

## SECTION II.

# Denominational Teachings and Practices in the Light of Scripture

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### ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Catholic Church had an embryonic beginning. The early church departed from the simplicity of a congregational form of government, guided by the New Testament as the only Rule of Faith and Practice, and permitted more and more authority to be vested in the bishops of the various churches. By the middle of the second century the church was well united under the authority of the bishops who gradually came to be regarded as successors to the apostles. In opposition to the heresies creeping in, the church came to be called the "catholic" or "universal" church. The adoption of a creed as the rule of faith and practice in the third century put forth the bud, the union of church and state under Constantine; and the writing of the Nicene Creed in 325 brought forth the flower; while the setting up a "papa" or pope as the ecclesiastical head of the church, culminating in the doctrine of his infallibility in 1870, produced the fruit as manifested in the Catholic Church of today.

The Catholic Church suffered a severe split in 1054 when it divided into the Greek and Roman Catholic Churches. This was brought about partly through the jealousy between the bishop of Constantinople and the bishop of Rome, but principally over the "Filioque" addition to the Nicene creed made by the Roman Church.

The full official title of the Greek Church is, "The

Holy Orthodox Catholic Apostolic Eastern (or Oriental) Church". The full official name of the Roman Church is, "The Holy Catholic Apostolic and Roman Church".

### ROMAN CATHOLIC TEACHING

#### I. CONCERNING THE BIBLE CATHOLICISM TEACHES:

1. That tradition, apocryphal writings, etc., are to be accepted on a par with the Bible.

##### THE BIBLE TEACHES:

1. That the Scriptures are alone sufficient (Deut. 4: 2; Isa. 8: 20).
2. That the commandments of God are made of no effect by the traditions of men (Matt. 15: 3, 6).
3. That those who teach the commandments of men as doctrine worship God in vain (Matt. 15: 9).
4. That there is no redemption in corruptible things received by tradition from the fathers (I Peter 1: 18).
5. That the Scripture is sufficient to make the man of God perfect (II Tim. 3: 15-17).
6. That there is to be no addition to, or subtraction from the Word of God (Rev. 22: 18, 19).

#### II. That the Catholic Church only has the right to interpret the Scriptures.

##### THE BIBLE TEACHES:

1. The Scriptures are for all (John 5: 39; Acts 17: 11; I Peter 2: 2; II Peter 1: 19; Rev. 1: 3).
2. The Scriptures are not to be specially interpreted (II Peter 1: 20; R. V. margin).

#### III. That they alone have the right Bible.

NOTE: Why do they lock it up, then, in the Vatican? Why do not the people use it instead of a prayer book?

### CONCERNING THE CHURCH

#### I. CATHOLICISM TEACHES:

1. That the Catholic Church is the only true apostolic church.

## THE BIBLE:

1. The true church (in the figure of the star-crowned woman) went into hiding 1260 days (Rev. 12: 1-7).

NOTE: A day in prophetic history represents a year (Ezek. 4: 5, 6).

2. Catholic Church came into being while the true church was in hiding.
3. The Catholic Church is a union of church and state. There was no union of church and state until Constantine in 325 A. D.; so the Catholic Church could not have existed before that date.
4. The church for the first three centuries was called the Church of Christ (Rom. 16: 16), Church of God (I Cor. 1: 1), Church of the First Born (Heb. 12: 23), etc. It was never called the Catholic Church until the time of the apostacy.
5. The Catholic Church is defined as the apostate church in the Scriptures and is called the Mother of Harlots (Rev. 17: 1-18).

(1.) She is a city on seven hills (Rev. 17: 9, 18).

(2.) NOTE: Rome, the center of Catholicism, is built on seven hills.

(3.) She sits on many waters—peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues (Rev. 17: 1, 15).

(4.) She has the world drunk with the wine of her spiritual fornication (Rev. 17: 1, 2).

(5.) She is drunk with the blood of martyrs (Rev. 17: 6).

NOTE: Read the history of her inquisitions.

(6.) She is Mysterious (Rev. 17: 5).

NOTE: Has there ever been anything more mysterious than the Catholic Church?

(7.) She is called Babylon (Rev. 17: 5).

NOTE: Babylon means confusion. She is the cause of all spiritual confusion in the world. She changed the name, form of government, act of baptism and is the originator of all human creeds. All these changes have thrown the world into spiritual confusion.

(8.) She is called the "Mother of Harlots."

NOTE: In her catechism she teaches she is the mother of all churches.

(9.) Therefore the Catholic Church is not the only true apostolic church, but she is the APOSTATE church.

