The Death of the Pope of Rome

by Ronald Cooke
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THE DEATH OF THE POPE OF ROME

I was traveling in the northeastern part of the United States while the Pope was dying and during his funeral. I was trying to preach the OLD OLD STORY of REDEEMING GRACE, trying to set forth THE BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST as the only hope of sinners while the news media blanketed the nation with the propaganda, errors, and blasphemies of Roman Catholicism. When I stopped to eat in restaurants the television would be on following the dying moments of the pope, or later, covering his subsequent funeral.

Seldom have I seen, in fact, I can NEVER REMEMBER, in my lifetime, so much ERROR, HERESY, PROPAGANDA, and BLASPHEMY compressed into such a short period of time in the land of the free and the home of the brave. On almost every magazine cover since, the face of the late Pope covers the entire page. Every kind of accolade known to man has been showered on the late pontiff. He has been truly made into the greatest saint of the past century.

It is obvious that the Vatican propaganda machine has gone into overdrive on this matter. The Vatican is milking the death, the funeral, and the choice of the next pope, for everything it can get out of them in the way of good publicity, after several years of the exposure of pedophile priests in the news media. The Vatican worked hard and long to try to keep the immorality of its priests under cover but they could not do it. The Scandal was so large, so great, so worldwide, that all the efforts of the BAGMEN to buy the silence of those who had been traumatized by the predatory priests of papal Rome, could not keep the spiritual cancer from the public eye.

In this brief tract I intend to examine the PAPACY which Pope John Paul represented, his beliefs, his practices, and his claims in the light of BIBLE TRUTH. For the great REFORMERS’ BATTLE CRY --- SOLA-SCRIPTURA --- has obviously been forgotten by many who still claim to be evangelical and even Reformed in their beliefs, and the modern news media seem to be completely ignorant of it.

How does the late Pope, his Pontificate, and His Papacy, appear in the light of the Bible and in the light of Church History? In this brief tract I simply call to mind the witness of Church History and the infallible and inerrant guide of the Holy Scriptures. To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word it is because there is NO LIGHT in them. (Isa. 8:20)

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THE IGNORANCE OF CHURCH HISTORY

It is obvious as one reads the modern news media, and the comments of evangelical leaders, that church history is either not known, or forgotten and ignored, by many in this generation. Dr. Billy Graham, in writing the foreword to Life Magazine’s Special Commemorative Edition of 130 pages dedicated to the late Pope John Paul II, said:

When future historians look back on the most influential personalities of the 20th century, the name of Pope John Paul II will unquestionably loom large in their accounts. Few individuals have had a greater impact — not just religiously but socially and morally — on the modern world. He will stand as the MOST INFLUENTIAL MORAL VOICE OF OUR TIME. (emphasis added)

When one looks at the lives of the popes of Rome he sees a ghastly array of egregious evils, heinous crimes, and glaring sins which cannot be matched by any other group of men in the annals of history. Other men and other organizations have committed great atrocities and evils, but never on such a wide scale, or for such a long time, as the Popes of Rome.

The evils of the Popes are compounded by the fact that while committing all the evils, atrocities, massacres, inquisitions, immoralities, and teaching all the false doctrines of Rome, ALL THESE DEMONIC MONSTERS CLAIMED AT THE SAME TIME TO BE THE VICAR OF CHRIST ON EARTH. Roman Catholic scholars, such as Malachi Martin, one of the leading Roman Catholic scholars of the 20th century, describe in great detail the evils of the Roman Catholic papacy. So if people today do not know of such evils, it is not because they never happened or have not been publicized, it is because people are willfully IGNORANT of them.

While waiting for my daughter Sarah to complete her assignment at the Public Library in Wythall, Virginia, I picked up a little book from a glass case (the books in the glass case were not allowed to be taken from the library), and it was all about the HUGUENOTS who had helped to settle Virginia, how they fled from some of the worst persecutions and massacres carried out by the henchmen of the Roman Catholic System.

In fact, the PAPACY, of which the late pope was a member, had a special medal struck to celebrate the massacre of around 100,000 Huguenots on the eve of the feast of St. Bartholomew. So it was ever after known in history as the St. Bartholomew’s day massacre.
Early America was made up of millions of people like the Huguenots who fled here to escape being massacred by Rome. So to pretend that the System of Rome is a lover of freedom of religion and democratic rights is just another pipe dream of modern journalists and papal supporters. The modern Roman Catholic scholar Sidney Ahlstrom writes about early America:

The atmosphere in America hardly invited Catholic cooperation with the patriots. Sam Adams felt that “much more is to be dreaded from the growth of popery in America than from the Stamp Act.” And a future Chief Justice of the United States, John Jay, did his best to deny Catholics the right of citizenship. Harvard College had the Dudleian Lectures, the fourth in each series to be devoted to “detecting, convicting, and exposing the idolatry, errors, and superstitions of the Romish Church.” The Continental Congress which met at Philadelphia on September 17 (1775), took as its own by unanimous vote, the “Suffolk County Resolves,” framed a week earlier in Boston, which denounced the May 20 Quebec Act, “the late act of Parliament for establishing the Roman Catholic religion in that extensive country now called Canada.” This act was “dangerous in an extreme degree to the Protestant religion and to the civil rights and liberties of all Americans.”

As the United States has become more and more Romanized the evils which accompany the System of Rome now flourish in the land. As Chmelovski has pointed out if one wants to see what happens when the System of Rome gains the upper hand in any society all he needs to do is to look across the border into Latin America.

The United States did not arise out of the System of Rome, the mayhem of Islam, the Elephant God of Hinduism, nor the sayings of Confucius; it arose from the Protestant-Puritan teachings of men who loved the Word of God. Sure, they made mistakes but the United States arose from Puritan-Protestantism and not from some Judeo-Christian ethic that was unheard of in the early days of colonial America. Ahlstrom notes, that “on the eve of the Revolution there was not a single Rabbi in the American colonies,” and Roman Catholics only made up a very tiny minority of the population.

The Puritan fathers sought to protect their people from Romish influences by “forbidding the importation of all Irish people into the colony, and by administering oaths of allegiance which specifically denounced the Pope.” Public prayers were made long, loud, and often, to God that “the Protestant interest might be advanced in our English nation.”
In 1696 the legislature "required all inhabitants to take an oath against the pope and the doctrines of the (Roman) Catholic religion." My how the mighty have fallen and the weapons of spiritual warfare ceased.

Dr. John Robbins notes that,

Western Civilization is a by-product of the Reformation. Now in the name of saving what is left of Western Civilization, Colson and his ilk demand that we abandon the Reformation, make a theological, social, and political alliance with the Roman-State-Church, and battle the barbarians scaling the walls.

He also notes what the compromise with the false System of Rome is now producing in the United States of America.

Compromise, though under different labels, became the modus operandi of the neo-evangelicals. It was called co-operation--and who is anti-social enough to oppose co-operation? It was called engagement, and who is isolationist enough to reject engagement? It was called co-belligerence... But the idea of co-belligerence is a betrayal of Christ; it is abandoning theological warfare for cultural warfare.

The compromise of which Robbins speaks has now all but overwhelmed historic Bible Protestantism in the United States today, as the praise of the late pope surely testifies. We simply cannot forget what the papacy has been; and in many ways STILL IS, by looking past the realities of the historical record. We must examine the historical record so that we can learn about the Papacy which everyone today seemingly cannot praise enough.

So in the next chapter we will look at the historical record of the papacy. These men LIVED. THESE MEN LIVED AS the POPES of the Roman Catholic System. They stand, according to Roman Catholic historians and scholars, in the long chronological line of the papacy. And they were some of the worst scoundrels, miscreants, and murderers who ever cursed the world with their presence.
References

1. Life Magazine Special Commemorative Edition, p. 6
3. Ibid., p. 1.
4. Ibid., p. 8.
5. Loc. cit.
8. Loc. cit.
THE PAPACY WHICH THE LATE POPE REPRESENTED

How has the papacy conducted itself in the past? It would require many volumes to recount the crimes, sins, cruelties, debaucheries, immoralties, perversions, errors, and blasphemies of the Papal See. The Papacy of history is so far removed from that which the modern news media have tried to present, as HELL is from HEAVEN.

