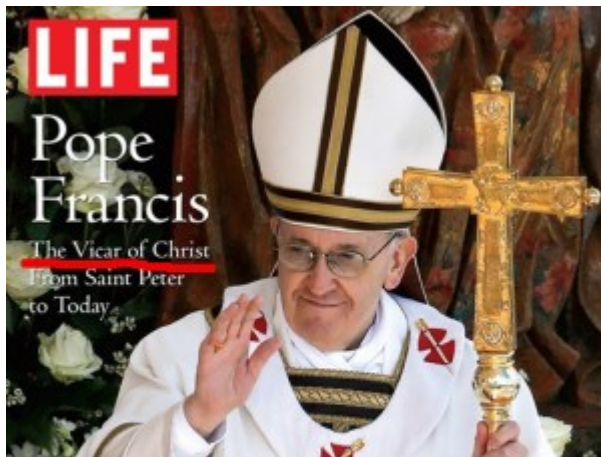


## 666 – The Anti-Christ to Come?



Vicar: (From Latin) vicarius, a **substitute**,  
Anti: (From Greek) against, opposite, **instead of**,  
Vicar of Christ = Anti Christ

In 1519 Martin Luther first called the Pope the Antichrist and later wrote to Pope Leo X and with boldness informed him that he, the Pope, was the Antichrist. The Historicist view was held by all the Protestant Reformers – that is, every major preacher of the gospel on the Protestant side of the Reformation. They all believed that the Papacy was the Antichrist.

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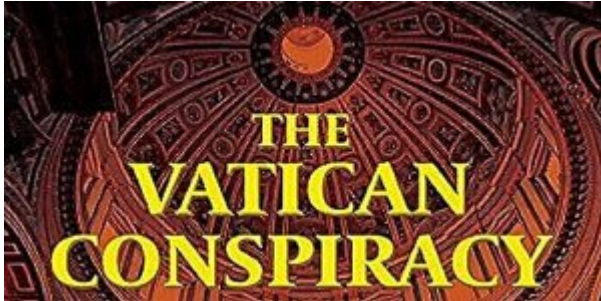
## The Cunning Genius Of The Vatican Papal System – Part I



The papal system is the most powerful, evil, and longest lasting organization that ever existed on earth!

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## Balanced View of Popes – NAZI POPES – Part 2



If you missed [part 1](#), please read it before this.

by Sherman H. Skolnick  
April 20, 2005

ACHTUNG!

If you have frayed nerves or a weak stomach, you should press DELETE now and take your nerve pills.

You may or may not well digest what you read here.

A well-informed author on the topic of the Vatican is reportedly coming out with a well-put-together book, showing that the late Pope John Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> worked for the Nazi Gestapo in Poland during World War Two. He rounded up Polish Resistance Fighters and turned them over to the Nazis who had them shot, so the book contends. Some, however, survived.

Questions remain, of course. WHY did the author wait so long to come out with this book?

Some belatedly contend that secretive German funds possibly post-war surviving Nazis arranged for and financed the clandestine Conclave that installed Wojtyla as Pope John Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Remember: the [Anglo-American Aristocracy financed the rise of Adolf Hitler](#) as a bulwark against the Soviets.

Enforcers for the Vatican are called Jesuits. The head of the Jesuits, although he is NOT a person of color, is nevertheless called the BLACK POPE. Over the centuries, Jesuits, hiding behind royal court types with Jewish names, called *hofjuden*, sought to control if not topple various European monarchs, most of them Catholics.

So by Royal Order, Jesuits were banished from Spain, France, and a few other places. Hiding behind others, the Jesuits actually went underground, continuing to plot to control Monarchs. In America, the Jesuits have

Hollywood *hofjuden* (Court Jews) as a front. Hollywood angers Christians by not showing films about non-Jewish holocausts.

Jesuits also hide behind aristocracy fronts, such as the *Council on Foreign Relations*, [CFR](#).

In his Inauguration speech in 1841, President **William Henry Harrison** directly angered the Jesuits.

He dared confront the Jesuits and then Pope, by proclaiming:

“We admit of no government BY DIVINE RIGHT, believing that so far as power is concerned, the beneficent Creator has made no distinction among men; that all are on an equality, and that the only legitimate right to govern, is upon the expressed grant of power from the governed.”

Thirty-five days later, for the benefit if not actually arranged by the Jesuits and the British Monarchy, President Harrison was poisoned to death.

All told, SEVEN U.S. PRESIDENTS were assassinated from 1841 to 1963, as orchestrated if not actually arranged by the Jesuits and the British Monarchy. four by gunfire, three by poisoning.

Seldom more publicly mentioned, is that over the last two centuries and more, various Jesuits and Popes have labeled the Declaration of Independence as “wickedness”, and that Popular Government, provided by the U.S. Constitution with its Bill of Rights is a “satanic instrument”.

Are we Americans heading for Nazi doctrines if not actually here already?

It is documented beyond dispute, that **Prescott S. Bush, Sr.**, father of [George Herbert Walker Bush](#), and grandfather of George W. Bush, had *instrumentally financed the rise of Adolf Hitler*.

The term *Homeland Security* is an anglicized version of the abbreviated German term Gestapo.

Adolf Hitler, 1933,, and [George W. Bush](#), 2000, and repeated in 2004, were installed in the highest office of their nation by arbitrary and corrupt powers.

The new Monarch in the Vatican, **Joseph Ratzinger**, Pope Benedict 16<sup>th</sup>, was immediately whitewashed by the liars and whores of the oil-soaked, spy-riddled, massive tax-cheating Monopoly Press. They described his past as his father was so Anti-Nazi that he had to move to another town.

Actually, *Joseph Ratzinger was in the Hitler Youth and his family were apparently pro-Nazi*.

Over the many years, Germany repeatedly attacked France. So French Catholics

are appalled, if not angered, that Joseph Ratzinger is the first German Pope in over one thousand years.

Before the 1960 Election, **John F. Kennedy** spoke in Texas to a group of Protestant preachers. He said he is only nominally Catholic and that if elected, he will not bow down for the Vatican. Right there, such a bold statement was JFK's Death Warrant. In 1961, shortly after being Inaugurated, President Kennedy reluctantly went along with a plan left over from the Eisenhower Administration, to attempt to invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs.

The Cuban strongman, **Fidel Castro**, *was and is a Jesuit*, hiding behind a left-wing label. Castro never disbanded the Catholic Church in Cuba. Under Vatican Canon Law, a Catholic leader of a nation, like JFK, that attacks another Catholic leader and nation, is subject to a Death Warrant.

