strategy and law-making, they will then persecute those who are opposed and reveal their false teaching and strategy – just as they persecuted Luther, Hieronymus, Wycliffe, Hus, Berquin, Zwingli and many others.

Has the Catholic Church changed?

Now after 500 years after Luther we ask: Has the Catholic Church changed? No! The Catholic Church continues to promote unbiblical teachings and traditions. Let us take a look at a few of these:

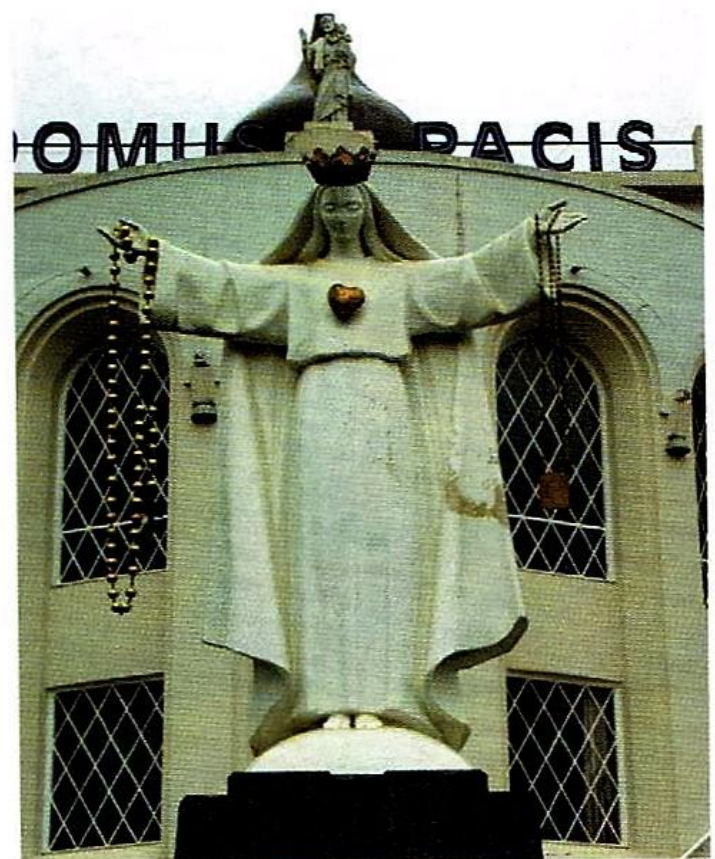
1 theses:

The Catholic Church believes that the pope is Jesus' vicar on earth. [A vicar is a stand-in, a deputy.] The Bible on the other hand says that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit

to take His place. (John 14:16-17). They believe that Peter was the first pope, but imperfect Peter could not be the Vicar of Christ. Jesus said: ***"Upon this rock I will build my church"*** (Matthew 16:15-18). The Greek word for "this rock" = Petra. The word **Petra** means **rock**. The original Greek for the word Peter = Petros, which means stone or rolling stone. It is upon Christ we shall build our church upon and not upon an imperfect person, just as all the popes throughout the ages have been imperfect. Paul writes concerning the children of Israel when they were in the wilderness: ***"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."*** (1 Corinthians 10:4). Jesus is **the Rock** and not Peter.

2 theses:

The Catholic Church believes that when the priest shares the bread during the Lord's Supper and says some mysterious words, the bread then literally turns into Jesus' flesh. In this way they offer Jesus' body as



a new sacrifice every time they partake of the bread (in connection with the Lord's Supper). They believe that the priest can create the Creator and then can eat Him. When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, He blessed the bread and broke it and said: ***"Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."*** (1 Corinthians 11:24). When we eat the bread, it is to remind us of Jesus' sacrifice for us on Golgotha's cross and that His body was broken for us and His blood spilled on our behalf. In addition, the Bible says that Jesus was offered once and for all (Hebrews 7:28; 9:28). It is a mockery of Jesus and His sacrifice to offer Him afresh every time the bread is eaten and the wine drunk, as takes place in the Catholic Holy Communion. This just shows that they don't accept Jesus' sacrifice as sufficient and good enough to save us.

3 theses:

The Catholic Church has removed the second commandment from its catechism. The second commandment states that we shall not worship graven images. (Exodus 20:4-6). Images of the Virgin Mary are worshipped in the Catholic Church and the worshippers believe that it is Mary who appears in Fatima as well as other places around the world. Mary, however, died around 2000 years ago, so it must be another spirit that reveals itself as the Virgin Mary.

4 theses:

The Catholic Church believes that the Virgin Mary was taken up to heaven and that our prayers are to come to her first, in order to reach Jesus and the Father. This is something Catholics have fabricated themselves, since Mary has been

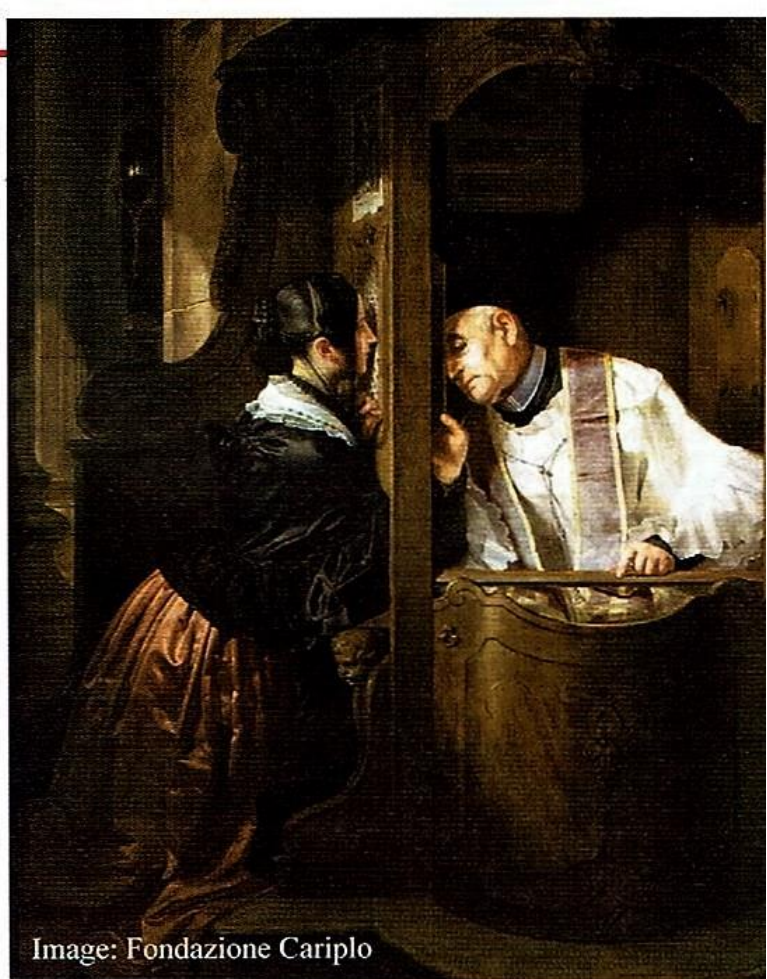
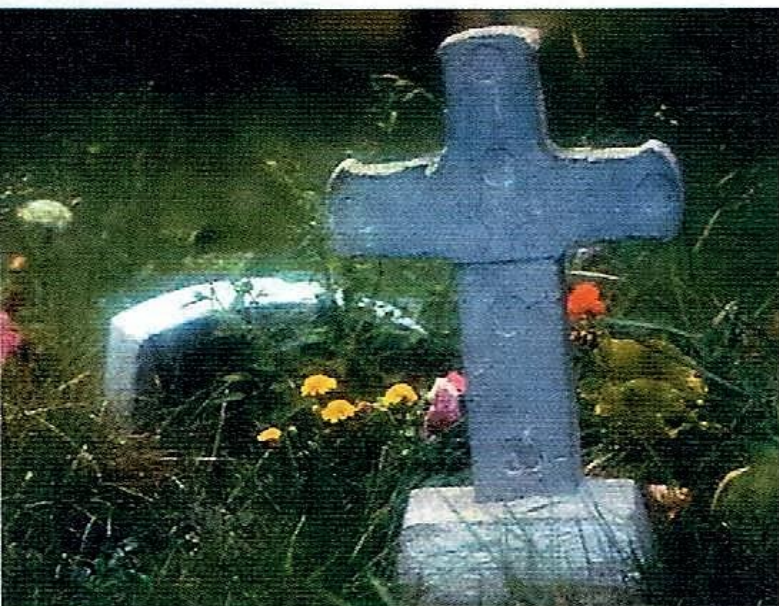


Image: Fondazione Cariplo

dead for around 2000 years. She lies in the grave, just like all others who have died and await the resurrection morning. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

The Bible clearly states that ***"there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."*** (1 John 5:7). We find this text in the King James Bible and in the Groundtext Textus Receptus, but not in the Catholic Bibles and their Groundtext Codex Vaticanus. The Catholic Church suggests that there are four special, holy people in heaven, where Mary is the fourth and the one that they pray to. Jesus says: ***"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."*** (John 14:6). Jesus is the only mediator between the Father and us. Our prayers come to the Father through Him. ***"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*** (1 Timothy 2:5).