Malachi Martin spends about 200 pages of his book The Decline and Fall of the Roman Church describing the evil deeds of many popes. In the early part of his book he comments on how the papacy started to decline by describing how Pope Damusus got to the papal chair.

At the election of Pope Damusus I, in AD 366, thirty seven corpses littered the Liberian Basilica after a fracas between the followers of Damasus and hisarchivial Ursinus. ¹

In other words, Damasus became pope by murdering the forces of his opponent Ursinus.

Martin then describes the actions of Pope Stephen who had his archivial brought before him, after having his knee caps broken, after having had him flogged, and after having his eyes carved out. He elaborates:

Within a year Pope Stephen will have used Duke Desiderius to get Christophorus, Sergius, and Gratiosus imprisoned, first their eyes cut out, and then their lives ended. He will then turn on Desiderius and by December of AD 771 will encompass his ruin and death. ²

Later on, Martin again gives us a glimpse into the papacy of the early Middle Ages. He writes about the period of church history known as the PORNOCRACY OF THE PAPACY because it was so evil and immoral.

The high point of Marozia's (who was little more than a papal prostitute) career came at the end of her very long life when she was visited in her Roman prison by an emperor who had just seized possession of the city-- Otto III-- successor of Charlemagne. He had only one reason for visiting Marozia-- to lay eyes on the woman who was the mother of a pope, whom she had conceived by another pope, and who was the aunt of a third pope, the grandmother of a fourth pope, and with the help of her own mother, the creator of nine popes in eight years, of whom two had been strangled, one suffocated with a cushion, and four deposed of in circumstances that have not come to public light. ³
Marozia was able to get rid of Pope Leo VI by means which have never come to light, which usually means that person was murdered. Martin recounts how the charges against Pope John XII were read.

For Marozia, the reading of Pope John XII's sins must have provided a peroxysm of personal suffering. Every word is accurate. "YOUR GRANDSON, POPE JOHN XII, PERJURED HIMSELF ... HE STOLE THE TREASURY OF THE POPES .... HE WAS DEPOSED BY A HOLY SYNOD AND REPLACED BY POPE LEO VIII ... THEN THE APOSTATE RETURNED TO ROME, EVICTED POPE LEO VIII, CUT OFF THE NOSE, TONGUE, AND TWO FINGERS OF THE CARDINAL DEACON, FLAYED THE SKIN OF BISHOP OTGER, CUT OFF THE HANDS OF NOTARY AZZO, AND BEHEADED SIXTY-THREE OF ROME'S CLERGY AND NOBILITY ... DURING THE NIGHT OF MAY 14, 954, WHILE HAVING ILLICIT AND FILTHY RELATIONS WITH A ROMAN MATRON, HE WAS SURPRISED IN THE ACT OF SIN BY THE MATRON'S ANGRY HUSBAND WHO, IN JUST WRATH, SMASHED HIS SKULL WITH A HAMMER AND THUS LIBERATED HIS EVIL SOUL INTO THE GRASP OF SATAN. 4 (emphasis his)

What Malachi Martin, a loyal Roman Catholic, did not tell us, was how the Vicar of Christ on earth was liberated into the grasp of Satan at his death. But he does proceed to describe other men and boys who occupied the papal chair. He notes that when Pope John XIX died under suspicious circumstances, which usually means he was murdered, in 1033, his relative took his son of 12, had papal clothes made for him and lifted him bodily on to the papal throne and had him consecrated pope as Benedict IX. (So the present pope chose a name surrounded by evil, perversion, bestiality and murder.)

For Martin relates that

The spectacle of this twelve year old issuing excommunications, giving his papal blessing, formulating decrees, consecrating bishops, deciding theological matters, was ludicrous enough... but (there was more) Benedict was bisexual, (he) sodomized animals, and ordered murders. He also dabbled in witchcraft and Satanism. Within a year there was a plot to strangle him. He escaped. His big brother Gregory put him back on the papal throne. The Roman citizenry revolted against him and put him out but his family put him back on the throne. 5

In AD 1033 Benedict sold the papal throne to Gratian who became Pope Gregory VI. Benedict continued to live in the Lateran Palace, and
Martin says, "which he converted into the best brothel in town." 6

Martin writes of this period of papal history as follows:

Each of the succeeding popes from Leo III to Boniface VI was elected in a tortuous fashion. The Roman factions battled among themselves and with the ordinary people. A candidate (for pope) emerged from these always rough, frequently bloody, often fatal encounters between the various contending parties who used money, as well as arms, and sexual subversion to enforce their wishes. 7

The men, who like Pope John Paul II, claimed to be none other than the very Vicar of Christ Himself, were men who used bloody murderous encounters to seize the papal throne, and who attempted to hold it against all comers. This period of church history was called the Pornocracy of the Papacy because of all the evil immoralities, cruelties, murder, and mayhem which characterized the men who called themselves blasphemously Vicars of Christ!! Martin recounts again the depths to which the Papacy had fallen around the turn of the first millennium after Christ.

We still have documents of Byzantine ambassadors reporting on the four questions ritually put to every priest about to be consecrated as a bishop of the Roman church: "Have you sodomized a boy? Have you fornicated with a nun? Have you sodomized any four legged animal? Have you committed adultery?" These questions accurately reflected the standard required of would-be bishops. St. Peter Damian wrote a famous book, the Liber Gomorrhianus (Book of Gomorrah), graphically describing the venality, lechery, bestiality, and homicidal fecklessness of his fellow Roman clerics. 8

It is these bishops who subsequently rise to be Cardinals and future popes. No wonder the Protestant Reformers looked upon Papal Rome as the seat of the Harlot Church filled with abominations.

The following popes lived just before the Protestant Reformation was launched and they were no better than the earlier ones described by Martin.

BONIFACE VIII  1217-1303

This evil deceiver started his rule in the papal chair by pretending to
be God. He whispered through a hidden tube to the ruling pope Celestine and commanded him to lay down his office. Celestine thought he was hearing the voice of God and responded to the command by laying down his office. He was immediately locked up in prison and starved to death by Boniface who became both Pope and Emperor.

The Pope then fought with the powerful Colonna family which led him to destroy the city of Palestrina, where he killed 6000 citizens in a bloody massacre. He also issued his famous papal BULL -- UNAM SANCTUM in which he claimed that the Pope of Rome was ruler over both spiritual and temporal powers, which enabled him to wear the TRIPLE TIARA signifying such powers, and which ALL POPES EVER SINCE HAVE WORN, including the late pope. Meaning he CLAIMED absolute authority over all matters terrestrial and celestial.

Boniface VIII robbed and plundered everywhere he could while carrying on immoral affairs with his mistress and her daughter. Philip le Bel of France was able to seize him and imprison him in 1303. However, he was later liberated by an armed insurrection and returned to Rome. He became insane and was placed in solitary confinement where he died.

John XXII 1316-1334

This pope was another worthless character who took over the papal chair after poisoning Pope Alexander V. Being a cardinal he had access to the pope, and to get the papal chair he poisoned the pope who occupied it.

He called for an army to go against Ladislaus, king of Naples, because he had driven him out of Rome. He also struggled with the General Council he had called to meet at Constance. Sixty charges were laid against him at this council and he was deposed.

In facing the charges he called for his personal Magician Abramelin to save him from the charges. But after bickering, and challenging the charges, the only thing that was accomplished was that the number of charges were reduced from 60 to five: LUST, MURDER, RAPE, SODOMY, and PIRACY. 6 He was found guilty and deposed.