What Catholic countries want a pro-Nazi Pope?

South America has many such. Included is heavily Catholic Argentina. Toward the end of World War 2, various Nazi war criminals, using Vatican-supplied passports and disguises, escaped down the "Ratlines" to Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, and elsewhere in South America.

[German submarines loaded with Nazi gold](#) also arrived in South America. So the children and grand-children of escaped Nazis, with their fortunes, dominate the Catholic Church throughout South America. Pope John Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> was viciously against so-called liberation theology of some South American and Central American archbishops, who sought to cater to the "shirtless ones".

Such Catholic Church leaders were rooted out, in some instances, assassinated, apparently on the dictates of Pope John Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>, ostensibly through his enforcer, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

Centuries ago, at the behest of the Vatican, was the bloody, horrible "Inquisition".

- Does it still exist today? Yes, its existence since 1981 was, like centuries ago, to punish "heretics". Its title is now something like Promoting The Faithful.
- And who has headed this latter day "Inquisition"? Why, none other than pro-Nazi Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Was it just a coincidence that Joseph Ratzinger was selected as the new Pope, April 19, 2005, a day before Adolf Hitler's birthday?
- What is the result of part of the planet going back to rule by Nazis?

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## [The Fourth Kingdom of Daniel Chapter 7](#)

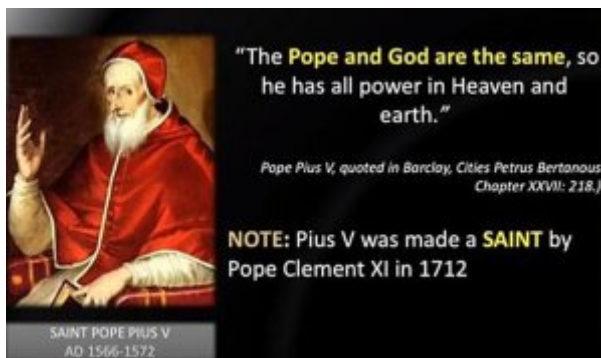
## – Rome



The fourth Kingdom of Daniel chapter 7 is the Roman Empire. It continues to this day through the Vatican, the so called Holy See.

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## Papal Power



This is from chapter 11 of *“All Roads Lead to Rome? The Ecumenical Movement”* by Michael de Semlyen.

Roman Catholicism is seen as a dual system. It is both a Church and a global, political power. Within or without the reciprocal ‘Mutual Assured Destruction’ capability of the superpowers, **the Vatican wields the greatest political power on the face of the earth.**

‘Although without armies, navies and super hydrogen bombs, the Vatican has more power at its disposal than if it had the greatest military capability. The Pope’s government is as important as that of the USA, of Russia or of China except that territorially and spiritually it is far larger and it exerts more influence than the three combined.’ (A. Manhattan: Vatican Imperialism in the 20th Century: 1965 Zondervan)

Like other great multinational organizations, the Roman Catholic Church has a planned long-term strategy. The papacy has a continuity of a kind that no other organization or nation on earth can match. Nations and giant corporations are subjected to economic imponderables or electoral changes, but the Vatican is not constrained in this way. She is able to plan well

ahead. Corporations plan five or ten years ahead, the Vatican is able to construct a strategy over many decades and can exercise the clout to implement it.

History shows how Rome throughout the centuries has been able to steadily accumulate power and influence, unless or until she over-reaches herself or decides there is a need to change direction.

For example, under Pius IX in the late 19th century she over-reached herself and lost the papal states and much of her temporal power. In this (20th) century, in the '60s, under John XXIII and Paul VI, believing she was no longer backing a winner, she totally changed direction. Pius XII's policy of opposing Communism, first by backing the Fascist dictators and afterwards through 'the Cold War' (spawning the rabid anti-Communism of such as committed Roman Catholic senator Joe McCarthy), was abandoned. **The Vatican had concluded that it was backing the wrong side.** In came a brand new two-pronged strategy, both political and ecclesiastical, temporal and spiritual. Co-existence with both communism and capitalism, coupled with acceptance of Protestantism and other heretical religions (or 'separated brethren'), would provide the new route towards world dominion.

As Krushchev was turning away from Stalinism, so in the late 1950s were Vatican strategists turning away from Pius XII's policies. As the final plans for Vatican II were laid, so was the rapprochement taking place, which would lead to the forming of the 'Vatican-Moscow alliance'. **After the failed attempts of more than three decades of political interference to oppose Marxism, the Vatican set about working with it.** As we have now seen, Marxism did not fare well with this new arrangement.

The new face of the papacy, conciliatory and more human, exemplified by John XXIII, was to be the face shown to the world, that of Vatican II and the new ecumenism, and soon also that of liberation theology and the new politics. Behind the face is the strategy and a plan to 'evangelize the world.' This also includes **the conversion to the Mother Church of Soviet Russia**, as promised by Our Lady of Fatima.

## **Economic Power**

The Roman Church's unparalleled wealth is legendary, although, in these days of careful image building, the Vatican is at pains to deny it, and even to plead poverty. The frequent appearance of articles in the newspapers about the hard-pressed position of Vatican finances helps to foster this impression. Few people outside the system realize the prodigious capacity of the Church to raise funds. In his 1957 book *The Vatican contre la France*, Edmond Paris described; 'The gigantic financial power which the Vatican represents in the world today. Is it realized for instance that one-third of the land in Spain is hers? – and that in South America she owns vast expanses? And this does not include innumerable other properties spread over the rest of the globe. ... Already Peter's pence from 400 million faithful, legacies, offerings and Masses (all geared to helping loved ones through the pains of purgatory), ensure the Holy See a revenue that may be termed astronomical ... One cannot help noting that, from the temporal point of view,



the Church's most beneficial years were those of the Second World War – at the end of which we have seen, facing a Europe that was bloodstained, ruined and completely plundered by the Nazis, the Vatican overflowing with the most fabulous riches.'

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## **“... and his deadly wound was healed” – Revelation 13:3**



Millions cheer Pope John Paul II during his first visit to Poland as pontiff.

For years I was very much into researching all the details I could learn about the Illuminati and all its subgroups, i.e. Freemasons, Bilderberg group, Council on Foreign Relations, Skull and Bones, etc, but now I think it's better to try to see the overall big picture of Satan's plan for world conquest from a Biblical point of view. If we compare the Bible to what we already know from history, I think we can see the big picture a whole lot clearer!

Revelation 13:1 ¶And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Daniel chapter 7 verse 3 says, “And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.” What are these “beasts”? The Bible defines a beast in the very same chapter 7 of Daniel!