II. That Peter founded the church at Rome and that the church is built on him.

THE BIBLE:

1. Only the apostles had power to confer spiritual gifts (Acts 6: 1-6; Acts 8: 12-18; 19: 6, 7; II Tim. 1: 6).

2. Paul longed to visit the church at Rome in order that he might impart unto them some spiritual gift (Rom. 1: 10, 11).

NOTE: This shows that the church at Rome was not organized by any apostle or it would have already possessed spiritual gifts.

3. Therefore Peter did not found the church at Rome, for had he done so, having the power of an apostle, he would have conferred spiritual gifts upon the church.

4. Peter denies that the church was built on him (I Peter 2: 4-6).

5. The church is built on "Petra"—meaning rock. Christ is the "Petra" or "rock" (I Cor. 10: 4).

## THE PAPACY

### CATHOLICISM TEACHES:

- I. That Peter was the first Pope and head of the church.

#### THE BIBLE:

1. Peter denied being head of the church. He said Christ is the head (I Peter 2: 4-6).
2. Paul said Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 5: 23; Col. 1: 18).
3. Peter did not claim superiority (I Peter 5: 1).
4. Even Paul, speaking of himself, said he was not behind the chiefest apostles (II Cor. 11: 5).
5. James, and not Peter, presided at the first church council (Acts 15: 13, 19).
6. Christ taught the apostles not to exercise dominion over any one (Matt. 20: 25, 26).
7. First "Papa" or pope mentioned was in the sixth century.

- II. That the popes are successors to Peter.

#### THE BIBLE:

1. Only one case of apostolic succession in the Scriptures (Acts 1: 15-26).
2. The successor of an apostle must have companied with Christ from the baptism of John to the ascension of Christ (Acts 1: 21, 22).
3. None today, or immediately following the days of the apostles, could meet the requirements of an apostle or the successor of an apostle. Therefore it is Scripturally plain that there is to be no apostolic succession.
4. When James was beheaded they did not meet and select one to take his place, as in the case of Judas (Acts 2: 15-26; 15: 1-29).

- III. That the pope is the Vicar or representative of Christ on earth.

#### THE BIBLE:

1. The only personal representative of Christ on earth is the Comforter or Holy Spirit (John 14: 15-17; 26: 16: 7).
2. NOTE: While all Christians are in a sense representatives they are not representatives as is the Holy Spirit.

#### IV. That the pope is infallible.

1. Paul rebuked Peter because he was at fault, therefore Peter was fallible (Gal. 2: 11-14).

NOTE: Some Catholics claim that Peter was only infallible in relation to spiritual things; therefore the popes are only infallible in spiritual commands, but not necessarily in morality. It can not be too well noted that Peter was at fault in a spiritual matter.

#### V. That the popes and priest should live in an unmarried state.

#### THE BIBLE:

1. Peter was married and therefore could not have been a Catholic pope (Matt. 8: 14).
2. Paul said Peter had a wife (I Cor. 9: 5).

#### VI. That the pope should be called "Holy Lord God, the pope."

#### THE BIBLE:

1. Peter would not have made a good pope, for he would not allow men to worship him (Acts 10: 25, 26).
2. Paul, Peter's equal, would not allow men to worship him (Acts 14: 14, 15).
3. Christ forbade the worshipping of men (Matt. 4: 10).
4. Not even an angel is to be worshiped by men (Rev. 19: 10; 22: 8, 9).

## THE PRIESTHOOD

### CATHOLICISM TEACHES:

- I. That the priest is the means of access between the sinner and God.

#### THE BIBLE:

1. There is only one mediator—Christ (I Tim. 2: 5).
2. Christ said, "Come unto me" (Matt. 11: 28).
3. Paul said the only means of access is through Christ's blood (Heb. 9: 14-22; 10: 10-14).
4. Christ has the only unchangeable priesthood (Heb. 7: 11, 12, 22-24).
5. There is only one earthly priesthood (I Peter 2: 5, 9; Rev. 1: 5, 6).

- II. That priests should be called "father".

#### THE BIBLE:

1. Christ said: "Call no man your father (Matt. 23: 9, 10).

- III. That priests can absolve from sins, even though sinners themselves (Council of Trent).

#### THE BIBLE:

1. Forgiveness of sins belongs to the Godhead (Mark 2: 6-10; I John 1: 9; 2: 1).

## PURGATORY

### CATHOLICISM TEACHES:

- I. That there is a place called Purgatory where the dead go to suffer punishment in order to be purified. (Introduced in the sixth century and made a church doctrine in the Council of Florence 1439)

#### THE BIBLE:

1. The Scriptures teach against this (Heb. 9: 27).
2. Christ shows there is no second chance for the wilful sinner here (Luke 16: 19-31).