Alexander VI 1431-1503

This very evil pope committed his first murder at the age of twelve and fathered at least ten illegitimate children. It has been said of him that he single-handedly justified the Reformation.
He bought the papal chair by giving various Cardinals all kinds of expensive gifts so they would vote for him. He gave Cardinal Orsino two castles; Cardinal Colonna a rich abbey and Cardinal St. Angelo the bishopric of Porto. He dispensed other gifts to other Cardinals so they would vote for him. He became pope in 1492 and took the title Alexander VI.

He was the pope who had Savonarola, the preacher who cried out publicly against the crimes and sins of the papacy, executed. McClintock and Strong, trying to shield their readers from the coarseness, vulgarity, and criminal and immoral activity of this pope, wrote:

Of the crimes alleged against Alexander and his children, this is not the place to speak in detail; it is enough to say that his pontificate rivaled THE WORST YEARS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE in debauchery, veracity, and murder.

His death was said by some to be accidental. He requested from Cardinal Corneto the use of his magnificent palace for a great feast to celebrate his illegitimate daughter’s marriage. All the cardinals and nobility were invited to this feast at which Alexander had planned to poison two of the Cardinals who were invited. By mistake, (some might be forgiven if they thought on purpose) Alexander was given the poisoned wine and died the same night.

The Protestant Reformation forced the papacy to appear more civilized. However, the intrigue, and cruelty of the papacy continued long after the time of the Reformation. Martin describes how the papacy governed in the nineteenth century.

The legacy of Pius VII was a terrible one: oppression, surveillance, a dictatorship. Between 1823 (death of Pius VII) and 1846 (when Pius IX was elected), almost 200,000 citizens of the papal states were severely punished (death, life imprisonment, exile, galleys) for political offences; another 1.5 million were subject to constant police surveillance and harassment.

There was a gallows permanently in the square of every town and city and village. Railways, meetings of more than three people, and all newspapers were forbidden. All books were censored. A special tribunal sat permanently in each place to try, condemn, and execute the accused. All trials were conducted in Latin. Ninety-nine percent of the accused did not understand the accusations against them. Every pope tore up the stream of petitions that came constantly asking for justice, for the franchise, for reform of the
police and prison system. When revolts occurred in Bologna, in the Romagna, and elsewhere, they were put down with wholesale executions, sentences to lifelong hard labor in the state penitentiary, to exile, to torture. Secret societies abounded. Assassination, robberies, crime in general increased. 12

It is also important to remember that the man, who was pope before Pope John Paul II, was probably murdered. Yallup in his book IN GOD'S NAME puts forth a very good case for murder. It is also interesting to note that the newspapers in Italy and Spain had headlines claiming that Pope was murdered. But in the United States no newspaper reported anything about the suspicious nature of that pope's death. The history of the papacy certainly shows that time and time again a pope was murdered so that another man could claim the papal throne. And this suspicion of murder haunts the papal chair even to this day.

So when evangelicals rush to praise the late Pope they have to ignore not only the history of intrigue and murder which has surrounded the papal throne but they must also ignore all the false doctrines the late pope taught, all the false practices he encouraged and all the blasphemous titles he claimed. Not to mention the great amount of immoral perversion which overwhelmed the Roman Catholic System under the pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

To call the late Pope the MOST INFLUENTIAL MORAL VOICE OF OUR TIME, as Dr. Billy Graham does, is surely to be completely blind to the IMMORAL SCANDAL that inundated pope John Paul II's pontificate. Do all those who call the late pope a GREAT MORAL VOICE, or words to that effect, live on the same planet as the rest of us?

Pope John Paul II presided over the second PORNOCRACY of the PAPACY. He presided over the GREATEST MOST WIDESPREAD IMMORAL SCANDAL of SEXUAL PERVERSION in church history. Never in the annals of recorded history has such a scandal been displayed for the entire world to see. Documented case after documented case in the courts of the world, joined to the thousands of other cases which never came to light as the BAG-MAN, as he was called, bought the silence of thousands of young men whose cases never came to the courts. Combined with other "faithful" souls who although sodomized as children in their loyalty to the mother church NEVER EVEN COMPLAINED.

To call any man who presided over a church filled with sexual perversion, pedophilia, and just the plain immorality of 100,000 other priests "the MOST INFLUENTIAL MORAL VOICE OF OUR TIME is an example of what the Bible says is calling good evil and evil good. It is
an example of the depth of the MORAL BLINDNESS of modern evangelicals and an example of being turned to FABLES and away from the TRUTH, an example of believing THE LIE instead of the truth. The Apostle Paul exhorts believers: LET NO MAN DECEIVE YOU! Do not let the modern news media, Billy Graham or anybody else DECEIVE you. The late Pope was the voice of a religious institution which became the reservoir of the most egregious sexual perversion known to man, MEN CALLED PRIESTS PREYING ON THEIR HELPLESS LITTLE ALTAR BOYS to satisfy their lust which arose in part from their enforced celibacy, which the Scriptures call a doctrine of demons. So as the chief voice, of this reservoir of unnatural perversion, the late pope of Rome was surely the spokesman of a "Church" which was filled with immoral priests under his authority; the spokesman for all the false doctrines of Romanism; and a man who himself, claimed to be the Vicar of Christ on earth, making him then without doubt the MOST INFLUENTIAL IMMORAL VOICE OF OUR TIME. To have a REAL MORAL VOICE one must proclaim true Bible Doctrine and repudiate falsehood, false claims, and false practices.

References

2. Ibid., p. 70.
3. Ibid., p. 99.
5. Ibid., pp. 109-110.
6. Ibid., p. 110.
7. Ibid., p. 81.
8. Ibid., p. 109.

* See *Shattered Vows*, by David Rice, (a Roman Catholic writer) in which he states the figure 100,000 several times to describe the number of priests resigning from the priesthood usually over questions of their own morality.
THE BELIEFS OF THE LATE POPE OF ROME

What did Pope John Paul II believe? To the Bible-believer, the late pope believed many lies and TAUGHT these lies as part of his pastoral ministry. The late pope believed in Purgatory. He taught that millions of souls go to Purgatory after death. He taught that masses could be said for them and that would hasten their release from purgatory. He taught that money could be paid to priests to say Masses to help the souls of their loved ones to get out of purgatory.

The Bible does not teach Purgatory. In fact, Gregory the Great more than five hundred years after the death of the apostles was the first Pope to teach about Purgatory, even then it was not made an official teaching of the church until about 700 years after the death of Gregory. Bible-believing Protestants have always looked upon Purgatory as a LIE. Dr. Ian Paisley rightly called it the GREATEST LIE EVER TOLD. The late Pope believed and taught this lie of purgatory. This lie is believed by millions of Roman Catholics. So the late pope was an arch-deceiver of millions of precious never-dying souls. If the Bible is true, and people go to heaven or hell when they die, then millions of people have been deceived concerning their eternal destiny by the teachings of the late pope.

The late pope taught lies about Mary. He taught the lie that Mary was Immaculate Conceived. He taught the lie that Mary was a perpetual virgin. He taught the lie that Mary was bodily assumed into heaven. He taught the lie that Mary could mediate between sinners and God. The Bible teaches none of these Roman Catholic dogmas.

The slogan he chose for his pontificate was TOTUS TUUS -- TOTALLY YOURS which he devoted to Mary and not to Christ. Life Magazine proudly displays a full page picture of the pope signing TOTUS TUUS -- ALL YOURS, on each page of some book. ¹ So the late pope was totally devoted to a woman who has been dead for almost 2000 years. He was not totally committed to the Lord Jesus Christ but to Mary. He ascribed every deliverance of his life to Mary as Life Magazine proudly recounts. He worshiped Mary. He encouraged others to worship Mary. He believed he could pray through Mary. He believed that she was a mediatrix who could bring him to God. But the Scripture teaches that there is only ONE MEDIATOR between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. He is the only one who died the JUST ONE for the UNJUST ONES that HE might bring them to God.