The Catholic Church says that the pope and the priesthood can forgive sin. The question is then asked: Shall we go to the priest, to Mary or to Jesus in order to receive forgiveness for our sins? The Bible makes it clear ***“sin is transgression of the law”*** (1 John 3:4). ***“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*** (Romans 3:23). ***“For the wages of sin is death...”*** (Romans 6:23). As a result, we are all originally condemned to die. Jesus is the only one who can save us from sin. He has created us, He gave His life for us and He can free us from the condemna-



tion of sin. It is only He who has lived a perfect life without sin here on earth. We read: ***“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”*** (Hebrews 4:15). Therefore: ***“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”*** (John 8:36).

Only Jesus can make us free if we confess and repent of our sins and ask for forgiveness.

Shall we go to the priest, the pope, or to Jesus? We have already seen that there is only one saviour and one mediator between God the Father and us human beings – Jesus Christ. We must not forget that we must confess our fault to the person whom we have sinned against. We read: ***“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.”*** (Luke 17:3).

We shall go the person whom we have wronged, confess our sin and then allow that person to forgive us. A priest or pope has nothing to do with this issue. Ultimately it is Jesus who forgives us. We read in the Lord's Prayer: ***“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”*** (Matthew 6:12).

John describes it this way: ***“These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”*** (1 John 2:1-2).

It is only through Jesus Christ that the sinner can be forgiven and thereby granted access to God's kingdom. Jesus alone is our Saviour, our Mediator and our Advocate with the Father. We are to go to Him with our sin. When we realise we have sinned, have repented and sought Him for forgiveness, we then have this promise: ***“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*** (1 John 1:9).

The Catholic priests and the pope position themselves in Christ's place and take on His role when they assume the ability to forgive sin. The Bible has predicted that this apostasy would come. We read: ***“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there***

come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

He who is called the man of sin, the son of perdition and the lawless one, places himself in the place of Christ. He sits in God's temple as if he were God. It is none other than the pope we are talking about. He is the lawless one who has changed God's Ten Commandments. He takes the place of Christ as mediator and says he can forgive sin. Why should the Protestant world work together with the man of sin, the son of perdition, the lawless one?

6 *theses:*

The Catholic Church believes in the immortality of the soul. They believe that when a person dies, they go on to live in the form of a soul or spirit. What does the Bible say about this? We read: *“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”* (Genesis 2:7). It says that humans *become* living souls and do not receive a soul. We read further about who is it that dies: *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”* (Ezekiel 18:20).



The teaching of the immortality of the soul has its beginning from Satan's first lie in the Garden of Eden. God said to Adam and Eve that they should not eat from a specific tree in the garden. If they ate of the fruit from this specific tree, they would die. But Satan said to Eve: No, *“Ye shall not surely die!”* (Genesis 3:4).

This lie from Satan is the basis for the immortality of the soul teaching and has become widespread among many religions today. But what does the Bible say? The wise man Solomon says: *“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any*

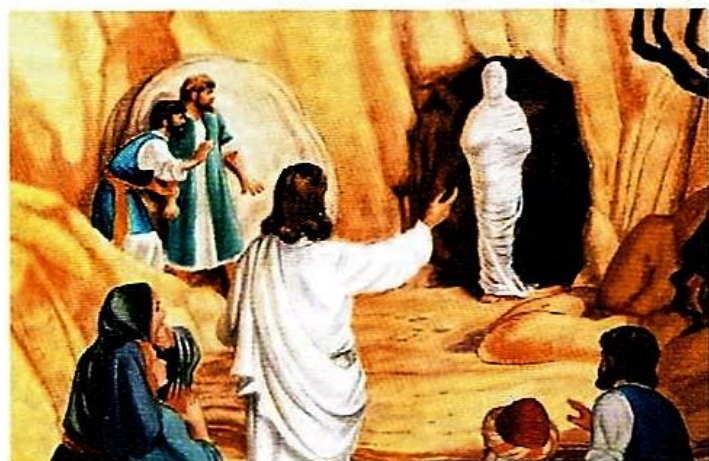


more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun... Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” (Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, 10).

Let us take a couple more scriptures: *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in*

the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” (John 5:28, 29).

Paul reaches the same conclusion when he talks about the Second Coming of Jesus: *“For this we say unto you by*



the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

So we see that the dead are in the graves and will be awakened by Jesus. Is this surprising to you? We have seen that the dead know nothing. They lie in the grave until the resurrection morning. The righteous will be awakened to the resurrection of life and the ungodly to the resurrection of death.

When Jesus' friend, Lazarus, had died, Jesus came to him. Lazarus had been dead

for four days and had begun to stink. Jesus said that Lazarus was dead and compared death to sleep. Jesus said to him: *“Lazarus, come forth.”* (John 11:43). Lazarus did indeed come out of the grave.

Many ministers preach that, when a person dies, they go to heaven or to hell. If the righteous dead went straight to heaven when they died, then we would have to believe that Lazarus, Jesus' friend, had gone to heaven. But he did not come down from heaven, or the clouds or from space since Jesus resurrected Lazarus **from the grave**. Furthermore, the Bible says: *“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”* (Hebrews 9:27). A judgment will take place between the time of death and the time of Jesus' second coming and it is not the priest, but Jesus Christ, who will determine those who will receive eternal life and those who will receive eternal condemnation. (2 Corinthians 5:10; John 5:26-29). The Bible does indeed say *“for the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Romans 6:23).

In this story we also learn that Jesus is to resurrect Lazarus on the last day. Maria said: *“I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”* (John 11:24). The last day is when Jesus comes again.

The Bible says that it is only Jesus that has immortality. It is written: **“who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality.”** (1 Timothy 6:15-16). Only God is immortal. Humans are mortal, but when Jesus comes again, they will at that time be clothed with immortality. Paul describes it thus: *“Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall*

all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” (1 Corinthians 15:51-54).

There are many who believe that there is a soul or spirit that is released when a person dies and floats around influencing people and is able to communicate messages. Here is an excerpt from a spiritist magazine: *“What is Spiritism? Spiritism is the belief that the spirit outlives the body and can have contact with living people through people we call mediums.”* (Paraphrased from *Spiritisten*, a Danish spiritist magazine, 1900, p. 84).

Almost half of the people on earth believe in reincarnation – a teaching that says the soul never dies, but is reincarnated in different bodies from generation to generation. Such a teaching is not in harmony with what the Bible teaches. The Bible

says that after death, humans become dust again (Psalm 104:29), the dead know not anything (Ecclesiastes 9:5), have no mental powers (Psalm 146:4), have no part in anything done under the sun (Ecclesiastes 9:6), the dead wait in the grave (Job 17:13), and the dead are not living (Job 14:1, 2; 2 Kings 20:1).

We have already seen through many scriptures that the Bible distance itself from the theory of the immortality of the soul, reincarnation, spiritism and similar practices. The Bible calls such things an abomination. We read: *“There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.”* (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

The Bible completely rejects the teachings of the immortality of the soul, spiritism, reincarnation and many of the mystical eastern philosophies/religions.