3. Bible knows nothing of indulgences either plenary or partial (Heb. 2: 3).
4. No such thing as purgatory ever mentioned in the Scriptures.

### NAME

#### CATHOLICISM TEACHES:

- I. That the name to be worn is Catholic.

#### THE BIBLE:

1. Adam and his wife wore the same name (Gen. 5: 2).
2. Adam is a figure of Christ (Rom. 5: 14; I Cor. 15: 45).
3. Adam's wife, then, is a figure of Christ's wife, the church.
4. Adam and his wife wearing the same name pictured Christ and His wife wearing the same name.
5. Prophesied that a NEW name was to be given by the mouth of the Lord, when salvation went out from Jerusalem and the Gentiles saw His righteousness (Isa. 62: 1, 2).
6. The Prophecy fulfilled.
  - (1.) Salvation went out from Jerusalem (Acts 2: 1-47).
  - (2.) The Gentiles saw His righteousness (Acts 10: 1-48; 11: 1).
  - (3.) The new name given (Acts 11: 25, 26).
  - (4.) The name "Christ-ian" means belonging to Christ.
7. We are married to Christ (Rom. 7: 4).
8. King Agrippa knew Christ's followers wore the name Christian (Acts 26: 28).
9. Peter said we are to suffer in the name Christian (I Peter 4: 16).



10. No salvation promised in any other name (Acts 4: 12).

### **SACRAMENTS**

#### **CATHOLICISM TEACHES:**

- I. That there are seven sacraments, five for the living and two for the dead.
1. The word sacrament comes from Sacramentum", meaning an oath.

#### **THE BIBLE:**

1. They are not spoken of as sacraments in the Bible.
2. There are only two ordinances of Christ, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

### **BAPTISM**

The seven sacraments as taught by the Catholic Church considered.

1. The Catholic Church teaches that affusion, or sprinkling is sufficient for baptism.

#### **THE BIBLE:**

- (1.) Baptism is a birth (John 3: 5).
- (2.) Baptism is a washing (Acts 22: 16).
- (3.) Baptism is a burial (Rom. 6: 4).
- (4.) Baptism is a planting (Rom. 6: 5).
- (5.) Baptism is a resurrection (Col. 2: 12).
- (6.) There is ONE baptism (Eph. 4: 5).

NOTE: Paul, who called baptism a burial, planting, washing and a resurrection, said there is ONE baptism. He ought to know.

2. That an infant should be baptized.

#### **THE BIBLE:**

- (1.) Believers who repent are to be baptized (Rom. 10: 1; Acts 2: 38; Mark 16: 15, 16).
3. That the infant when baptized should be christ-

ened with the name of a saint and should have a godfather and a godmother.

**THE BIBLE:**

- (1.) Where is this doctrine or practice to be found anywhere?

**PENANCE**

**CATHOLICISM TEACHES:**

- I. That the priests can forgive sins committed after baptism. (Lateran Council 1215.)

**THE BIBLE:**

- I. Forgiveness of sins belong to the God-head. (Mark 2: 6-10; I John 1: 9; 2: 1).
- II. That sin can be forgiven by paying the priest to pray for the forgiveness of sins. Also that sinners can be prayed out of purgatory by paying the priest.

**THE BIBLE:**

- I. Redemption can not be purchased with gifts of silver or gold (I Peter 1: 18).

**CONFIRMATION**

**CATHOLICISM TEACHES:**

- I. That in confirmation we receive the Holy Spirit by the hands of the bishop.

**THE BIBLE:**

1. Confirmation as such is not taught.
2. Christ the only one who can pray for the Holy Spirit to be sent (John 14: 15-17).
3. The Father only can confer the Holy Spirit (John 14: 15-17).

**HOLY EUCHARIST**

**CATHOLICISM TEACHES:**

- I. That the bread and fruit of the vine become the real body and blood of Christ at the consecra-

tion of the mass (Adopted by the church in the Council of Lateran 1215).

**THE BIBLE:**

1. Christ was materially present "outside" of the bread and the fruit of the vine when He said, "This is my body," and "This is my blood" (Matt. 26: 26-28).
2. When Christ said He was a vine (John 15: 1) and a door (John 10: 9), He did not become a literal vine or door.

**II. That the Lord's Supper is a sacrifice.**

**THE BIBLE:**

1. The Lord's Supper commemorates a "FINISHED" sacrifice (Luke 22: 19).
2. Repeating of Christ's sacrifice is forbidden (Heb. 6: 6; 9: 25, 26; 10: 11, 12).
3. The Lord's Supper is not a sacrifice, but a remembrance (I Cor. 11: 26).