The late pope taught the LIE of INDULGENCES. He promised indulgences in 1998 to those who tried various things in their lives, like stopping smoking etc. The Reformation was triggered by the sale of indulgences by John Tetzel. So indulgences were approved by the late
pope. Indulgences promise the forgiveness of sins. So they were, and are, another GREAT LIE of the Papal Church and another lie of the late pope.

In this short tract we cannot go into great detail on all the lies of the late pope suffice it to say, he taught the lie that the Apocrypha, Ecumenical councils, and Papal Pronouncements and Tradition, were just as authoritative as God's Written Word. He taught the lie of salvation by works. He taught the lie of Baptismal Regeneration. He taught the lie of an on-going priesthood which has long since been cancelled out by our great High Priest the Lord Jesus Christ. As Dr. Ian Paisley has well said: "God has sacked every priest that Rome has ever ordained."

W.T. Shedd noted that the Roman Catholic priesthood has no support in the Written Word of God.

The Roman theory of an ecclesiastical priesthood, acting, since Christ's ascension, as the delegates and agents of the great high priest, HAS NO SUPPORT IN SCRIPTURE. Had Christ intended to discharge his sacerdotal office through a class of persons in his church, He would have appointed and commissioned such a class, and provided for its continuation. He did this in regard to His prophethical office... but He did NOT APPOINT ANY PRIESTS to "offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins... On the contrary He ABOLISHED THE EARTHLY PRIESTHOOD when He formally assumed His own priestly office. The substance having appeared, the SHADOW DISAPPEARED. The earthly sacrifice was done away, and the EARTHY PRIEST with it."

Pope John Paul II, may be called a great moral voice by the blinded sycophants of today but he taught many plain falsehoods. He taught the lie that there is spiritual benefit to be had by saying Hail Mary's, fingering the Rosary, going to Novenas, and going into monasteries and nunneries, to name just a few of the lies that the late Pope, and the on-going papacy, use to deceive precious never dying souls.

None of these false teachings are found in the Scripture so why do men who profess to be "evangelical" continue to praise a man who was everything but evangelical in his beliefs and teachings? How can anyone who claims to believe the Bible is the only authority for all matters of faith and practice praise a man who teaches all kinds of falsehoods not revealed in the WRITTEN WORD?

The late pope then without a doubt was one of the greatest liars in the world, and certainly the liar with the most influence in the world today. The Bible says "Let God be true and every man a liar," even the
pope of Rome. Every son of Adam is a liar whether he admits it or not. I like Calvin's remark on this verse:

God, he (Paul) says is TRUE, not only because He is prepared to stand faithfully to His promises, but also because He fulfills in deed whatever He declares in His Word; for He says, 'As My Power, so shall my work be.' Man on the other hand, is a LIAR, not only because he often breaks his pledge, but because by nature he seeks after falsehood and shuns the truth.  

No greater example can be found in church history of those who seek falsehood and shun the truth, than the popes of Rome. Wherever anything human is put upon the same authoritative level as the revealed Word of God, nothing but chaos, idolatry, and blasphemy follow.

God's WRITTEN WORD is absolute truth. Therefore every true preacher must stay as close to the WRITTEN WORD as possible.

Luther said, in response to the criticism of Erasmus that he was too dogmatic,

For even I, by the grace of God, am not such a fool or so mad as to have been willing to maintain and defend this cause for so long, with so much zeal and constancy (which you call obstancy), amid so many dangers to life, so much hatred, so many treacheries, in short, amid the fury of men and demons simply for the sake of money (which I neither possess nor desire), or popularity, (which I could not obtain if I wished in a world so incensed against me), or physical safety (of which I cannot for a moment be certain). Do you think that you alone have a heart that is moved by these tumults? Even we are not made of stone... but when nothing else can be done, we prefer to be battered by temporal tumult, rejoicing in the Grace of God, for the sake of the Word of God, which must be ASSERTED WITH AN INVINCIBLE AND INCORRUPTIBLE MIND, rather than to be shattered by eternal tumult under the wrath of God, with intolerable torment.  

The Scriptures must be asserted with an invincible and incorruptible mind for only in the INSPIRED INFALLIBLE and INERRANT Word of the LIVING GOD is absolute truth to be found. The true preacher then endeavors to stay as close as possible to the Scriptures in his teaching and preaching, so that what he teaches is the TRUTH of GOD and not the fables, lies, and inventions of man.

Every man tends to deviate from the Written Word. So to preach the truth the godly man cries out to the Lord for Divine help to preach
THE WORD and to stay away from FABLES, FALSE DOCTRINES and LIES, even though the whole world may worship at the shrine of the pope. He cries out for discernment to be able to distinguish between the wisdom which is of the earth, sensual and demonic, and the true wisdom which is from above which is FIRST PURE!

References

THE PRACTICES OF THE LATE POPE

The late pope said MASS all the time. He practiced what is called the elevation of the host. He practiced what is called transsubstantiation - a claim that when he spoke the words of consecration the bread and the wine were changed into the actual body and blood of Christ. He claimed that he made a god out of the wafer.

This evil practice has been going on for centuries. Martin Luther said,

If you have been a murderer, a drunkard, etc., so have I been a blasphemer of God, who for the space of fifteen years was a friar, and blasphemed God with celebrating THAT ABOMINABLE IDOL THE MASS. It had been better for me if I had been partaker of some other great wickedness; but what is done cannot be undone; he that has stolen let him steal no more. 

The Thirty Nine Articles of the Anglican Church sought to set forth what the Bible teaches. The article on the Mass of Romanism, calls it “a blasphemous fable and dangerous deceit.” The English martyrs under the Roman Catholic queen Bloody Mary Tudor were martyred because they refused to admit that Christ was locally, corporately, or materially present in the bread and wine of communion. Latimer and Ridley both took their Greek New Testaments before their martyrdoms to see if they could find such a teaching there. They could not; so they were burned at the stake at Balliol College, Oxford, in 1555.

Bishop J.C. Ryle wrote,

Whatever men please to think or say, the Romish doctrine of the Real Presence, if pursued to its legitimate consequences, obscures EVERY leading doctrine of the Gospel and damages and interferes with the whole system of Christ’s truth. You spoil the blessed doctrine of Christ’s finished work... You spoil the priestly office of Christ... You spoil the scriptural doctrine of the Christian ministry. You extort SINFUL MEN into positions of MEDIATORS... You give to the sacramental elements of the bread and wine an honor they were NEVER meant to receive and produce an IDOLATRY to be ABHORRED of Faithful Christians.

I cannot doubt for a moment that our martyred Reformers saw and felt these things even MORE CLEARLY than we do... Rather than admit the doctrine of the Real Presence under the forms of the bread and wine, the Reformers of the Church of England WERE CONTENT TO BE BURNED.
We must remember that the System of Rome which the late pope presided over has burned countless thousands of faithful Christians down through the centuries because they would not bow to the false practices and teachings of Pope John Paul II's false church. Now the wonder boys of modern evangelicalism, not only want to forget the martyrs of Jesus, but they also want to forget the false doctrines and practices which the late Pope defended and promulgated, the very same practices which the martyrs of Jesus were burned at the stake for refusing!

The late Pope practiced celibacy and defended what the Bible calls a doctrine of demons. And enforced priestly celibacy has certainly been an evil, as David Rice and other Roman Catholic writers have shown, which has cursed the Roman Catholic System, and the world, for centuries, and is still cursing it today as these words are being written. All the pedophilia, sexual perversion, and immorality of the PRESENT-DAY Roman Catholic Priesthood can be laid at the door of this demonic evil practice, an evil immoral practice which the late Pope defended loud, long and often.

The late Pope traveled to various Shrines commending these ungodly places to the faithful Roman Catholics who sought to follow his example. He also liked to go each summer to Castel Gandolfo, where he prayed daily in chapel while kneeling before a picture of the Black Madonna. Life Magazine recounts why He worshiped the Black Madonna.