The Catholic Church frightens people with the teaching of eternal torment. They have tried to convince people that those who have been disloyal to Catholic teaching end up in hell. They say that there is eternal hell fire and that the ungodly go there and are tortured with fire and brimstone continually.

The church sold indulgences. They said that a person could pay money to the church as a guarantee that they would be subject to a lesser punishment upon death and come to purgatory.

During the Reformation period, purgatory was understood to be the place where people were punished for their wrong doings before they were admitted into paradise. Luther was of the opinion that such a teaching was totally unbiblical and was only used to bring

money into the Catholic Church's coffers.

The Catholic Church teaches that purgatory is a middle ground with temporary punishment when a person dies. Those who end up in purgatory cannot come out by themselves but can have help from others. Therefore some people pray for the dead and even pay money to the Catholic Church in hopes of a lesser punishment for those in purgatory.

The pope also offered forgiveness in exchange for money. This was known as indulgences. Let us explain a little: If a person committed a sin, for example, adultery, or broke any other of the Ten Commandments, that person could then pay their way out of being punished for having committed that sin. THAT was forgiveness of sin. Those who were wealthy could afford to commit many sins.

Tetzel, who was a seller of indulgences and



Indulgences - preached by the Catholic Church

the Catholic Church's spokesperson during Luther's time, declared that based on the authority of the letter of indulgence, all sin committed by the buyer, as well as any sin committed in the future, would be forgiven. It was not necessary to repent of one's sin. (D'Aubigne, vol. 3, ch.1). In this way people received assurance that the indulgence could bring salvation to not only the living, but also to the dead. They claimed that as soon as the money was paid, then would the soul be paid for and released out of purgatory and fly into paradise.

People have throughout the ages given much money to churches. Many have paid large sums to the Catholic Church because they believed that would help their loved ones who were in purgatory's torment. The Catholic Church has become rich based upon false premises. They have thereby gathered in huge amounts of money throughout time as a result of this propaganda based on fear. They have been able to build many beautiful churches/cathedrals because of this deception and money-making endeavour. They should be ashamed of the way they have deceived people.

But what does the Bible say about what happens to people when they die? The Bible says that ***"the wages of sin is death."*** (Romans 6:23). When it says that the wages of sin is death, there is then no torment. The Bible says that the godless will receive their punishment according to their works. (Revelation 20:13). If someone has done many bad things, they will then be punished longer/harder. The prophet Malachi confirms this: ***"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that***



cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." (Malachi 4:1).

The root of all evil is the Devil and Satan and the branches are the ungodly. They will all be burned as stubble. A long and wet piece of straw burns a long time, but a dry and short straw burns a short while. This illustrates how the ungodly will be punished. They will be punished according to their works and will end in death. But it is not at this point that there will punishment in the lake of fire. We read that ***"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven."*** So this will take place in the future, in the end of time.

John verifies this when he writes about how the ungodly will be punished in the lake of fire: ***"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*** (Revelation 20:15). The



same author describes the lake of fire this way: *"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."* (Revelation 20:14).

John continues to write: *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."* (Revelation 21:8).

What happened to the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrha? They burned with unquenchable fire, but the fire stopped as soon as everything was burned up. The Bible describes it this way: *"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."* (Jude 7). It

says that the cities and its inhabitants were to be burned with eternal fire. It was the punishment for their immorality. We know that those cities are not burning today. The fire stopped once all things were burned up and turned to ashes. The apostle Peter explains that the fate of Sodom and Gomorrha is an example of what will take place in the end time. He writes: *"And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly."* (2 Peter 2:6).

The punishment will take place in the future!

Jesus has also given us His word concerning this issue by saying: *"As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."* (Matthew 13:40-42).

We again see here how the punishment will take place in the future – at the end of time. The ungodly do not burn in eternal hell fire now, as taught by the Catholic Church. This Catholic teaching about eternal hell fire has unfortunately spread itself over to Protestant denominations!

Satan's final punishment is described thus: *"Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of*

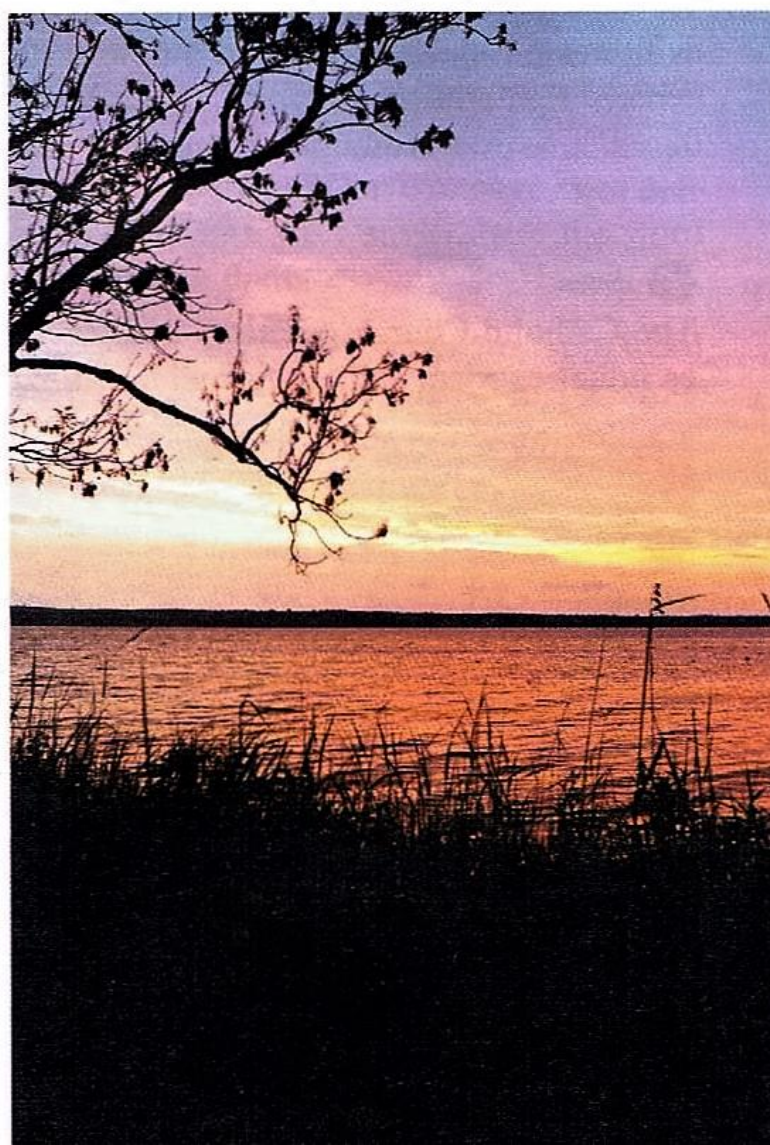
all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.” (Ezekiel 28:18-19).

There will be no eternal torment as the Catholic Church teaches. The ungodly's punishment will end with death and ashes. The fire is unquenchable until the punishment is over. It is eternal in the sense that the fire is unquenchable until the punishment is over and its consequences are eternal. The word “eternal” comes from the Greek word “aion”, which means **long time, lifetime, eternal**. So when the ungodly are punished in the lake of fire “**a long time**” or “**a lifetime**” according to their works, it ends in death. God has promised to make an end of the Devil's work and when all the ungodly have received their punishment, God will then create a new heaven and a new earth.

The apostle Peter writes about this: “*Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*” (2 Peter 3:13-14). John comes to the same conclusion: “*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*” (Revelation 21:1). We would like to ask the following question to those who insist on believing the teaching of eternal torment: “**Where is hell when planet earth is burned up and the sea is no more?**” It is not on earth because the elements on earth are burned up. Every trace of evil is gone. Not one trace of sin is left. It would only destroy the righteous' experience and this has God

foreseen. Therefore all evil will be burned up and destroyed eternally. When all evil is done away with, God will then create a new heaven and earth. Everything there will be will be peaceful and good. God will re-establish everything just as it was in the Garden of Eden before the fall, when communication with God took place face to face. There will be no thieves, no backbiters, no murderers, no soldiers, no pain or tears in the new earth. The Bible describes the new earth as follows: “*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*” (Revelation 21:4).