Daniel 7:17 These great beasts, which are four, are four *kings*, which shall arise out of the earth.

A king is a person over a kingdom or empire. No kingdom, no king. The word “beast”, therefore, is a metaphor for a kingdom or an empire, and not just an individual person. The four empires talked about in Daniel two and Daniel chapter seven are:

1. Babylon
2. Medo-Persia
3. Greece
4. Rome

We know clearly from history Rome was the longest-lasting of all these empires. No educated person would deny that the Roman empire has had a profound influence on Western civilization that continues to this day. But how many know that the Roman empire has not died but continues on through the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy?

Revelation 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

“Harlots and abominations” refers to all false religions in the earth with all their evil practices.

Revelation 17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

The “woman in Revelation 17:18 is the “MOTHER OF HARLOTS” of verse 5 which is also the “great city”: ROME! This is easily proven when you know the prophecy was given in the Apostle John’s day. “reignth” in Rev. 17:18 is present tense! Rome was already reigning over the kings of the earth in John’s time. Rome at the time represented the Roman Empire. What does it represent today? The continuation of the Roman Empire: The Roman Catholic Church! The Popes are a continuation of the ceasars of Rome.

Rome lost a lot of her temporal power at the end of the 18th century, but I believe she got it back covertly since then. Now it’s called the “Holy See.” Ronald Reagan established diplomatic relations between the s

Revelation 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were **wounded to death**; and his deadly wound was **healed**: and all the world wondered after the beast.

A believable interpretation of the “deadly wound” prophecy of Revelation 13:3: It happened in 1798 when the Pope was captured by Napoleon.

“Papal supremacy of the Middle Ages ended in the year 1798, exactly 1260 years after Justinian’s decree established the Papacy as the supreme Christian power in 538 AD. In 1798, Napoleon’s army took the Pope captive and put him into exile. The murder of a Frenchman in Rome in 1798 gave the French the excuse they wanted to occupy the Eternal City.” – Quoted from



[http://amazingdiscoveries.org/S-deception\\_beasts\\_wound\\_Mussolini\\_Napoleon](http://amazingdiscoveries.org/S-deception_beasts_wound_Mussolini_Napoleon)

The Papal wound was healed in 1929 when Cardinal Gasparri (representing pope Pius XI) and Benito Mussolini (representing King Victor Emmanuel III) signed the Lateran Treaty which gave the Pope again temporal power.

Is the Roman Catholic church alive and well today? Most people don't think it's all that powerful, but now after hearing that it caused both World War 1, World War 2, and most subsequent wars following it, (from a book, "[Vatican Against Europe](#)") I would say it's powerful enough!

The visibility of the Catholic Church in the U.S. has risen steadily since 9/11. I can remember when even entertaining the idea of allowing a Catholic to run for public office in the USA brought fever-pitched debate! And now, the Catholic Church is running America! And yet some people tell me, "It's the Jews, not the Catholics!" My research and the facts tell me otherwise.

## Current U.S. Supreme Court Justices as of June 2022

Name	Religion	Appt. by	On the Court since
<b>John Roberts (Chief Justice)</b>	Roman Catholicism	G.W. Bush	2005
<b>Clarence Thomas</b>	Roman Catholicism	G.H.W. Bush	1991
<b>Amy Coney Barrett</b>	Roman Catholicism	Trump	2020
<b>Ketanji Brown Jackson</b>	a nondenominational Protestant who cannot define the word "woman"	Biden	2022
<b>Samuel Alito</b>	Roman Catholicism	G.W. Bush	2006
<b>Sonia Sotomayor</b>	Roman Catholicism	Obama	2009
<b>Elena Kagan</b>	Judaism	Obama	2010
<b>Neil Gorsuch</b>	Episcopalian, raised Roman Catholic	Trump	2017
<b>Brett Kavanaugh</b>	Roman Catholicism	Trump	2018

Six out of nine US Supreme Court Justices are Roman Catholics! This would have been unthinkable in 19th-century America!

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## [The Bible Tells Us the Identity of](#)

# Antichrist, the Man of Sin, Son of Perdition



What Bible believers up to the 19th century used to believe about Antichrist, and what they believe today and why. Prophecies about Antichrist and how they were fulfilled in history.

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## The Myth of Roman Catholic Apostolic Succession



Introduction: This article is from a PDF file on LutheranLibrary.org. It was published by The Converted Catholic Magazine and edited by former Roman Catholic priest, Leo Herbert Lehmann.

There are two articles from the magazine in this post. The original title of the first article is

## A Kingly Priesthood [Peter's Doctrine]

THOSE WHO INSIST that Peter was the first Pope (a Roman Catholic doctrine) entirely disregard the fact that he felt in writing, as part of the Bible, instructions as to how the Christian church should be ruled. They (Catholics) read intently the encyclical letters of Pope Plus XII, but either ignore or are unaware of the letters of the Apostle Peter, which no Pope today would dare to emphasize.

For Peter preached and put into writing the principles of the real New Order of the Christian dispensation. He would have been untrue to his Master had he taught that one man could be an autocrat over other men, either in spiritual or political matters. "Ye are a chosen generation," he told the early Christians, "a royal (kingly) priesthood." (I Peter 2:9). Peter's doctrine is that each one is his own king and his own priest. This is democracy with a vengeance! In civil government each one was to possess the highest governing power, and, as in our American democracy, merely delegate this power by election, for a limited time, to those he chooses to represent him in the work of governing.

Most important of all, Peter taught that in religious matters **each one is his own priest**, a member of "a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." (I Peter 2:5)

Peter furthermore expressly forbids the ministers of the Christian religion to lord it over the flock. "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." 1 Peter 5:3

He exhorts them as elders, as he himself is just an elder, not to use force in the ordering of things within the church. How then can the Pope of Rome, who claims to be Peter's successor, consider himself an autocratic king in temporal affairs and the sole mouthpiece of God on earth?

The history of the Popes is in direct contradiction to the teaching of Peter. Instead of following Peter, the Popes have imitated the Caesars of the Roman empire and the Pontifex Maximus of the pagan religion of Rome, whose title they appropriated. They have always supported tyrannical monarchy and brutal dictators who oppressed the people, who are true priests and kings in the Christian sense. They have killed this right of the people by condemning it as "socialism" and "communism." No doubt, if Peter were on earth today, the Pope would brand him too as a Communist— and a Jewish Communist at that.