Poles believe the Virgin Mary saved their nation at the battle of Czestochowa during a Swedish invasion in 1655. Czestochowa, in our time is an ancient city with a monastery... in that monastery is the original icon of Mary, her face blackened by years. Young Lolek Wojtyla was taken to the shrine in his boyhood. To John Paul and his countrymen, the Black Madonna is "Queen of Poland" defender of the country, symbol of faith, a strong link between church and state. 1

To imagine that dead people intervene on earth is just a form of Spiritism and to kneel before icons is blatant idolatry.

The voice of the true preacher cries in the wilderness of this world and when the truth is preached the glory of the Lord is revealed for the MOUTH OF THE LORD HAS SPOKEN IT. The grass withers and the flower fades but THE WORD OF THE LORD SHALL STAND FOR EVER. And this is the Word by which the Gospel is preached unto you, Peter adds.

The Gospel of REDEEMING GRACE is the WORD of GOD. It is

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REVEALED by SUPERNATURAL REVELATION and MUST BE PREACHED. PREACH THE WORD is the biblical command. It is not fall down and worship idols. They are dead and worthless and bring nothing to any individual whether he is pope or just an ordinary person, but the most spiritual darkness the human mind can contemplate.

Dr. John Robbins put it so well when he wrote:

It is important to understand the relationship between propositions and BELIEF, which is THE SOLE INSTRUMENT of our salvation. The object of belief is always a proposition. One cannot believe something that is not propositional, even if it is verbal. If I say “tree” without context, that is not an object of either understanding or belief. The Bible is GOD’S WORD, not his Picture. It is the WORD who was in the beginning, not the EMOTION, or the ICON. Scripture says “in the beginning was the LOGOS.” It does not say, “in the beginning was the PATHOS.”

Nor was there any IDOL, VIRGIN MARY, SAINT, or POPE in the beginning only the WORD which by the gospel is preached to helpless sinners. Only the preached Word can do helpless sinners any good. Certainly groveling before the Black Madonna or some other image or icon will never bring any light to anyone only a spiritual darkness that cannot be measured.

The sinner must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, for He alone is alive forevermore now ruling in the power of an endless life, so HE ALONE IS ABLE TO SAVE to the last ALL who COME TO GOD THROUGH HIM.

References

THE BLASPHEMOUS CLAIMS OF THE LATE POPE

It is important in this day of false doctrine, false prophets, and blinded sycophants to realize that the history of the papacy is not only an immoral and cruel one, it is also a history of false doctrine, wrong practices, and BLASPHEMOUS CLAIMS. Perhaps the blasphemous claims are the worst of all and obviously TOTALLY IGNORED by men like Billy Graham, Chuck Colson, James Dobson, and Os Guinness.

The late pope was the leading blasphemer in the world at the time of his death. The popes of Rome for centuries have arrogated to themselves NAMES which belong only to the Divine Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The most common blasphemous name bandied about all over the place by the ignorant news people of today, is the Vicar of Christ. The only Representative of Christ on earth today is the Holy Spirit. For a STUMBLEBUM OF A DEPRAVED SINNER to even think of applying such a name to himself marks that one out in a very specific way as ANTICHRIST.

Such men have never represented Christ; in fact, no man can represent Christ on earth. Such men have been much closer to representatives of the Devil than of the sinless Son of God. Names such as OUR LORD GOD THE POPE, KING OF KINGS, and LORD OF LORDS, VICEGERENT OF GOD ON EARTH, SUPREME RULER OF MANKIND, SHEPHERD OF MANKIND, are just some of the most blasphemous titles that ungodly men have ever applied to themselves in the name of their false religion and in their claims to represent God on earth.

Another common blasphemous title used often by the television sycophants and the printed news media is the term "Holy Father. " Do evangelicals pay attention to the word of God today? For the Bible says call NO MAN ON EARTH YOUR FATHER! Christ Himself is the one who utters these words. Why? Because the Lord taught His Disciples to say OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN! He also said "Let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and glorify YOUR FATHER who is in HEAVEN."

"Pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you that you may be the children of YOUR FATHER who is IN HEAVEN." "And call NO MAN YOUR FATHER UPON EARTH: for ONE IS YOUR FATHER, who is IN HEAVEN." How could words be made any plainer?

The popes of Rome have fathered many illegitimate children down through the centuries so that is the only way any pope was a "father" on earth. The name "Holy Father" is another blasphemous claim of the popes of Rome, including the late pope. UNHOLY Non-Father is their correct title. They are neither a "father," nor holy!
These ungodly men have claimed to rule over the common people on earth and over the legislators and princes of the earth. Bishop's Newton's description of the attempts of these evil men to exalt themselves on the earth is still well worth repeating:

He (the pope) exalts himself not only above inferior magistrates, but likewise above bishops and primates, exerting absolute jurisdiction and uncontrolled supremacy over all; ... likewise above kings and emperors, deposing some, advancing others, obliging them to prostrate themselves before him, to kiss his toe, to hold his stirrup, to wait barefooted at his gate, treading even upon the neck and kicking off the imperial crown with his foot. Not only above kings and emperors, but likewise above Christ and God himself, "making the Word of God of none effect by his TRADITIONS," FORBIDDING what God hath commanded, as marriage, communion in both kinds, ... and commanding what God has forbidden, as idolatry, persecution, works of supererogation. ...

So that SITTING in the temple of God plainly implies his seat or cathedra in the Christian church and he sits there, especially at his inauguration, when he sits there as God and makes the table of the Lord his footstool, and in that position receives adoration. At all times he exercises divine authority in the church, "showing himself that he is God" affecting divine titles and attributes, as holiness and infallibility, assuming divine powers and prerogatives in condemning and absolving men, in retaining and forgiving sins, in asserting his decrees to be of the same or greater authority than the Word of God, and commanding them to be received under the penalty of the same or greater damnation. He is styled, and pleased to be styled, "Our Lord God the pope; another God upon earth; king of kings, and lord of lords... (They claim that) the power of the pope is GREATER than all created power, and extends itself to things celestial, terrestrial, and infernal.

The pope does whatsoever he wants, even things unlawful, and is more than God. Such blasphemies are not only allowed, but are even approved, encouraged, rewarded, in the writers of the church of Rome... (Such is) the language even of public decreals and in the acts of councils. So that the pope is evidently the "god" upon earth: at least there is NONE like him, "who exalts himself above every God," no one like him, "who sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." 1

The modern response on the part of many today is that sure the Papacy was like that one time but that has all now changed. Modern
popes do not make such claims and the last late pope certainly never made claims like that.

It is certainly then necessary to look at what happens at the investiture of EVERY POPE of ROME ancient and MODERN. When the Pope is being crowned the Cardinal Deacon says:

Receive the tiara with three crowns and know that thou art the FATHER of PRINCES and KINGS, RULER OF THE WORLD, VICAR of our SAVIOUR Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory, world without end. Amen. 2

Also the official formulation of the Doctrine of the Pope is found in Chapter III of the FIRST DOGMATIC CONSTITUTION of THE CHURCH OF CHRIST in the Vatican decrees. This chapter is entitled, ON THE POWER AND NATURE OF THE PRIMACY OF THE ROMAN PONTIFF, and declares:

All the faithful of Christ MUST BELIEVE that the HOLY APOSTOLIC SEE and the ROMAN PONTIFF POSSESS the PRIMACY over THE WHOLE WORLD, and that the ROMAN PONTIFF is... the TRUE VICAR of CHRIST, and HEAD OF THE WHOLE CHURCH... NONE may reopen the judgment of the Apostolic See, than whose authority THERE IS NO GREATER, nor can any lawfully review its judgment. 3

As Luther said, if the pope is the head of the church, then it is a two headed monstrosity, for the Bible declares that Christ is the head of the Church. The pope is the head of the antichurch of antichrist.