If it were the case that the ungodly live in eternal torment, they would have no place on earth because it is no longer and they would not have a place in the new earth

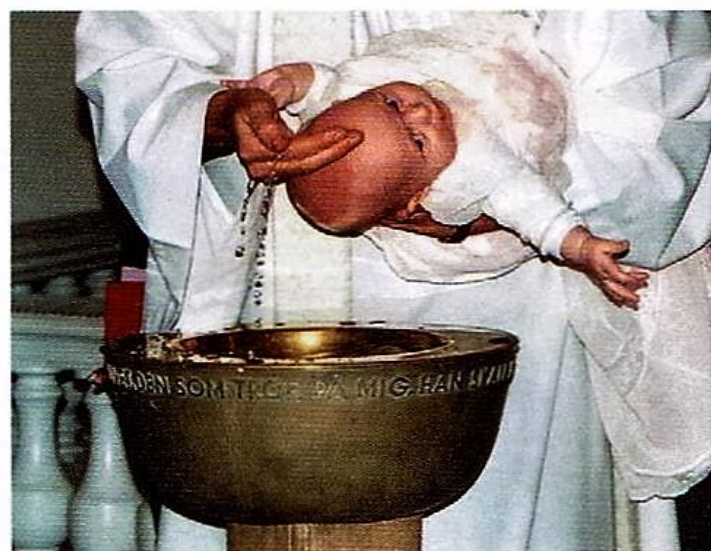


because there is no pain, tears, or torment there. The righteous will live in the new earth. May all who read this document accept Jesus Christ and pray for the Holy Spirit's power to be Jesus' true witnesses and be a part of His people when He calls His own and as a result be a part of the righteous, who by God's grace, will inherit the new earth!

The theory of eternal torment is a terrible teaching based on fear. So throw it into the fire and burn it up! This theory has nothing do with the love of Jesus. Jesus only desires the best for us and He has allowed Satan to do his dirty work so that all can see that he is a devil. God does not force anyone. But this is not the case with the Devil. When all evidence is brought forth, God will, in love, then destroy Satan and all those who have sided with him in rebellion toward God. We therefore look forward to judgment day and to when God will create a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells and where Jesus' love dwells along with eternal peace and joy.

8 *theses:*

The Catholic Church practises and teaches infant baptism and confirmation. Infant



baptism has its root in Augustine's original sin teaching. He believed that a child was born with sin. Therefore, if a child was sick and might die, it was then necessary to have a priest quickly come and sprinkle the child's head with water. It was then believed that the child had become a Christian and obtained salvation. This practice continues today. But a small child has not done anything wrong. It does not understand what is right or wrong. This ability is developed later on in life. The Bible says that ***"sin is transgression of the law"*** (1 John 3:4) and ***"the soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father."*** (Ezekiel 18:20).

This text clearly states that a child does not inherit sin from its parents. It is only when a person is old enough to understand the difference between right and wrong that he is accountable for sin. So a child does not have an old life of sin that needs to be buried, since it is innocent until later. Infant baptism is therefore unnecessary and unbiblical. The fact is that an innocent child has come into an evil world and has inherited its parents' sinful nature and shares the same judgment Adam received after the fall: ***"dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."*** (Genesis 3:19). Nevertheless the child has not rejected the work of redemption Christ has wrought for all. They have access to His merits. When the mothers brought their children to Jesus, He said to them: ***"Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God...and blessed them."*** (Mark 10:13-16). Jesus did not baptise them, but He did bless them. We should also do this when the child is young.

Behind the teaching of infant baptism, it

is the godparents who are to believe on behalf of the infant since the child cannot exercise faith for itself. But the Bible says: ***“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*** (Romans 10:17). A child does not understand preaching/teaching and therefore cannot have its own faith. We also read: ***“He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved.”*** (Mark 16:16). As a result, those who want to be baptised must have a personal faith. So it is wrong when the godparents act on behalf of the child. The priests and the godparents say that the child will develop its own faith later on during confirmation, but there is no guarantee for this.

Let us take a look of some examples of baptism in the Bible. Notice that faith is essential.

When Philip preached the gospel of Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch, he then said to Philip: ***“See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptised? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptised him.”*** (Acts 8:26-38).

When Philip preached the gospel in Samaria, there were many who accepted the message. The Bible tells about the results of Philip’s preaching: ***“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women.”*** (Acts 8:12).

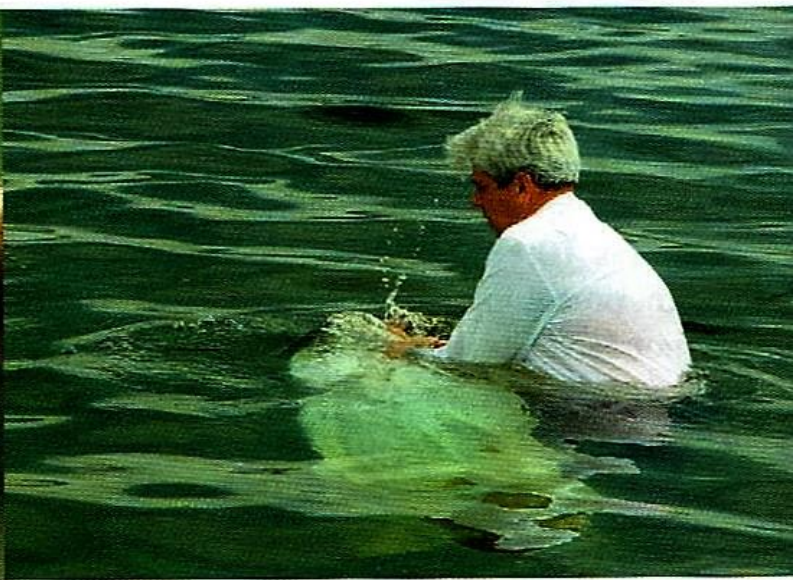
It was men and women that were baptised, not children.

We find in the Bible a story about a pris-

on guard who was baptised together along with all his house. Some may say that there must have been children who were also baptised. There is no indication that there were any small children. It does say that these people heard what was being preached and those who were baptised received Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Here we read about this story: ***“And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptised, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”*** (Acts 16:30-34).

Here we have Paul speaking with the prison guard in Philippi and to all his house. They accepted Jesus Christ by faith and were baptised. If there were children present, they would have to have been older in that Paul was able to share the word of God with them.

The word “baptism” comes from the word “baptismo” which was used in the ironsmith trade. It describes how an object is completely submerged under water. If the ironsmith moulded a piece of iron a certain way and wanted it to remain that way, he would then completely submerge the piece of iron into the water. Through baptism, a person symbolically demonstrates that he has accepted Jesus’ sacrifice, burial and resurrection. Baptism also symbolises what has taken place inwardly having buried all sin, placing it upon Jesus, so that He can atone for sin – then rising up to a new life in Christ.



Here is a Bible verse that describes this: ***"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptised into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*** (Romans 6:3-4).

This text clearly says that the person that is baptised is buried in the water and rises up to a new life in Christ. This is not what takes place in infant baptism/sprinkling.

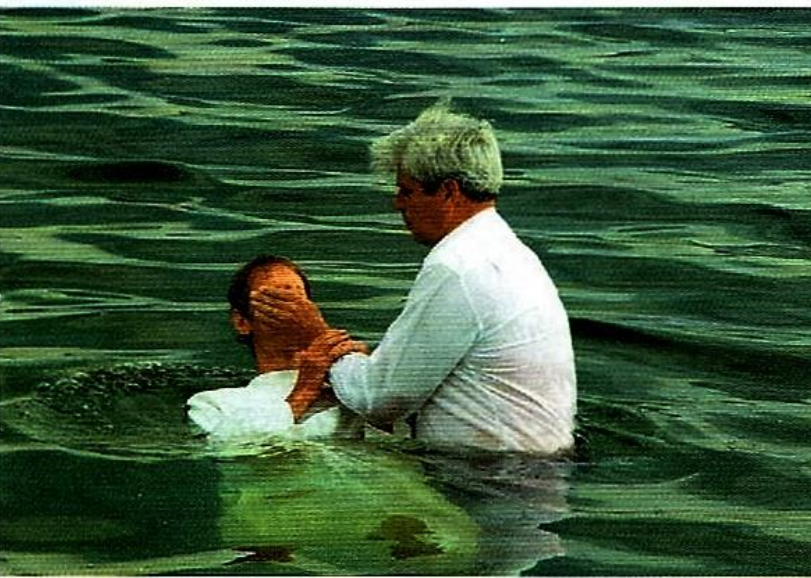
The Bible calls baptism "the answer of a good conscience toward God" and reads like this: ***"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."*** (1 Peter 3:21).