## The Myth Of Catholic Apostolic Succession

By Henry F. Brown

From The Converted Catholic Magazine, Oct. 1946

Unsuspecting Protestants are easily deceived by the bold but unsubstantiated claim of Roman Catholicism to an unbroken line of "apostolic succession" of its popes, bishops and priests. The claim is categorically stated as follows: Jesus ordained Peter, Peter his successor, who in turn ordained another, and

so on down to the present pope. Thus "apostolicity" is exclusively claimed as certain for all popes, bishops and priests of the Roman Catholic church.

In the first place the entire claim rests on Peter's being in Rome as pontiff – which never has been proved. It is stated that there must be "continuity with the church founded by Jesus Christ," and that only the Roman Catholic church has maintained this "unbroken chain of successors." – (Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. 3, p. 642).

If it is true that Peter was the first bishop of Rome, how then could Paul be a legitimate apostle? For it is certain that he was not called by Peter and that he was not consecrated by Peter laying hands on him. He was called directly by Jesus (Acts 9:15), independently of Peter. He was baptized by Ananias, a disciple (Acts 9:17, 18).

When Paul attempted to associate himself with Peter and the rest of the apostles they refused to believe that he was not a spy. After being sponsored by Barnabas, a layman, the apostles tolerated him (Acts 9:26, 28). He was not accepted as an apostle by Peter and the others, and disappears from our view for a number of years (Acts 9:30.)

The laymen from the scattered church in Jerusalem preached the Gospel in Antioch (Acts 8:1, 4:11, 19), and raised up a church without the intervention of Peter. Barnabas, the reconciling layman, was sent to investigate the non-conformist church. He remembers Paul in Tarsus and goes to find him (Acts 11:25, 26), and these two laymen preached the Gospel of Christ with such success that they were the first to be called "Christians." Then the Holy Spirit instructed this unauthorized church – if to be authorized – they must have a permit from the pope – to consecrate Paul and Barnabas as apostles (Acts 13:1, 3).

Thus we see that Peter, if he were indeed the first Roman pope, refused to accept Paul, though Jesus himself had called him to a very definite task. This great apostle Paul was consecrated, not by the laying on of Peter's hands, or of any of Peter's agents, but was consecrated by unauthorized laymen in a non-conforming church!

Paul reviews the history of this experience. He says he received his Gospel from Christ and not from Peter (Gal. 1:11, 12). He denies that he communicated with the "hierarchy" (Gal. 1:17), but went instead to the desert to talk it over with God alone, and that his first visit to Jerusalem after his conversion was three years after that memorable event (Gal. 1:18). He remained but two weeks, and nothing apparently happened to authorize him to preach with any legitimacy. There was no "continuity with the church founded by Christ," if the laying on of hands was required to obtain that.

Paul ignores completely his lack of apostolic ordination at the hands of Peter. He made thousands of converts to Christ, organized churches (Acts 14:23), consecrated elders or bishops (Acts 30:17), and sent men whom he had consecrated as bishops to consecrate others (Titus 1:5, 7). In other words, he built up a church that was entirely non-conforming, having no legitimate connection with Peter's church.

Fourteen years later Paul, the non-conformist apostle, went to Jerusalem, and there the apostles reluctantly gave him the right hand of fellowship (Gal. 2:9). But there was no submission to Peter, no reconsecration of Paul. On the contrary, this intrepid, fearless, un-compromising apostle "withstood Peter to the face" (Gal. 2:11), and they divided the field between them (Gal. 2:9).

The Roman Catholic hierarchy faces here the dilemma either of rejecting its vital and basic doctrine of apostolic succession – the chain of Peter and consecrated priests – or of rejecting a specifically chosen messenger of heaven, St. Paul. If Paul were rejected – which the Roman church must do to be logical in its doctrine – with him goes a large portion of the New Testament, most of the Christian doctrine of the church, because it is Pauline, and some of the greatest early churches, Antioch, Ephesus, Corinth, and Thessalonica, because these are the fruitage of this "illegally" consecrated non-conformist.

But Paul never considered himself unconsecrated nor less-authorized than any of the other apostles, though the hands of Peter were never placed on him (2 Cor. 11:5): "I regard myself as no wise inferior to the great apostles," he says (New Revised Catholic New Testament).

The Roman Catholic church does not reject Paul, but by accepting him it rejects its own essential doctrine of apostolic succession. By accepting him as an apostle it furthermore destroys its claim to be the exclusive mouthpiece of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit demonstrated in the choice of Paul that He alone is the Vicar of Christ and there is no need of a pope. By the same token John Wesley was the apostle of God to England, so was Whitfield, though these men were not in communion with Peter's successor. Dwight L. Moody was Christ's apostle, and so is every Christ-chosen minister of God.

Protestants reject absolutely the mechanical conception of apostolic succession through the long line of wicked popes of the Middle Ages. They follow, rather, the prophetic succession of the Hebrew prophets. When God wanted a messenger in the Old Testament He didn't request the high priests for one, but simply called the man: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" He asked Isaiah. That fine man of God responded, "Here am I, send me." (Isa. 6:8). These were Spirit-chosen men, endowed and ordained by the Holy Spirit. Elijah was sitting by his sheep in Gilead when "the word of the Lord came unto Him" (1 Kings 17:2). Amos was a shepherd when God took him (Amos 7:14, 15). Jeremiah was called before his birth (Jer. 1:5).

Of all the prophets of the Hebrew succession we can think of none who was consecrated by the high priest of his time, or even by the prophet who went before him. Each man was chosen directly by God. That is the Spiritgoverned prophetic succession versus the mechanical "apostolic succession" of Roman Catholicism. And that is the system of ministry that the Protestant church in its evangelical branches holds today.

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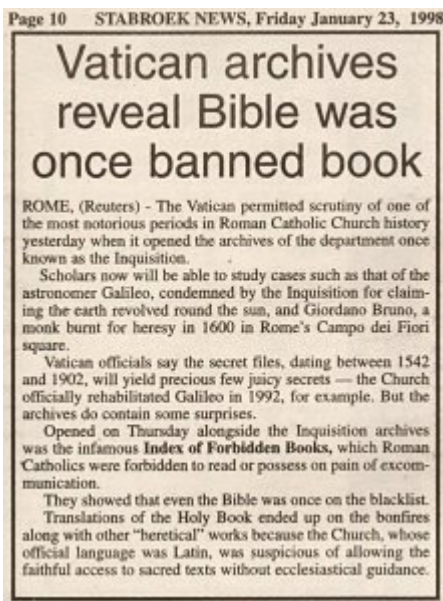
# The Jesuit Roman Pope Francis I



Insights about the first openly Jesuit pope of Rome, the first pontiff from the Americas, the first from the southern hemisphere, and the first from outside Europe in over 1200 years:

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## The Popes And The Bible



The Popes of Rome banned Bible reading by the laity in Catholic countries. In democratic countries, the competition of Protestantism has forced the Catholic church to adopt a different policy toward the Bible. Here it does not forbid Catholics to read it. In fact at times it superficially urges them to do so, knowing that they have been so conditioned that they will not read it anyway.