Dr. Ian Paisley also spoke recently on the blasphemous claims of the papacy. He noted that the spurious and outrageous claims of the papacy are best set forth by Cardinal Manning who said in speaking for the pope:

In Christ’s right I am Sovereign. I acknowledge no civil superior: I am the subject of no Prince, and I claim to be the Supreme Judge on earth, the Director of the consciences of men; of the peasant that tills the field and the Prince that sits on the Throne; of the household that sits in the shade of privacy and the legislator that makes laws for the kingdom. I am the last Sole Supreme Judge on earth of what is right and wrong. 4

Imagine a man who is guilty of some of the worst forms of lies and hypocrisy, false doctrines, and false practices, claiming to be the Sole
Supreme Judge on earth of what is right wrong. Such a demonic opinion was the root cause of that most execrable inquisition which cursed the world for more than half a millennium.

Dr. Paisley rightly rejects such blasphemous claims:

The arrogant titles which the Popes of Rome have taken to themselves, the outrageus dogmas they have promulgated, the abominable practices they have engaged in, the bloody deeds they have carried out, the filthy outcome of their so-called priestly celibacy, and their usurping of the Throne of the Lord Jesus Christ, we totally condemn and reject.

In the name of the God of Truth who will not give His glory to another, we decry the so-called ‘Holy Father’ of Rome as a usurper. Christ commanded us to call no man on earth father. Mt. 23:9. In the name of our blessed Lord Jesus we totally abominate the act of the pope to seek to rob our Lord of His undivided Glory. Our LOYALTY IS TO NO POPE OF ROME, but to the Son of God ALONE. Where Christ is THERE CAN BE NO POPE OF ROME; and where the pope is Christ CANNOT BE. We are pledged to the true Christ. Phil.2:9-10. 5

Dr. Paisley then shows what the false ecumenical movement of Rome really means today. He says that the UNALTERABLE AIM of the Papacy today can be seen clearly in the words of Cardinal Heenan, who said,

Ecumenism does NOT mean pretending that all denominations are equally true; it does NOT mean that the Roman Catholic Church has nothing more than other churches. The ULTIMATE OBJECT of ECUMENISM is to UNITE ALL Christians UNDER the Vicar of Christ. 6

Heenan not only manages to blasphemously call the pope of Rome the Vicar of Christ, but he clearly states what some other notable ecumenists do not want to hear, ‘that is, that they are to unite ONLY UNDER the rule of the Pope of Rome who is NO Vicar of Christ, but rather closer to the Vicar of the Devil because of all his claims and sins.

* There are of course, some modern ecumenists who DO WANT to unite all of Christendom under the pope of Rome. In fact, some have said openly that the only logical head of a one-world church is the pope of Rome. On the other hand, believers for centuries have believed that the pope of Rome is the head of the great anti-church of Mystery Babylon the Great, the mother of Harlots and Abominations on the earth.
Such blasphemy however, apparently has little effect upon the dull minds of men today. Is it because men today have such a LOW regard for the Lord Jesus Christ? Christopher Hill, the modern English historian, said that in his studies on the Antichrist, he came to see the link between the HIGH REGARD for the Lord Jesus Christ and the REPUDIATION of ANTICHRIST. He writes,

When I first discussed Antichrist with a group at the University of East Anglia, and tried to suggest some reasons for his rise and fall in the sixteenth and seventeenth century England, a member of the audience reminded us that Antichrist's prominence in these centuries is paralleled and caused by the PROMINENCE OF CHRIST IN THEOLOGY. (at that time). This simple point is OBVIOUS once it is made, though I had missed it. 

Hill then proceeds to elaborate further,

These are the great centuries of Justification by faith in Christ alone, succeeding a period in which salvation had been obtained through the ceremonies and sacraments of the CHURCH, succeeded by a period in which WORKS, MORALITY, were to be re-emphasized against justifying faith ALONE. Historically the belief (that the Papacy) is the Antichrist was strongest among those Protestants who most strongly EMPHASIZED JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH and were most hostile to the ecclesiastical establishment and its ceremonies.  

When men give prominence to the Lord Jesus Christ they have no time for a religion of human works, human merits, sacraments, and ecclesiastical hocus pocus. They regard such things as the very trappings of Antichrist himself. It surely is instructive to realize that The Cathari, Albigenses, Petrobrusians, Waldensians, Lollards, Hussites, Taborites, and Beguins before the Reformation, and the Lutherans, Reformed, Huguenots, Mennonites, Presbyterians, Independents, Puritans, Separatists, Congregationalists, Baptists, Methodists, and Anglicans ALL viewed the PAPACY as the Antichrist of Scripture. 

** For more details see our 670 page study on the Reformed and Puritan View of the Antichrist, and our other studies, Antichrist and Optimism, Papal Theonomy and America Today, Dialogue and Betrayal, and Terrorist Disaster and Ecumenical Debauch. 

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It is surely as important to realize that EVERY MAJOR PROTESTANT denomination at its inception, taught that the Papacy was the Antichrist of Scripture. It is only in recent times, historically speaking, that such a view has now been dropped from most Protestant denominations. With the advent of modern liberalism and the subsequent attacks upon the Inspiration and Authenticity of the Scriptures, coupled with the denials of the Deity of Christ, and the denial of his bodily resurrection from the tomb, Protestant denominations were decimated by insidious unbelief. First in the seminaries, and then in the colleges, and then in the pulpits, a religion of morality which was sympathetic to popery now invaded the Protestant Churches.

When the Bible is no longer considered the Word of God many other evils follow. If there is no Protestant position of SOLA SCRIPTURA then every evil invention of man comes into the church as Calvin so powerfully argued in his Institutes.

If SOLA SCRIPTURA is not the position of a church then men can say the Pope is wonderful no matter what he teaches or what he practices. One man's opinion is as good as the next, and men, to use Calvin's word, IMPUDENTLY and INSOLENTLY introduce whatever their facile evil minds can dredge up into the church.

If the Lord Jesus Christ is not GOD, if His Person, Work, and Word are not extolled very little else that is worthwhile will be preached from the pulpits of the land. When the Lord Jesus Christ is not EXULTED, REVERED, EXALTED, and PRAISED, then the pope will be praised and exalted as the modern debacle in the news media surely proves.

When the Lord Jesus Christ is not given HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE in the Heavenlies, FAR ABOVE ALL PRINCIPALITY, AND POWER, AND MIGHT AND DOMINION, AND EVERY NAME that is NAMED not ONLY IN THIS WORLD but ALSO in that which IS TO COME, and unless ALL THINGS (including the antichristian popes of Rome) ARE PUT UNDER HIM AND HIS AUTHORITY ALONE, and unless He is GIVEN HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE as the HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH, which is HIS BODY, the FULLNESS OF HIM that FILLS ALL in ALL, then ANTICHRIST worms his way into the very church of God and is worshiped and praised. The unbridled adulation and praise of the late pope of Rome surely proves this as nothing else can.

For a sinful old man to arrogate to himself titles which belong to God alone is surely the height of blasphemy. For a name like OUR LORD GOD THE POPE to be given to some old bachelor on the Tiber is an affront to the Lord Jesus Christ and is the mark of antichrist rather than Christ.

When men who are supposed to be Bible preachers cannot see this it demonstrates the loss of the exaltation of Christ from their pulpits,
and a loss of the true gospel of Christ which HUMBLIES THE SINNER and EXALTS THE ONLY SAVIOUR of sinners. When men who call themselves Evangelical and Reformed can sign Accords with Jesuits and the representatives of the papacy, and in the process call the great papal System a Christian Church whose members do not need to be proselytized, it is obvious that they do not have a correct view either of the Lord Jesus Christ or the way of salvation.

For in the very System of Roman Catholicism, which they now equate as a sister Christian Communion, people are taught to go to the church and to the priest for their salvation. The priest claims to have the power to give them absolution from their sins. So the false System of Rome puts men who unscripturally call themselves PRIESTS (even pedophile ones) on an equal level with the Lord Jesus Christ, who alone as the GOD-MAN is the ONLY MEDIATOR between God and men.