If we were to make an agreement or sign a contract with someone, it is very important to know what it is we are agreeing to before we sign or accept the terms. It is the same with baptism. Before baptism, it is important to spend much time in Bible study and prayer in order to become familiar with the

terms of the agreement/covenant. This is one of the reasons it is called the "baptism of faith" or "adult baptism". Before baptism, we must make a well-informed decision – a decision to let God change us and pray for power to follow Jesus all the way. (1 Peter 2:21). Baptism is be an outward sign of the transformation that has already taken place within.

Confirmation was introduced by the Catholic Church during the 13th century. The reality is that only a few that participate in confirmation believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. This shows that this practice does not meet its purpose. Martin Luther did away with confirmation during his time and called it what today some refer to as, the "hundreth monkey effect". He also saw it as a form of deception. He meant that they all acted just as all the others did and gave each other promises, which in the long run, they could not keep whatsoever. Luther eliminated confirmation, which was not introduced in Norway until 1736.

Infant "baptism" and confirmation are traditions enacted by people. They are a form of substitution for Biblical baptism. This is



just how the Devil works. He substitutes Biblical truth with a counterfeit, something that is similar but nonetheless different.

The Bible says that there is *“one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”* (Ephesians 4:5). We have already seen that true baptism is not infant baptism/sprinkling, but is the baptism of faith, where a person hears the gospel and make a personal decision to accept salvation in Jesus Christ. The person, who is to be baptized, is to follow Jesus’ example. Jesus was baptism as an adult (30 yrs. old) in the Jordan River. Jesus had no need to be baptized since He had no sin and therefore no need for salvation. Nonetheless, He was baptized to give us an example (Matthew 3:13-17) so that we could follow in His footsteps (1 Peter 2:21).

We have read about how in baptism, one is buried in the water and rises up to a new live in Jesus. Let us go back to and follow the Biblical baptism and not the baptism according to Catholicism or apostate Protestantism. Infant baptism and confirmation are Catholic traditions and those who believe they will be saved because their parents have participated in these acts with them, have been deceived. They have not experienced Biblical baptism and there is

no other form of baptism that is valid according to God’s Word. All who will follow Jesus and do as He did will undergo Biblical baptism. Infant baptism/sprinkling is not Biblical baptism. It is the parents and godparent who believe on behalf of the child, but it is the one who is to be baptised that is to have their own faith. Jesus said to Nicodemus: *“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”* (John 3:5).

Jesus says that we cannot come into the Kingdom of God unless we are born of water and of Spirit. This should be an eye opener for all of us!

Let us therefore take part in Jesus’ baptism, the baptism of faith! Infant baptism/sprinkling is not baptism. It is a deceptive man-made tradition!

9 theses:

The Catholic Church says there is salvation in the sacraments – such as being baptised, taking part in the Eucharist, doing penance, etc. Luther was also taught these things as he grew Catholic. One day as he crawled up Pilot’s staircase, he was reminded of the scripture that reads: *“The just shall live by faith.”* (Romans 1:17). Luther stood on his



feet and realised that he was crawling on his knees in order to obtain salvation; he thought works could save him. There now shone new light into his mind. He came to understand that it is only through faith in Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world that can save. Works cannot save us, but works are revealed as the fruit of the faith (Matthew 5:8). As Luther continued to study this subject, he found several more important texts in God's Word that deal with being righteous by faith in Jesus Christ. When we come to Jesus just as we are with all our sin, we must confess our sin, repent and ask for forgiveness. Jesus will then forgive us our sin and His righteousness, imputed on our behalf, unmerited by grace will become ours through faith. Think about what a relief it must have been in Luther's life. You and I can also experience the same freedom, when we follow God's plan.

Let us take a look at some scriptures dealing with the meaning of faith:

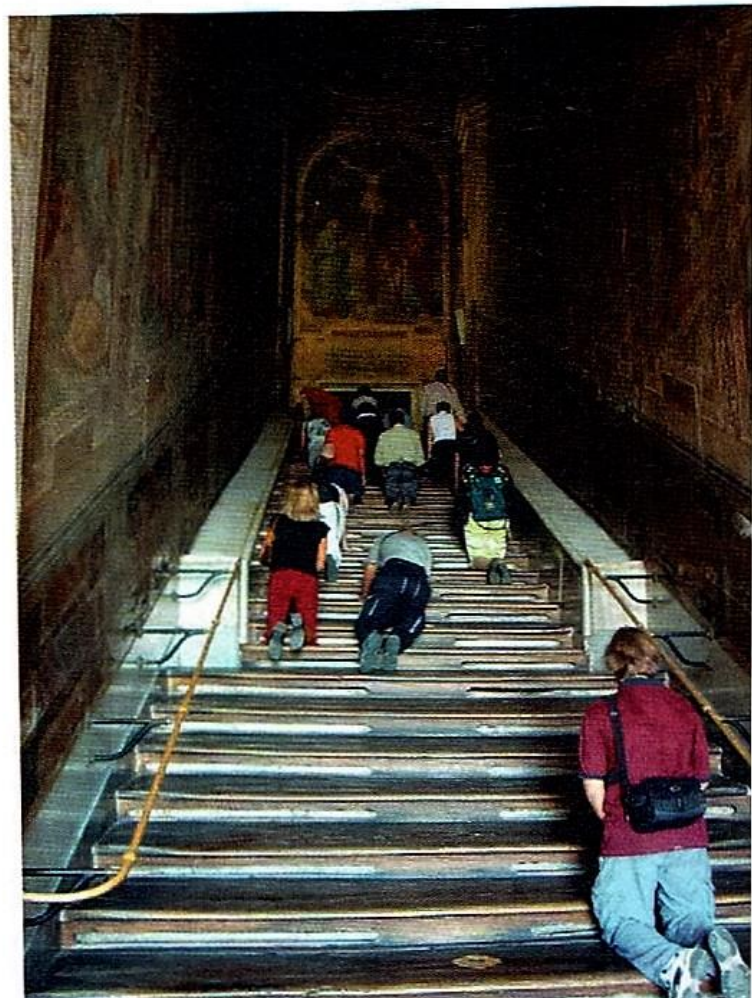
"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1).

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17).

"For God so loved the world, that He gave

His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17).

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:4-10).



"He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved." (Mark 16:16).

So then, what role do works play?

We have read that: *"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* (Ephesians 2:10).

When John the Baptist came forth and preached the message of conversion, he said: *"Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance."* (Matthew 3:8).

James writes: *"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."* (James 2:17).

So faith without works is dead and good works are the fruit of faith.

By faith, Abel offered a better sacrifice than Cain,

By faith Noah built an ark,

By faith they travelled across the Red Sea,

By faith they all did something. This is righteousness by faith.

When we accept the righteousness of Christ, we must also pray for power to live a righteous life for Him. We will then be His true witnesses.

"If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him." (1 John 2:29).

"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous." (1 John 3:7).

So the power to live righteously and bear good fruit does not lie in us, but in Christ's



power within the believer. Paul declares: *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."* (Philippians 2:13).

There has been a conflict between the Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church ever since Luther came forth and preached righteousness by faith. In 1999, these two churches have jointly created a document concerning righteousness by faith after many discussions, much diplomacy and ecumenism. The document is called *Joint Declaration*. This declaration/agreement was signed on October 31, 1999; exactly 482 years after Luther nailed his thesis on the church door in Wittenberg, where he also pointed out the importance of righteousness by faith and by faith alone. This document, *Joint Declaration*, brought the Lutheran Church back to Rome, in that it states that there is salvation in the sacraments.