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# War As An Instrument of Vatican Policy



## **The Vatican As A Fomenter Of War**

AMERICANS are being fed with false propaganda that the Pope is an ardent advocate of peace. They are even being led to believe that he is a staunch defender of democracy – at least that he has been at long last converted to the defense of democratic ideals. The irony of the matter is that, while gullible American Protestants are swallowing this propaganda, hook, line and sinker, the people in Catholic countries of Europe, free now for the first time in a decade to express their true minds, are not mincing words in their bitter accusations against the Vatican and its hierarchy for their reactionary and pro-Axis activities. Only Catholics who have suffered in countries dominated by the Catholic church are truly anti-Clerical and understand its policy.

In order to cover up its disastrous alliance with the Axis dictators in the heyday of their triumphs, the Vatican is now trying to convince Americans that its true policy involves no preference for any particular form of government, that, in the words of the late Pope Pius XI, it would ally itself "with the devil himself," if it serves the welfare of the Catholic church. Replying to the syndicated columnist Edgar Ansel Mowrer's charges that the Vatican has favored Fascism and failed to support democracy, the Jesuit Father Charles T. Conroy, of Westbaden College, Indiana, declared (N. Y. Post, January 30, 1945):

"The truth is that the Vatican is not primarily interested in forms of government as such... It is possible for a government to be a benevolent monarchy, even, perhaps, a benevolent dictatorship... The Vatican is not so much interested in the form in which the government holds its power, but it is tremendously interested in the way that power is exercised."

This is the true, and shamefully unethical teaching of the Roman Catholic church – a subtle restatement of the old Jesuit principle that the end justifies the means. The Catholic church will bless and ally itself with any kind of powerful government, as long as it uses its power to support the

political aims of the Catholic church. For this reason, it entered into solemn agreements with the ruthless regimes of Mussolini, Hitler and Hirohito. And these agreements still remain in force on this first day of April, 1945, when the three big bloody dictatorships are going down in utter defeat, condemned and repudiated by all the decent-minded nations of the world. If the Papacy now begins to show favor to democratic countries, it will be merely because it hopes to use the growing power of these countries in its favor.

POPES TODAY, although they are sovereigns in their own right with a token army at their disposal, do not lead soldiers in battle as they did of old. Yet the Pope's diplomats and representatives are mixed up in all the intrigues of war among the nations. In some countries, such as Germany, France, Spain, Italy, the Pope's nuncio is the "dean," – the leader and highest ranking member – of the entire diplomatic corps. Any good European history will prove how much these Papal statesmen have had to do with the fomenting of wars in the past. Count Carlo Sforza, formerly Foreign Minister of Italy, gives authoritative information concerning the Vatican's part in bringing on World War I, in his book, Contemporary Italy.

It is difficult to get Americans to believe that a so-called Christian church would actually foment war and its terrible consequences as part of its policy. That is because Protestantism has taken religion out of politics and developed exclusively its purely spiritual aspect. To the church of Rome, the slaughter and even torture of individuals by war and Inquisition may be a necessary and laudable act – if necessary to safeguard the Catholic people from contact with "heretics," or to preserve and enhance the power of the church as a whole. This was re-stated, for instance, in the Jesuit magazine The Catholic Mind of last January in a defense of the Catholic church's cruel laws against the Jews, and holds good also of its attitude toward Protestants. It declared:

"Full freedom to non-believers must be restricted when their activities interfere with Catholic worship or tend in some degree to contaminate Catholic truth."

War with its suffering is a small matter in the eyes of the Catholic church compared to the danger of losing its undisputed control over the Christian world. It fanatically believes in its mission from God to be the sole religious teacher and guide of all men. It professes to regard all worldly happenings "*sub specie aeternitatis*," ("under the aspect of eternity") and the death of one or a million "heretics" who would imperil its eternal mission is not only excusable but a necessary and worthy part of its duties on earth. But having a mere token force of soldiers at the Vatican, the Catholic church must use the armies of governments in alliance with it to do the killing. Pope Leo XIII insisted with the late German Kaiser that "Germany must become the sword of the Catholic church." The Kaiser failed in this, but Hitler twenty-five years after him very nearly succeeded. It was the Vatican that made possible the militarization of Germany toward the end of the last century. And **it was the Vatican**, as Count Sforza tells us, **who gave its**

**blessing to the first World War**  that was touched off at Sarajevo.

Americans should remember these things when the Pope of Rome is glamorized in their controlled press as the personification of peace and democracy.

## **War As An Instrument Of Papal Policy By J. J. Murphy**

HIGH-PRESSURE PROPAGANDA has been selling the Pope to the American people as the great champion of world peace – as the spiritual Father of Christendom who stands apart from politics and devotes himself solely to the maintenance of moral principles. European authors and statesmen, such as Count Carlo Sforza, who have had access to the secret archives of their countries, know this to be false. Nor has the refusal of the Vatican to open to the world its historical archives been able to hide what the New York Times openly and rightly called “the profound immorality of the temporal policy of the Church of Rome.” This war-making policy of the Vatican has involved the nations in endless intrigues by playing off one nation against another like pawns on a chessboard, as the following article clearly shows.

CLAIMING the exclusive right to be considered the living and infallible representative of Christ on earth, the Roman Catholic church wishes to be looked upon as an essentially spiritual organization solely devoted to safeguarding the moral principles of Christianity. It proclaims to the world its abhorrence of evil and undying adherence to changeless principles as opposed to expediency. It shudders in theory at the slightest defection from absolute right and dramatizes its purity by repeated quotation of Newman’s words:

“The Catholic Church holds it is better for the sun and moon to drop from heaven, for the earth to fail, and for all the many millions on it to die of starvation in extreme agony, as far as temporal affliction goes, than that one soul, I will not say, should be lost, but should commit one single venial sin, should tell one willful untruth, or should steal one poor farthing without excuse.”

It is on these grounds of divine incorruptibility that the Catholic church demands the right to be an arbiter of world peace at the coming conferences of the United Nations and condemns beforehand all decisions that it does not help shape. But since even the worst perpetrators of evil have shouted from the housetops the holiness of their intentions and purposes, no one can quarrel with the public’s right to examine the claims of the Roman Catholic church in the light of historical facts. The saying of Christ, “by their fruits you shall know them,” still holds good of moral theories and pretenses.