The System that some Evangelicals, and some Reformed men, now call a sister Christian Communion also teaches clearly and unequivocally that Mary can bring the sinner to God. The late pope if he did nothing else certainly sang the praises of Mary throughout his entire pontificate. Imagine going to a person who has been dead for almost 2000 years to get through to God. This is the spiritistic nonsense that the late Pope championed.

Imagine going to a helpless deceived person who calls himself a “priest” to get through to God. The Bible teaches plainly that ONLY the Lord Jesus Christ can bring the believing sinner to God. Christ has put an end to the priestly line of men and assumed his role as our great High priest. He ALONE has the power, the credentials, and the authority to bring us to God for He died the JUST for the UNJUST that He might bring us to God.

When men set themselves up as those who have power on earth to forgive sins, as the Roman Catholic priesthood from the pope on down, do, GOD steps in and condemns those who believe such a lie, and allows them to fall into the most egregious sins to show to all the world that such men are impostors, deceivers, immoral, and helpless to help themselves as well as anybody else. Modern evangelicals like Billy Graham, Chuck Colson and others may sing the praises of the Roman Catholic pope and his papacy and his church, but God shows to the world the evil nature of these men for all to see. ONLY THE BLIND CANNOT SEE IT.

Imagine after all that has gone on in the present pedophilia scandal, and as of this writing IS STILL GOING ON, with more and still more revelations of Roman Catholic bishops STILL covering up Roman Catholic priests who have been guilty of sodomizing their altar boys, evangelicals and Reformed men still speak of the Roman Catholic
system as a "MORAL" voice, and a "moral" help in the world today! Truly the blind lead the blind in much of what passes for evangelical and/or Reformed Protestantism today.

Jack Van Impe is the latest evangelical to convert to Roman Catholicism. He has blasted Dr. Ian Paisley in particular and Protestantism in general in recounting his perversion to Roman Catholicism. I saw him recently on a television program blasting men of the Reformed and Protestant position while praising the late pope and the Roman Catholic catechism for their eschatology.

He apparently does not realize that eschatology is not the main doctrine in Christianity; soteriology is the main doctrine as far as man is concerned. Soteriology deals with how one becomes a Christian and the Bible exhorts everyone to make their calling and election SURE. It also reminds us concerning eschatology that of that day and hour NO MAN KNOWS! And also exhorts us that "IT IS NOT FOR US TO KNOW THE TIMES AND SEASONS WHICH THE FATHER HAS PUT IN HIS OWN POWER."

The Bible then puts the emphasis where it belongs:

But you shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The apostles were not to stand gazing up into heaven, worrying about how Christ was going to return; they were told to take the true gospel to the ends of the earth. When any man gets caught up in thinking he is some kind of prophet of the future, he will turn out only to be a FALSE PROPHET! And church history is strewn with thousands of false prophets. Men who thought they knew how the end times would play out, only to be shown time and again, that what they had written proved to be false.

Even men who seemed to have a good grasp of the Bible many times made statements concerning the end times only to be proven wrong. Richard Baxter the Puritan, whose books have blessed millions, said that he believed Christ would return within a hundred years of his life time, adding "probably not a half or quarter of that time" meaning that he looked for the return of Christ within 25 years of his speaking. He made that statement more than 300 years ago!

How a man is saved is of far greater importance than how things in the future may come to pass. For if a man is not saved he will be lost forever no matter how the end times unfold, and no matter how many mysteries he thinks he knows, nor how many prophecies he may believe
he has made, or thinks he understands. This is particularly true in Van Impe's case. For if he now thinks that the Roman Catholic Church teaches the true way of salvation including the egregious LIE of purgatory, he obviously is deceived as to the true nature of biblical salvation, even though he may think he understands prophetic mysteries.

For though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries, if I have not love, I am nothing. And true Love the Apostle Paul is quick to add, REJOICES IN THE TRUTH! True love does NOT REJOICE IN INIQUITY. And if the teaching of purgatory is not iniquity, WHAT IS IT? For it teaches one BILLION Roman Catholics including now, Jack Van Impe, that when people die they do not go to heaven or hell, THEY GO TO PURGATORY. This is nothing if not AN INIQUITOUS LIE that has NOTHING WHATSOEVER to do with biblical truth! Just to name ONE of the many wicked lies of Roman Catholicism.

Jack Van Impe now praises the Pope of Rome and the teachings of Roman Catholicism while blathering away about things he believes are going to transpire in the future. Showing that when men get involved in trying to PREDICT what they believe is going to transpire in the future, THEY LEAVE THEMSELVES OPEN TO GROSS DECEPTION and ERROR. Christ says plainly enough so that a ten year old can understand: IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW THE TIMES AND SEASONS THE FATHER has put in his OWN POWER. God has reserved end-times and seasons FOR HIMSELF, not for little sinfully depraved men to dabble in. GOD ALONE KNOWS and that should be enough to satisfy the believing soul. For we know not what a day may bring forth, so that we are not even to say "tomorrow I will do thus and so," but rather if the LORD WILLS IT, I may do thus and so.

The Scripture teaches that the true gospel preacher is ONLY a VOICE. The VOICE cries in the wilderness of this world. When ever any man, NO MATTER WHO HE IS, begins to think that HE IS MORE THAN A VOICE, God will bring him down, for the FLOWER FADES. The people are GRASS. And the grass withers, and the FLOWER, which represents the BEST of the PEOPLE, also FADES. WHY? Because the Lord BLOWS upon them. The VOICE is to reveal THE GLORY OF THE LORD and to CRY - to SHOUT OUT, "THE WORD OF OUR GOD SHALL STAND FOREVER," and Peter adds in the New Testament, "and this is the Word that by the GOSPEL IS PREACHED unto you."
References

3. Ibid., p. 119.
5. Loc. cit.
8. Loc. cit.
BIBLE TRUTH IN THE FACE OF ERROR

Without a doubt the Vatican has sought to use the passing of one pope and the election of another to gain good publicity for the "church." But while the news media has plastered the news of the Vatican's doings around the world other news is not as good.

Some groups representing those who had been raped and terrorized by the predatory priests of the "church" were in Rome to protest the fact that the "church" is still dragging its feet in dealing with past cases and with the new cases still coming before it almost daily.

The Scriptures inform us that the MYSTERY OF INIQUITY has been at work since the Apostle Paul wrote his epistle to the Thessalonians. The Scriptures also indicate that men PERISH because they receive not the LOVE OF THE TRUTH, that they might be saved. And FOR THIS VERY REASON GOD SENDS THEM A STRONG DELUSION or ERROR so that they should BELIEVE a lie.

Notice it is GOD WHO STEPS IN HERE, and SENDS to those who received not the love of the truth, ERROR. Calvin in commenting on this passage wrote:

Without any doubt we have a notable demonstration of this in the Papacy. No words can express how FOUL is the ABOMINATION of the Papists, how massive and shameful are their nonsensical superstitions, and how far removed their ravings from common sense. NONE WHO HAVE EVEN A MODERATE ACQUAINTANCE WITH SOUND DOCTRINE can think of such depravity without the utmost horror. How then, does the whole world gape in astonishment at them, unless it is because men have been blinded by the Lord and turned into dunderheads? 1

Error disseminated under the pretence of piety and outward holiness turns men into DUNDERHEADS. So these dunderheads now rave away about an evil system as if it were good, and give gold medals 2 to those who lead millions to damnation. Error can only be

* On January 27, 2000, the House of Representatives introduced resolution 3544 which authorized a gold medal to be given to the Pope. On May 23, 2000 the Congress passed this bill by a vote of 416 to 1. No wonder the judgment of God is falling now on this country. For Almighty God does not give his glory to another. When antichristianity is praised strong delusions follow and as Romans Chapter 1 states: God gives up a nation when it worships and serves the creature rather than the CREATOR-GOD.
destroyed with the truth of God's Word. So it is sad when those who are supposed to know the truth act like dunderheads and aid and abet the dissemination of error and drivel.