Protestants have given in, not Rome

We now, 500 years after Wittenberg, see that Catholics and Protestants celebrate Luther together. They minimise Luther's



huge break from Rome and say that we are now in a new era and will stand together in order to promote **peace** on earth. But this peace is obtained through ecumenism, diplomacy and majority vote. Jesus said: *"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."* (John 14:27).

True peace comes only when we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord into our lives, when we have confessed our sin and received forgiveness from Jesus, His righteousness, by grace through faith. When this decision is made, then the believer will receive the Holy Spirit as a source of power in the life and thereby able to walk in Jesus' steps – power to do good works.

The world cannot give this genuine peace. Those who choose to follow the methods of Rome, that go against God's will, will not receive this inner peace that only

Jesus can give us. We must choose to accept Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. We must choose to be obedient to Christ – His power will then be in us to follow His steps through the narrow way.

The Reformers understood what it meant to accept salvation in Jesus Christ. They did not have an understanding of all things but:

- The Anabaptists understood the meaning of baptism
- Luther understood grace
- Huss saw the meaning of obedience
- Wesley saw the importance of sanctification
- The Waldenses understood the importance of the Bible
- Miller understood the meaning of the second coming of Jesus

What about us? Well, we have learned a little about each of these and so we are more knowledgeable than those who have gone before us. We must now see the big picture. We must now preach these truths, including faith, grace, salvation, life in Christ, the working of the Holy Spirit, growth in grace, character development, the fruit of the Spirit, Jesus' Second Coming and, last but not least, the following topic.

10 theses:

The Catholic Church has changed God's Ten Commandments. Unfortunately, Luther included the Catholic version of the Ten Commandments in his catechism. He grew up as a Catholic and didn't realise the error the Catholic Church made with regard to God's Ten Commandments.

They have removed the second commandment from the catechism and split the tenth commandment in two. They have furthermore taken away a part of the fourth commandment. This is probably the greatest deception in the history of the world. Nonetheless, there are many who believe that the Catholic Church is a Christian church. But a Christian must follow Christ and not change anything He has said or written; unlike what the Catholic Church has done, and not only with God's law. Therefore we agree with Luther and the Reformers, who clearly saw that the pope bears the characteristics of the antichrist.

Martin Luther put it this way:

"I said formerly that the pope was Christ's vicar; now I assert that he is our Lord's adversary, and the devil's

apostle." (D'Aubigne, b. 7, ch. 6).

When the papal bull reached Luther, he said: *"I despise and attack it, as impious, false. . . . It is Christ Himself who is condemned therein. . . . I rejoice in having to bear such ills for the best of causes. Already I feel greater liberty in my heart; for at last I know that THE POPE IS ANTICHRIST, AND THAT HIS THRONE IS THAT OF SATAN HIMSELF."* (D'Aubigne, b. 6, ch. 9).

How many Lutherans say the same today? Asked another way: Is the Lutheran Church itself somewhat antichrist in that it has accepted Sunday as the day of rest?

As noted earlier, the papacy has removed much of the text in the fourth commandment in its catechism.



Luther with Papal Bull lights the fire of Reformation.

The fourth commandment says the following:

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” (Exodus 20:8-11).

In the fourth commandment of the catechism, there is nothing that indicates that the seventh-day Sabbath is the true day of rest. Most people are well aware that Jesus died on Friday. The Bible calls this day the preparation day, the day before the Sabbath (Mark 15:42-43). The day after is called the Sabbath. It is the Bible's seventh and last day in the week. As Jesus rested in the grave, the disciples were gathered and rested according to the commandment (Luke 23:53-56). The next day was Sunday. Sunday is the Bible's first day of the

week. On this day Jesus arose from the dead. (Mark 15:42-47; 16:1-6).

All who read these texts can clearly see that Sunday is the Bible's first day of the week and the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week. The Sabbath is the Bible's day of rest. All Christians should observe Jesus' day of rest since it is Jesus who has instituted the seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest. The Bible says that: *“all things were made by Him.”* (John 1:1-14). The Bible also says that *“Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath.”* (Mark 2:27-28). This text also reveals that the Sabbath was made for man. Many believe that the Sabbath was made for the Jews, as stated in the footnotes of the new ecumenical Bible – Bible 2011. But this is not true since the Sabbath was already established since the creation. We read that God created in six days and rested on the seventh day. So we see that the Sabbath has its origin in the creation and not from the resurrection of Jesus. Christ's resurrection day is the first workday of the week after Jesus rested on the seventh day. It is not the case that Jesus had two rest days one after the other – the 7th and 1st day of the week. No, Jesus rested in the grave on the Sabbath and arose to a new work day on Sunday, the first day of the week, just as He, at creation, began to create (work) on the first day of the week.

There is nothing in Scripture that says that Jesus commanded us to stop keeping the seventh-day Sabbath and instead keep Sunday, the first day of the week. If He had changed this, He would have made it very clear. He would have also had to change the Ten Commandments, which clearly state that we are to keep the seventh-day Sabbath as our rest day. Furthermore, God does not change, as the Bible clearly sets forth:



"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8).

"For I am the LORD, I change not." (Malachi 3:6).

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." (Isaiah 40:8).

The Catholic Church unequivocally states that they have changed the day of rest. We read the following in the Roman Catholic catechism:

Question: *Which day is the Sabbath day?*

Answer: *Saturday is the Sabbath day.*

Question: *Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?*

Answer: *We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the council of Laodicea (A.D.336) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.*

Question: *Have you any other way of proving that the church (Roman Catholic) has power to institute festivals of precept?*

Answer: *Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with, she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is not scriptural authority.*

Source: "Doctrinal Catechism", p. 174 and "The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine" (1977 edition), p. 50.

It is interesting to note that Sunday means **"the day of the sun"** and not **"the Son's day"**. Emperor Constantine was the first to institute Sunday as the day of rest by law

in 321 A.D.: *"let all the judges and town people, and the occupation of all trades rest on the venerable day of the sun; but let those who are situated in the country, freely and at full liberty attend to the business of agriculture."* - *History of the Christian Church*, 5 edition. volume 3, p. 380.

We repeat, Sunday means the day of the sun and not the Son's day

Testament falsification

It is quite evident that the Catholic Church has undertaken will and testament falsification. A will or testament is written while the person is living. When the person dies, the testament is then valid and nobody can change the testament's content. If somebody changes the will/testament, it is then falsified. This is exactly what the Catholic Church has done. They have falsified such a document in that they have changed God's Ten Commandments and the Sabbath – after the death of Jesus. We see that they have made this change around 300 years after Jesus' death. This is perhaps the greatest document falsification in history and this crime is registered in the books of heaven.

The consequences have had big influence. Millions of people have been deceived because of this falsification. We sympathise with these people as they have trusted the priest/pastor and believed that he preached the truth from God's Word. But now the time has come to unmask the Catholic Church's deceptions and persecutions so that men and women can turn away from the Catholic Church's unbiblical teachings.

Pope John Paul II acknowledged in his apostolic letter *Dies Domini*: ***"This is why Christians, called as they are to proclaim***



Keeping the Lord's Day Holy

John Paul II



DIES DOMINI

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY

the liberation won by the blood of Christ, felt that they had the authority to transfer the meaning of the Sabbath to the day of the Resurrection." (Dies Domini, point 63, published May 1998).

He also wrote: *"the spiritual and pastoral riches of Sunday, as it has been handed on to us by tradition."*

Do you see the weaknesses in the pope's declaration? The pope openly recognises that Sabbath keeping has been changed to Sunday keeping. The Catholic Church felt that they had the authority to make this change. Here they set their own authority above the Bible's authority. They *felt* they had authority to make this change with regard to the day of rest.

Many strange decisions can be the result of making our decisions based on feelings.

The pope also recognises that Sunday, as the day of rest, is a tradition. Why cannot the other church denominations be just as honest as the Catholic Church and

recognise Sunday as a tradition? It is completely wrong for the Catholic Church to transfer the Sabbath's meaning over to the resurrection day – which they do not have the right to – but they do nonetheless admit that they have made this change. In the judgment, it will not only be known whether we have confessed our sins, but also whether we have been willing to repent and follow God's way.

The wise man Solomon wrote: *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."* (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Let us look at a pair of quotations from Catholic sources:

"The Catholic Church for over a thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission changed the day from Saturday to Sunday." (Catholic Mirror, Sept. 1893).