## **Religion Of The Sword**

Unfortunately for the Catholic church, its historical record does violence to its proud claims. It even lends credence to the accusation that these bold

pretenses of virtue are but a mask for its political ambitions and intrigues. For on examination, we find that the most immoral practices of the Catholic church are not mere accidents of history but the logical conclusion of its fundamental dogmas. From its basic belief that it is the one and only true church of Christ to whom Christ gave "all power in heaven and on earth," it logically lays claim to supreme authority in things spiritual and material and condemns all dissenters as enemies of Christ and destroyers of souls. In accordance with this, the cardinal who crowns a new Pope with the tiara pronounces during the ritual these words:<sup>1</sup>

"Receive the tiara adorned with three crowns and know that thou art Father of princes and kings, Ruler of the world, Vicar of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

The Catholic church's right not only to participate in politics but to render final decisions was openly taught by Pope Boniface VIII in an official papal bull, *Unam Sanciam*, which proclaimed the church to be a perfect political society, as superior to the state as the sun is to the moon which merely reflects its light. Speaking of this bull, the Catholic book, *The Vatican as a World Power*, translated from the German by Dr. George Shuster, says (page 197):

"The meaning of the bull ['Unam Sanctam'] is contained in these sentences: the spiritual power [the Catholic church] has the authority to establish the worldly power, and to judge it when it is not good; and it is necessary to salvation to believe that all human creatures are subject to the Pope...

'Whoever admits the doctrine that the Catholic church is "the continuation of Jesus Christ" and the infallible teacher of his divine doctrines, must logically admit that anyone who dissents from its teachings perverts the truth and sins against the welfare of society. Nor can he quarrel with the statement of Catholic Encyclopedia (VIII, 36) that disbelief in the church's teachings is a crime worse than treason that must be stamped out by physical punishment. This is what the Jesuit Cardinal Billot teaches in his seminary textbook on dogmatic theology: "God not only permits the Church to use force, but definitely prescribes it to her. There is no efficacious remedy against heresies but medieval laws." <sup>2</sup>

It follows from this that the medieval Inquisition, established and implemented by the Papacy, is the logical result of Catholic claims to be the "one church outside of which there is no salvation." Of this same forceful defense of Catholic dogma through the Inquisition, Lecky in his book, *The Rise and Influence of Rationalism in Europe* (vol. I, p. 326), says that it "exhibits an amount of cold, passionless, studied and deliberate barbarity unrivaled in the history of mankind."

The right of the Catholic church to punish heretics was not an accidental distortion of its teachings in medieval times. It is still taught in the Latin textbooks on dogmatic theology used today in American Catholic seminaries. The Holy Office of the Inquisition is still the most powerful

bureaucracy in the Roman Curia. It did not stop inflicting corporal punishment in the Middle Ages, but continued to do so, wherever it could, right into the last century, namely in Spain, Mexico, the Philippines and the Papal States. Heresy was declared a political crime. The Cambridge Modern History (XI, 706) notes that in 1850 there were 8,800 "political prisoners" of this kind in the small Papal States alone.

Throughout the 19th century, one Papal encyclical after another was issued to condemn in scathing terms both liberalism and democracy in Belgium, France, Bavaria, Austria, Spain and Italy. This fight of the Vatican against civil liberties extended right down to the present, as is admitted by Catholic statesman Count Carlo Sforza, Foreign Minister of pre-Fascist Italy, in his recent book, *Contemporary Italy*:<sup>3</sup>

"And the new Pope, Pius XI, like Pius X, was not only hostile to ideas of liberty... To those who warned him that dealing with faithless and lawless demagogues is always dangerous, he replied: 'I know it, but at least they don't believe in the villainous fetish of liberalism.'"

"A distrust shared in common, a common hatred, constitute stronger bonds than those of common sympathies, and the Catholicism of Pius XI shared one hatred in common with Fascist chiefs – the hatred of political liberty.

## **Repudiation Of Peace**

The doctrine that the Catholic church has the right to use physical force to attain its ends holds as true in the realm of international politics as it does in the case of heretical individuals. In other words, the Catholic church approves of war as a means of securing for itself greater political power. In spite of wordy distinctions between a "just" and an "unjust" war, it has never forbidden a single war that might redound to its profit. On the contrary, it has frequently urged on the belligerents or cooperated with them by connivance, open or secret – by the intrigues of Vatican diplomacy or the approval of their Father Confessor. Count Sforza says (p. 56), "Naturally the Bourbons, like the Savoy, violated their constitutions... they had confessors to absolve them."

Since the Treaty of Westphalia, which put a legal end to the open political power of the papacy in 1648, the objective of the Vatican has been to continue the counter-Reformation to the point where a reestablished Holy Roman Empire would wipe out the last vestige of liberal, Protestant Europe. The Popes realistically faced the fact that this could be done only by warfare. In our own times they did their best to undermine the League of Nations and sneered at plans for peace. Sforza (p. 205) remarks of Pope Benedict XV in the First World War:

“He long resisted the pressures of those who recommended putting to the service of peace the ‘high moral authority of the Holy See.’ With his habitual tone of sarcasm he used to reply, ‘Authority? Strange that they should talk so much of it...’”

As late as May 23, 1920, when he issued his encyclical, *Pacem Dei*, Benedict XV completely avoided mention of the League of Nations as if it did not even exist. In later years his successors used their influence over DeValera and numerous small Catholic nations of Latin America to vote against every League proposal that would have strengthened its authority, such as the boycott of Fascist Italy during the rape of Ethiopia.

Not to mention two World Wars, to which we shall refer later, the horrible Thirty Years’ War that devastated Europe is a terrifying instance how the Jesuits instigated continuous warfare for a whole generation to attain their purpose. It is with such uses of war in mind that one must read Rome’s reprobation of pacifism. Father Walter Farrell, in his work on the doctrine of Thomas Aquinas, *A Companion to the Summa* (III, 123), lays down the law for Catholics:

“That war, under some circumstances, is justified is not a mere philosophical opinion; a Catholic is not free to embrace or reject it. It is a solemn doctrine of the Church; in fact, time and again through the ages, the Church through Her councils and Supreme Pontiffs, has urged men to wage war.”

## **Unethical Self-interest**

The Catholic church’s claim that it adheres at all times to the same moral principles is ludicrous in the light of history. It practices today in its parish banks the very principles of money lending that it anathematized in the Middle Ages, to give only a single instance. In politics it followed a similar pattern. It never failed to reject a moral principle in matters of politics, if it stood to gain by the deal. Its conservative principles against revolutions, that it championed in Europe throughout the last century in defense of outworn monarchies, were thrown to the winds when it saw’ in the Franco revolution a chance to overthrow the duly elected regime of a liberal, Republican government in Catholic Spain.