ALMIGHTY GOD has SENT a STRONG DELUSION to those who REFUSE to receive the love of the truth so that they believe a LIE instead of the Truth. It is not a light nor unimportant thing to REFUSE the truth.

The Almighty Holy Spirit has now uncovered the cage of demons, the hold of every foul spirit, and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird. God HIMSELF has allowed the world to see the OLD HARLOT of ROME in her true colors.

How any one could read A GOSPEL OF SHAME, ** written by Frank Bruni and Elinor Burkett, and still think of the Roman Catholic church as a moral voice, is beyond me. They document case after case of sexual abuse perpetrated by Roman Catholic priests on little children. Their descriptions are lurid and border on the obscene, but they are actual descriptions of what Roman Catholic priests engaged in during the past forty years. The shock of Roman Catholic parents is recounted when they found out that the priests they welcomed to dinner and allowed to go up into the bedroom of their young sons supposedly to tuck them into bed, were actually engaged in abusing them right in their own homes!

Self-confessed evangelicals and Reformed men may still try to defend the Protestant Church, and try to paint over her cancers and sores, but a prostitute is still a prostitute no matter how well she may be painted.

** The Gospel of Shame -- Children, Sexual Abuse, and the Catholic Church, by Frank Bruni and Elinor Burkett, Published by Perennial Press, Harper-Collins, 10 East 53rd St, New York, NY 10022, 2002, p. 143. These writers are not Protestant Fundamentalists attacking Rome, they dedicate their book to Miguel Chincilla whose story they say was the genesis of this book and whose personal courage was an inspiration and whose profound faith they say, captured the best of (Roman) Catholicism.

Miguel Chincilla was a very loyal son of Rome who after he was abused by a Roman Catholic Priest fell into a life of drugs and sex. He contracted AIDS and died when he was only 32 years old, still trying to get the Church to recognize the evil perpetrated on him. He said "It's tough to stay a Catholic when you've been sexually abused by a priest, then raped again by the Hierarchy."
Dr. Harry Ironside wrote almost one hundred years ago about the Harlot Church and the need for believers to separate from her.

The call of verse 4 (Rev. 18:4. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, come out of her my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues.) is, if I understand it aright, not merely a warning to saints in a coming day, but is a message for all who even now discern her true character. Separation from evil is imperative for all who would have the Lord's approval. This was the call heard by the reformers of the 16th century. But alas, alas, MANY who are supposed to be their successors have returned in spirit to that which their fathers left behind. 

Ironside certainly was prophetic. For nowadays some of those who call themselves "REFORMED" now champion the cause of Roman Catholicism. As Dr. John Robbins points out in his recent work *Not Reformed at All*, in response to a book written by Douglas Wilson entitled *Reformed is not Enough*. Wilson gives out the pro-Roman Catholic drivel which has now invaded whole areas of Reformed thinking. So as Ironside said they have returned IN SPIRIT to Rome if not completely.

George Weigel, the modern Roman Catholic writer, who has tried to call for REFORM in the Roman Catholic Church, in his book, *The Courage to be a (Roman) Catholic*, mentions the fact that some Roman Catholic leaders tried to infer that the present immoral crisis in their "church" was merely the result of ANTI-CATHOLIC bias in the news media. He did not agree with that assessment and rebuked his church leaders for such an attitude toward the immoral crisis. However, the "church" never fails to cry "ANTI-CATHOLIC" whenever any criticism appears in the press.

This famous buzz word or term has now become a defense mechanism of the great antichristian system of Rome. The pathetic pro-Roman Catholic press of today seldom if ever uses the good word PROTESTANT. People today are either non-catholic or anti-catholic, both terms are malapropisms. What is obviously meant, but not stated, is non-ROMAN CATHOLIC, or ANTI-ROMAN CATHOLIC.

But true PROTESTANTS are PROTESTANTS FIRST FOREMOST AND ALWAYS. They are only SECONDARILY ANTI-ROMAN CATHOLIC. The Historic Bible Protestant sets forth some of the greatest POSITIVE TRUTHS the world has ever seen or known. In this short tract we can only mention a few of the GREATEST TRUTHS EVER REVEALED TO FALLEN MEN.
1. Historic Bible Protestantism (HBP) has always taught the glorious positive truth that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only Head of the Church. This is one of the most positive glorious truths known to man. It is primarily a positive theological and biblical affirmation. There is NOTHING negative or ANTI in it except to those who deny it and replace it with the demonic teaching that the Pope is the head of the Church.

2. HBP has taught, and still teaches, the glorious positive truth that through the Lord Jesus Christ is preached unto sinners the Forgiveness of sins, so that all who believe on Him can now be justified from all things that they could not be justified under the Law of Moses. This glorious positive announcement is one of the greatest truths the human mind can contemplate. Only secondarily does HBP oppose the lying fantasy of Purgatory, the drivel of penance, and the twaddle of demonic inducements. These reprobate and apostate vaporings are meaningless to the truly justified sinner. He would still hold to Justification by Faith alone in the finished work of Christ, even if all the erroneous heresies of Roman Catholicism had never been concocted by the great SPIRIT OF ERROR.

3. HBP teaches and affirms that the Lord Jesus Christ is the ONLY mediator between God and men. This is one of the most glorious positive, illuminating truths that the Bible reveals. It is a most comforting and blessed truth. The Lord Jesus Christ by His Cross-Work, Resurrection, Ascension, and Session at God’s right hand, now mediates to the believer all the benefits and blessings of salvation. As the ONLY TRUE QUALIFIED HIGH PRIEST He now brings me into the presence of God by His redeeming blood and righteousness. Who can think of a more glorious positive truth than this? Christ died the just for the unjust that HE might bring us to God. Surely no greater or no more positive truth than this has ever sounded out in the ears of fallen sinners. One cannot think of a nobler or greater message than this: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.

The HBP would hold to this glorious positive affirmation even if Rome had never invented all its false mediators from Mary to the present Pope. The HBP only opposes Rome’s false mediators SECONDARILY; PRIMARILY he extols the wonder and the glory of Christ’s present mediatorial ministry.

Christ is the only QUALIFIED MEDIATOR, for He is the ONLY One who has died and risen again and ascended to God’s Right hand. He alone is the sinner’s IMPECCABLE SUBSTITUTE. He ALONE is the ONLY INVINCIBLE SOVEREIGN MEDIATOR,
the ONLY PERSON able and capable of bringing a sinner to glory through His PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS which is imputed to the sinner by FAITH ALONE.

4. HBP teaches that salvation is by grace alone apart from any good works done to merit salvation. Abounding Grace to the chief of sinners is the battle cry of the Protestant Reformation. The whole system of works, duties, fastings, abstinence, pilgrimages, monasteries, numeries, rosaries, Hail Mary’s, and every other idea of human WORKS was completely repudiated by the glorious message of salvation by GRACE ALONE. This glorious message of salvation by GRACE ALONE is one of the most positive God-Glorifying, Christ-exalting, Spirit-uplifting, soul-illuminating, sinner-saving messages that has ever sounded out in the ears of fallen men. THERE IS NONE BETTER. For this glorious message originated in the eternal counsels of the blessed Trinity, it was manifested in the person and Work of Christ, and revealed in the Written Word through the Eternal Spirit. This is the glorious positive message of redeeming grace that must be sounded out to every Roman Catholic so that they too may be saved from the wrath to come. For neither is their salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. The message of salvation by Grace only secondarily repudiates the demonic works-religion of Rome. Salvation by Grace still must be preached even if Rome had never built her edifice or works-religion. The glorious positive truth that by grace we are saved through faith and that not of ourselves, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, NOT OF WORKS LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST. (Eph. 2:8-9), would still need to be preached even if Rome never existed. Reader, if you are unsaved today, whether Roman Catholic, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, cultist, or Protestant, read the book of Romans, ask God to help you understand it, when you do, call upon the name or the Lord, for whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

References