"Sunday is our mark of authority. The church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance (to Sunday) is proof of that fact." (Catholic Record, London/Ontario, Sept. 1, 1923).

Here we have it again. The Catholic Church admits that they stand above the Bible. They say that they have divine authority to change times and laws (Daniel 7:25). They assume an authority that is not in harmony with God's Word.

When Jesus was tempted by the Devil, He referred him to God's Word. He said: *"It is written"* (Matthew 4:10). He let the Scriptures be His authority. Those who do not allow the Scriptures to be their authority,

have no authority because authority lies only in God's Word.

...but did the disciples change the day of rest?

Some say that the disciples began to keep Sunday instead of Saturday as the day of rest in memory of Jesus' resurrection. The Bible is completely silent with regard to such a change. Upon reading all eight reference in the Bible with regard to the first day of the week, there is not one command or hint concerning Christians keeping Sunday, the first day of the week, instead of Saturday, the seventh day of the week. (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2).

On the contrary, we find in Acts that the disciples continued to keep the Sabbath just as Jesus had taught them. (Acts 13:14-15; 13:42-44; 16:12-13; 17:1-2; 18:3-4).

The Council of Trent

The most authoritative church council of the Catholic Church was the Council of Trent (1545-63). Its main objective was the *"definitive determination of the doctrines of the Church in answer to the heresies of the Protestants."* – Catholic Encyclopedia, vol. XV, "The Council of Trent".

Authority based on church tradition versus biblical authority was heavily debated during this church council. The final decision was finally reached during the last meeting, where it is interesting to note that the argument that prevailed in tradition winning over the Bible was the changing of the Sabbath (the day of rest). They concluded that this change was evidence for the church's authority over the Bible. The conclusion is described as follows:

"Finally...all hesitation was set aside. The Archbishop of Reggio made a speech in which he openly declared that tradition stood above Scripture. The authority of the church could therefore not be bound to the authority of the Scriptures, because the church had changed circumcision into baptism, Sabbath into Sunday, not by the command of Christ, but by its own authority." (J. H. Holtzman, *Canon and Tradition*, published in Ludwigsburg, Germany, in 1859, p. 263).

Now have we come to the core of the matter. The Protestants and Reformers said, and say today, that they will have the Scriptures and the Scriptures alone as the basis and authority for faith and teaching. But the Catholic Church's protest against Protestants is: No, Protestants do not have the Scriptures alone as their authority because they keep the Bible's first day of the week, Sunday, as their day of rest, while the Bible says we should keep the seventh day, Saturday, as the day of rest. We would have to agree with the Catholics on this point. They honestly admit that they have changed the day of rest from Saturday to Sunday, the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week. At the same time, they reprove the Protestants and the Reformers because they claim to follow the Bible, but in reality do not, as they follow the Catholic tradition of keeping the Bible's first day as the day of rest.

"There is just one refuge left for Protestants. That is to take their stand squarely and fully upon 'the written word only' the Bible and the Bible alone. It is not too late for Protestants to redeem themselves. Will they do it? Will they stand consistently upon the Protestant profession? Or will they still continue to occupy the

indefensible, self contradictory, and suicidal position of professing to be Protestants, yet standing on Catholic ground and following the authority of the Catholic Church? Will they keep the Sabbath of the Lord, the seventh day, according to Scripture? Or will they keep Sunday according to tradition of the Catholic Church?" (Catholic Mirror, Sept. 2, 9, 16 & 23, 1893 tracts entitled *Rome's Challenge*).

Dear friend! Which stand will you take in this case?

Martin Luther dared to stand up against and reprove the Catholic Church, which he later abandoned. He did not have a clear understanding of God's law being changed, including the change of the day of the rest. Those who were to follow up his work of reformation should have gone further than Luther did, but instead they have come back to Rome.

Protestants have gone wrong regarding the issue of the day of rest. They have accepted a Catholic tradition and have therefore not succeeded in reaching their goal/aim of following the Bible and the Bible alone as their sole authority of faith and teaching. Protestants have gradually come back to Rome as a result of this apostasy. This compromise and coming together will be commemorated when they will celebrate Luther's 500 years jubilee and his break with the Catholic Church. There is unity in the sense that there are (with few exceptions) no longer any true Protestants, and the Protestants of today follow the Bible and tradition just as the Catholic Church does.

We can now look at some of the most un-

biblical traditions from Rome that have been accepted by the Lutheran Church as well as many other Protestant churches:

1. The Lutheran Church follows the tradition of keeping Sunday, which has no biblical roots. They keep the Bible's first day of the week instead of the Bible's seventh day, the Sabbath.
2. The Lutheran Church follows the tradition of infant baptism, which has no biblical roots, instead of the baptism of faith.
3. The Lutheran Church follows the tradition of confirmation, where 13-14 year old young people confirm the faith, which they have not personally chosen when they were "baptised" as infants.

What is the strong and serious warning Jesus gives to those who deceive others?
Jesus said: *"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!"*
(Matthew 18:6-7).

Conclusion

The Reformation has not succeeded in the long run, because the Bible and the Bible alone has not been followed. The fact that those who are to be representatives of the Reformation and of Protestantism keep Sunday as the day of rest is clear evidence of this!

Many say that the Reformation ended with Luther, but it must continue until the end of

time. Luther had a huge task to accomplish in spreading the light given to him of God. But he did not receive all the light the world was to receive. From his time until now, there has come new light on the Scriptures and new truths have been unfolded.

What has happened to the biblical faith of the Reformers? Today we are in need of a new reformer, indeed, many Reformers. People need to see the deceptive teaching that exists in many churches. At the same time, people need to hear a clear and true biblical message for our time, just as we find in Revelation chapter 14, verses 6-12 and chapter 18, verse four. Who will stand up for the cause of God, just like the courageous Luther?

Today it may seem as though all of the world's corrupted powers will win the battle. But the Bible reveals that these powers war against Christ and those on who are on His side. (Revelation 17:12-14). This shows us that it is God who has control and He sets the boundary. It is those who are on His side that will be victorious in the great reformatory battle, which lasts until the very end!

The last big test

The Bible reveals that the last test on earth, just before Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, comes again, will be a test over worship. The Bible describes this test as follows: *"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*



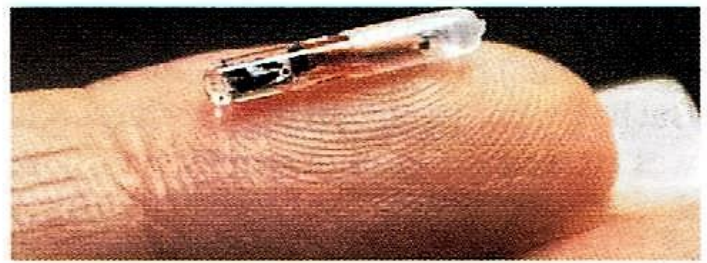
and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." (Revelation 13:15-17).

So the test will be whether we worship God as Creator or worship the "beast" and receive its mark. We repeat: This is an issue of worship and not about microchips. Many believe that the mark of the beast is a microchip. Microchips along with an electronic system can be used as a control mechanism in controlling those who do not receive the mark of the beast and will not be able to buy and sell.

All currency/money will be eliminated and cards will be used. Microchips will be in the card or which also can be implanted into the body, under the skin for example. It is not a problem to block a card. Those who do not receive the mark of the beast will be punished because they are not obedient/loyal to the earthly powers. Their punish-

ment will be not being able to buy and sell. It is symbolic when it says that the mark of the beast can be received upon the forehead or on the hand. The forehead symbolises the understanding and the hand symbolises actions or works. (Deuteronomy 11:18). We make decisions and choices in the frontal lobe of the brain. We can either choose to accept the mark of the beast or we can choose it through our actions. The Bible says that we should worship Him who created the heavens and the earth. The fourth commandment specifies who it is we are to worship – He who created in six days and rested on the seventh. It is because the day of rest has to do with worship that this will be the focal point right before Jesus comes again. We live in the time when the world's leaders are pushing for Sunday, the Bible's first day of the week, as the day of rest, the day of the family and the day of worship. In Europe, The European Sunday Alliance is very active in trying to establish Sunday as the weekly day of rest and day of the family. In USA, there are many widespread, religious movements that are also working toward the same goal, like The Christian Coalition and The Lord's Day Alliance, among others.