**III. That the fruit of the vine is only to be taken by the priests (Introduced in the Council of Constance 1414).**

**THE BIBLE:**

1. Both bread and fruit of the vine are to be given to all Christians (Matt. 26: 27; Mark 14: 23; I Cor. 11: 28).

**IV. That the mass is the same sacrifice as that on the cross, only "unbloody".**

**THE BIBLE:**

1. A bloody sacrifice is the only one known (Heb. 10: 10).
2. Only one sacrifice of Christ (Heb. 10: 12).

**EXTREME UNCTION**

**CATHOLICISM TEACHES:**

- I. That this gives health and strength to the soul and

sometimes to the body when one is at the point of death.

**THE BIBLE:**

- I. Where is the book, chapter and verse for such a practice?

**HOLY ORDERS**

**CATHOLICISM TEACHES:**

- I. That holy orders are a sacrament by which the bishop, priests and officers of the church are ordained to office.

**THE BIBLE:**

- I. The Scriptures are silent on such a practice.

**MATRIMONY**

**CATHOLICISM TEACHES:**

- I. That the marriage bond is a sacrament and offers grace.

**THE BIBLE:**

- I. The Scriptures are silent on such a practice, wherein the marriage is called a sacrament.
- II. That marriage must be performed by a priest.

**THE BIBLE:**

- I. Where was the priest at the wedding Jesus attended? (John 2: 1-11).
- III. That the marriage bond is never to be broken for any cause.

**THE BIBLE:**

- I. Scriptures give one reason for divorce—fornication (Matt. 5: 32).

**WORSHIP OF MARY**

**CATHOLICISM TEACHES:**

- I. That Mary is immaculate, the Mother of God, spouse of the Holy Spirit, Propitiary of the

world and the Gate of Heaven (Introduced as church doctrine by Pope Pius IX in 1854).

**THE BIBLE:**

1. The Scriptures do not call her by such names.
2. If Mary's husband was the Holy Spirit, Joseph was illegally married to her.
3. The Scriptures teach that Mary was like other women, subject to their weaknesses (Luke 2: 22).
4. Jesus recognized Mary as only a human being (John 2: 3, 4).
5. Mary realized Jesus was her Saviour (Luke 1: 47).

NOTE: The Mother of God would not need a saviour.

6. The Scriptures accord worship to the BABE and not to the mother.
7. Mary did not hold a superior position in the early church. She is only mentioned as attending a prayer meeting (Acts 1: 4).
8. Mary commands men to follow Jesus, not her (John 2: 5).

**IMAGES**

**CATHOLICISM TEACHES:**

- I. That it is not unscriptural to worship images. (Introduced in the Council of Trent.)

**THE BIBLE:**

1. The use of images forbidden (Ex. 20: 4; Isa. 42: 8).

- II. That they do not worship the image, but the one the image represents.

**THE BIBLE:**

1. God said we should have no graven images before Him (Ex. 20: 4).
2. NOTE: Catholicism ascribes to different images

of the same personage different attributes, so they after all do make the image the object of worship.

### WORSHIP OF ANGELS

#### CATHOLICISM TEACHES:

- I. That one may pray to saints and angels. (Introduced during the sixth century.)

#### THE BIBLE:

1. Scriptures say the saints can not hear prayers (Eccl. 9: 6).
2. Only one mediator between man and God (John 14: 6; I Tim. 2: 5).
3. Scriptures forbid angel worship (Col. 2: 18).
4. Angels are created servants and it would be idolatry to worship them (Heb. 1: 5-13; Rev. 22: 8, 9).

#### SUMMARY

- I. Paul saw this apostate church coming.
  1. He warned the elders of Ephesus (Acts 20: 29, 30).
  2. He said grievous wolves were to arise from the eldership (Acts 20: 30).
  3. Grievous wolves did enter in from among ambitious elders and Peter admonished against such lording it over God's heritage (I Peter 5: 3).
  4. There was a plurality of bishops or elders in each church, but no bishop or elder ever ruled over a plurality of churches until the apostacy came (Phil. 1: 1; Acts 14: 23; Titus 1: 5).
  5. The apostacy came when bishops or elders were appointed over a district, archbishops over many districts, cardinals over all these and finally a pope over all. Authority was usurped in writing creeds and binding them on the consciences of men.
  6. Paul said, "The Spirit speaketh expressly, that

in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. . . . forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from meats" (I Tim. 4: 1, 3).

NOTE: The Catholic Church, teaching the doctrines of devils, forbids her priests and sisters to marry and commands the church members to abstain from meats on certain days.

- II. Peter saw the same apostacy.
    - I. False teachers were to arise (II Peter 2: 1).
  - III. Jude saw the same thing and realized it was a fulfillment of all the apostles had spoken concerning the falling away (Jude 17-19).
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