The Vatican has switched back and forth with every wind, according to its own selfish interests and without the slightest regard for principle. In 1874 the papacy forbade Catholics in Italy to participate in democratic government by holding office or even by voting in the elections. Four years later it confirmed this order by the famous *Non Expedit* decree. In 1918 it revoked this decree and cooperated with Father Luigi Sturzo, a life-long priest politician, in establishing a democratic political party, the *Partito Popolare*. Less than 10 years later it cooperated with Mussolini in the establishment of a dictatorship with a church-state union and disowned Father Sturzo by letting Mussolini force him into exile. Now that Fascism has been



overthrown, the Vatican is preparing to use Father Sturzo again to reestablish the Partito Popolare in one form or another.

In the same expedient way the Vatican first established the Center Party in Germany, then double-crossed it under Bismarck. It cooperated with it again, only to sell it out to Hitler in the early 1930's. Of this latter betrayal, Edgar Ansel Mowrer, former Deputy Director of the Office of War Information, in the New York Post, of January 30, 1945, tells the following facts:

"In Berlin in 1932 and 1933 I watched with fascinated horror the democratic Catholic Center Party slowly abate its resistance to the Nazis, with Msgr. Kaas, its titular head, slowly yielding to arguments from Rome until the final capitulation to Hitler which opened the door to Germany's attack on the human race."

The way the Vatican sought its selfish ends by double-crossing its own coworkers and its own Catholic political parties is similar to the way it broke its word to nations. As we shall see below, it begged Protestant Germany to be the 'temporal arm' of the Catholic church; when a little while later it felt that it had more to gain by uniting with France and Russia against Germany, it broke its pledge without a scruple. Later, when Germany grew stronger, it reversed itself once more and allied itself with German militarists first by an unwritten agreement, later by a written 'secret agreement' in the Concordat with Hitler.<sup>4</sup>

In the Roman church's immoral policy of expediency there are no real principles, except that 'whatever benefits the church is right.' Michael Williams, ardent Catholic apologist and ranking member of Catholic Action in this country, has repeatedly justified the Vatican's alliance with Mussolini and Hitler by quoting the words of the late Pope Pius XI, that he "would negotiate with the devil himself if the good of souls demanded such action."<sup>5</sup>

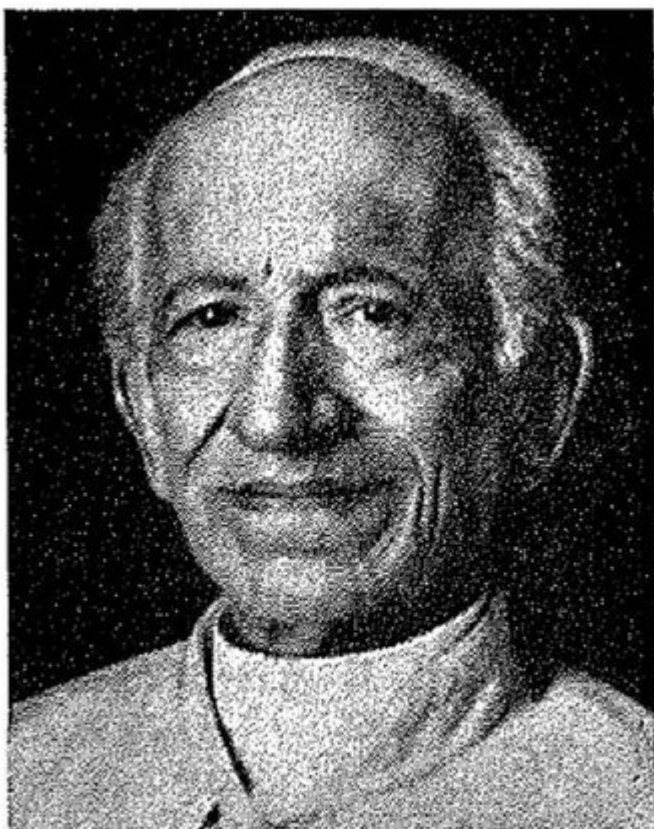
That is about the size of it. The papacy will make a deal with evil men and the most Godless nation, if it thinks it can increase its power by doing so.

This immoral, opportunist principle is the compass of the policy of the Jesuits, whose General, known as the 'black Pope,' controls the Vatican court and bureaucracies. If any one, Pope or cardinal, stands in the way of the Jesuits, he either yields as did Pius IX who changed from a liberal to a die-hard reactionary, or it is just too bad for him. As they drew toward the end of their lives several Popes seemed to regret that they had followed the dictates of the Jesuits, but before they got a chance to mend their ways they passed away, often very unexpectedly. After the death of Leo XIII, his Secretary of State, Cardinal Rampolla, was practically imprisoned in the Convent of Santa Maria. Sforza (201) tells that only one of the Vatican diplomats dared to visit Rampolla where he "lived in solitude and abandonment." Pope Benedict XV began to veer from support of German militarism when he first took office. With this in mind he appointed a trustworthy friend to the Secretariat of State. What happened to change his policy is clearly implied by Humphrey Johnson in his book, *Vatican Diplomacy*

(p. 13):

"Pope Benedict XV chose his old friend, Cardinal Ferrata, to fill the post of Secretary of State, a step that created a favorable impression in France. A month later, Ferrata succumbed suddenly to a painful internal malady, which set in circulation... the time-honored rumors of foul play."

Count Sforza (343) tells how the late Pope Pius XI had a change of heart shortly before he reached his end, and how intent he was on warning the faithful against the Nazi-Fascists into whose clutches he had delivered them. "The last two days of his life were devoted to writing a speech... intended to tell them that the dangers were equally serious from both sides." But he was never given a chance to publish it. Sforza relates that on his deathbed his last words were, "Let me have another day; I have such an important duty to fulfill." Pius XI never got "another day" to publish an encyclical that might have ruined the carefully laid plans of the Jesuits. That was the last that was ever heard of the proposed encyclical.