Sunday, as the day of rest, goes against



God's Word and the Ten Commandments, which say we shall worship God on the day God has set aside as the day of rest, the Sabbath, the Bible's seventh day of the week.

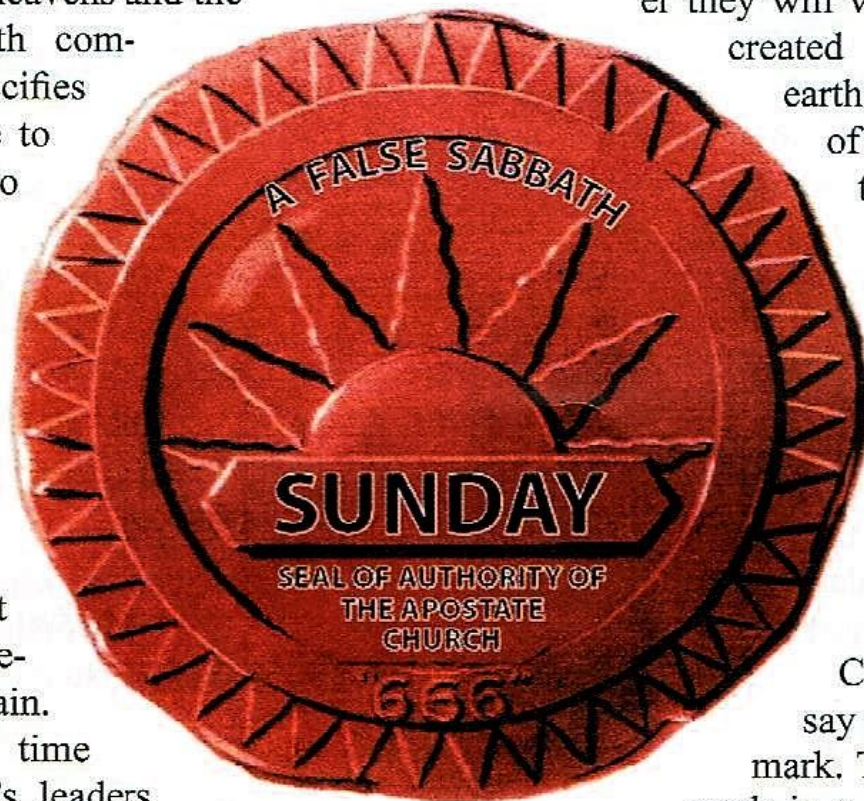
The world will soon be tested as to whether they will worship Him who created the heavens and earth and keep His day of rest, or whether they will worship and be loyal toward "the beast" (papacy) and receive its mark.

We have already read some quotations from the Catholic Church where they say that they have a mark. They say that this mark is a sign of their au-

thority to change times and laws and establish new traditions because they changed the day of rest. The Bible reveals that this is exactly what would take place. In Daniel 7:25, it says that this church would change time and laws.

We have seen that they have changed the day of rest from Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday. Now that you have become aware of this, which authority will you be obedient/loyal to?

The choice you make will have life or death consequences because you have now



become informed about what the apostate church has done with the day of rest. The Bible says: *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."* (James 4:17).

This decision whether to worship Him who created or to worship "the beast and receive its mark" is something that takes place in the future. It will come about when "the mark of the beast = papacy's Sunday observance is enforced by law. (Revelation 13:15-16).

We should also make a decision today because we do not know how much longer we will live. Today is the day of salvation. *"Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts."* (Hebrews 3:7-8).

When we make the choice to follow Jesus today, it will be easier to follow Him tomorrow!

Carefully consider the following scriptures:

"If ye love me, keep My commandments." (John 14:15).

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments." (1 John 5:2-3).

"He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the

truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him." (1 John 2:4-5).

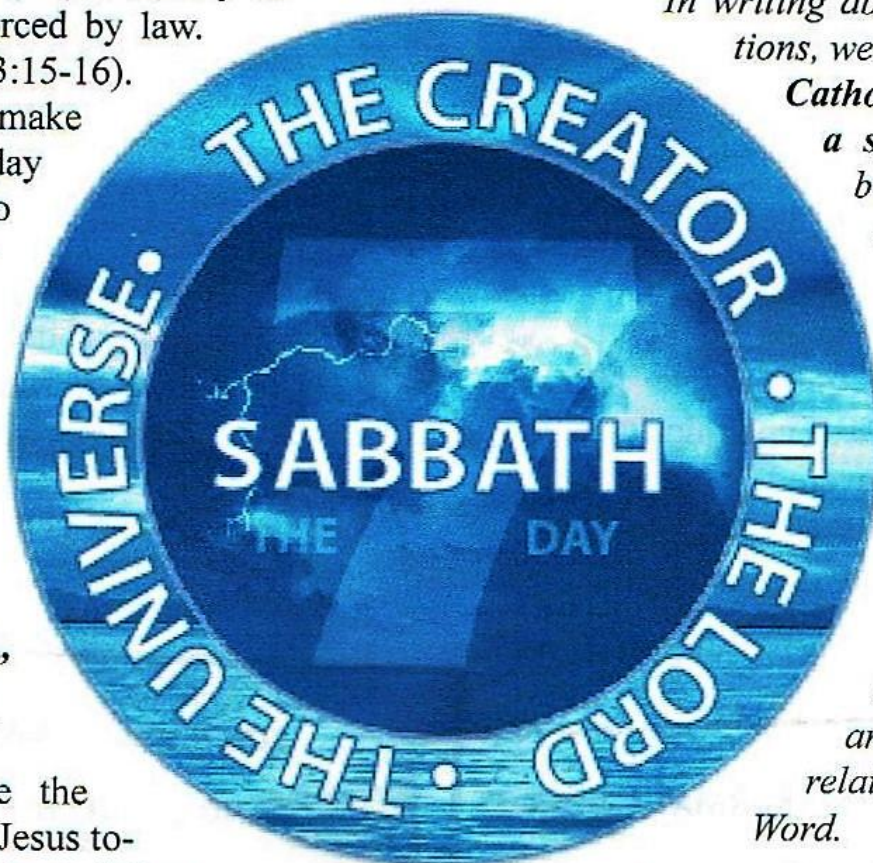
"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27).

Final appeal

In writing about these deceptions, we warn against the Catholic Church as a system, which is behind the many deceptions and errors concerning to God's Word and therefore do not judge Catholics as individuals. It is the Catholic system we have in focus and compare in relation to God's Word.

We therefore hope that these writings will help both Catholics and all others come to the right conclusion.

We believe that there are honest, well-meaning people in the different denominations, including the Catholic Church. Many will take a stand against the falsehoods, including the changing of the Ten Commandments, and separate themselves from the bonds that hold them in error, when they discover the man-made traditions that have crept into the different churches. We also believe that those who come out of these churches will be



powerful witnesses in the finishing of God's work. The Bible's appeal goes out to God's people who are in Babylon (Catholicism and apostate Protestantism): *"Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."* (Revelation 18:4).

According to this text, it is clear that many of God's people are in Babylon. Can it be that the majority of God's people today find themselves in Babylon? When they see the light from God's Word and realise they have been deceived, just like Martin Luther, they will follow the Bible's appeal to come out of Babylon and have the clear word of God as their authority.

If you are in a church that promotes/preaches any of these unbiblical teachings, which we have covered in ten points, may you come out of that church so that you

will not receive the judgment to fall upon the ungodly. (Revelation 21:8). It does no good to have one foot in Babylon and the other foot on God's side. We must stand with both feet fully on God's side. Do not think that you will be saved because you are part of the majority? The Bible says that there will be a remnant at the end - of those who profess to be God's people. The Bible describes the remnant with a few words: *"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."* (Revelation 14:12)... not in our own power but with God's power in our lives. (Philippians 2:13). This is God's faithful remnant at the end of time. They are of one mind, just as Jesus' followers were during the day of Pentecost. They have the mind of Christ. (Galatians 5:22).

May we all be a part of this remnant!

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