**POPE LEO XIII**

***"Germany must become the sword of the Catholic Church."***

Eugene Pacelli, the present Pope Pius XII, did not share his predecessor's last-minute change of conviction. "He has always been known for his strong German leanings" Kees van Hoek, his official Catholic biographer, is forced to admit. The wildest Roman diplomat of a century, Pius XII is the apple of

the Jesuits' eye. After spending 12 years in Germany and knowing Hitler at first hand, he signed the Vatican-Hitler Concordat with enthusiasm. He has refused to declare it void, and has lived up to its 'secret clause' by striving ceaselessly to effect a 'negotiated peace' for the defeated Nazis and, when that proved hopeless, by pleading for their pardon. As the Patriarchs of the Orthodox church, recently meeting in general council, declared with unmistakable reference to him and his Vatican agents:

"There are the voices of those who call themselves Christians calling for forgiveness of infanticides and traitors. These people expose themselves to the same blame as the Fascists who are drowning in the blood of their victims." (New York Post, Feb. 6, 1945)

## **The Sell-Out Of Catholic Nations**

The following brief review of salient points in the history of the last century will show how the Jesuits and their papal figureheads ruthlessly played politics for their own selfish interests, even to the point of selling out Catholic nations. Never was political conduct less inhibited by thoughts of morality.

The history of Poland is a good example of a Catholic nation held in subjugation for centuries, much to the satisfaction of the Vatican. The Pope's only interest was to use his power over the illiterate Poles as a pawn in his political bargaining with the emperors of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia. In the historical excerpt that follows in illustration of this point, Pope Leo XIII was secretly double-crossing Germany, with which he had an oral alliance, because it was upholding the independence of Italy, while the Freemasons ruling France had promised him a restoration of the Papal States. The well-known historian Rene Fulop-Miller narrates the facts in his book, *Leo XIII and Our Times* (pp. 116-17):

"During the 1880's the danger of a clash between Russia and Germany became an increasingly important factor in determining the course of the foreign policy of various cabinets, and with rare skill Pope Leo XIII at once contributed to use this situation for his own purposes.

"The coming war would have to be fought on the soil of the old Polish kingdom partitioned between Prussia and Russia, and it might be a matter of decisive military importance whether the Poles rose against Russia... This depended in very considerable measure on the influence of the Catholic clergy on the Polish people. Pope Leo XIII now gave the Russian Foreign Minister Giers to understand that he might be prepared to use his influence with the Poles in a direction favorable to the Czarist government, and again, as with France, the 'papal card' won the game...

"Although the Polish party at the Vatican did everything in its power to prevent the Pontiff from throwing his influence on the side of the Czarist regime, the Pope sent instructions to the Polish bishops [in Russian Poland] that they were to 'impress upon the faithful the duty of obedience to the secular power and of docility toward the ruling authorities,' and to see that no Catholic in Russia entered 'any societies which are working for revolution in the State or for the disturbance of peace and security'... At the same time, the 'Curia' did its utmost to cement the rapprochement between Russia and France and to dissipate the mistrust of that democratic Republic which still existed in conservative St. Petersburg."

It was at this time that Leo XIII wrote his encyclical, *Sapientiae Christianae*, to ingratiate the Vatican with democratic France – the same France that one Pope after another had denounced in the most violent language ever since the French Revolution of 1789. At this same time Leo XIII was vilifying Italian democracy, after forbidding Catholics to even vote in the elections. This policy of the Pope to condemn democracy in one country while praising it in another was as typical of the unprincipled papacy as was his plotting with French heretics and Russian schismatics for the destruction of Catholic Italy, that had at last attained nationhood and recognition by the Triple Alliance. Leo XIII betrayed his native Italy for the sake of gaining political power for the church. Count Sforza tells how "he dreamed of the destruction of Italian unity which, he thought, should be dissolved into a federation of little Italian 'republics' under the presidency of the Pope. He dreamed of a departure from Rome followed by a triumphal return after a victorious war waged by Austria-Hungary against Italy – an idea that Francis Joseph had the good sense to reject." "The entire political activity of his pontificate was but a long series of efforts which created difficulties for Italian foreign policy, first in Vienna, then, with more apparent success, at Paris."6

After having maintained the cruel dictatorship of the Habsburg emperors for generations over the enslaved Catholic peoples of Croatia, Slovenia, Bohemia and other Slav nations, the Vatican's pretended dismay over the present-day fate of Poland and Lithuania is sheer hypocrisy. How carefully the Vatican cooperated in the enslavement of these peoples is clearly shown from the following passage of a Roman Catholic catechism in use in Austria under the Habsburgs. It is quoted from Catholic Count Sforza's above-mentioned book, page 64:

"Q. – How should subjects behave toward their sovereigns?

"A. – Subjects should behave toward their sovereigns exactly as slaves toward their masters.

Q. – Why should they behave like slaves?

"A. – Because the sovereign is their master and his power extends over their property as over their persons."

## Tie-Up With German Militarists

The loud and shallow praise of democracy now on the lips of the Roman hierarchy looks pathetic in the light of the 'infallible' papal declarations of the last century, which the Catholic church has never retracted. They are summarized by Charles Guignebert, distinguished historian of the University of Paris. In his book, *Christianity, Past and Present*, (p. 452) he says of Pope Pius VII, who reestablished the Inquisition in Spain at that late date in modern history, and of Pope Gregory XVI who died a quarter of a century later:

"He seized upon the slightest pretexts to show his hostility to all liberal principles and all ideas deemed 'revolutionary.' He entered special protest against the political institutions of France, which by their guarantee of religious toleration to all, dared to place 'the Holy and Immaculate bride of Christ, the Church outside of which there is no salvation, upon a level with heretical sects and even with Jewish perfidy.'

"Pope Gregory XVI in a document that gives us a foretaste of the Syllabus of Pope Pius IX, the *Mirari Vos* encyclical, declared war (1) upon modern forms of society founded upon liberty of conscience... and (2) upon liberty of the press, 'which cannot be sufficiently execrated and condemned,' for by its means all evil doctrines are propagated, and (3) upon liberty of scientific research."

A penetrating analysis of the reactionary principles of Catholicism is found in the symposium published in 1941 by a group of well-known American liberals under the title of *The City of Man*:

"In more recent years its Syllabus of Errors, the start of a second counter-Reformation challenging the liberal world that has risen from the Reformation and the Renaissance, played into the hands of political and social obscurantism. Its spiritual totalitarianism was exploited as a tool... of political and social enslavement."

The great reactionary and militarist power of Europe in the last Century was Germany. Pope Leo XIII was determined to forge a union with it. Kaiser Wilhelm II in his autobiography, *The Kaiser's Memoirs*, (p. 211), says of Leo XIII: "It was of interest to me that the Pope said to me on this occasion that Germany must become the sword of the Catholic Church."

For a while Leo XIII vied with Bismarck in a struggle for power and attempted to double-cross him, as narrated above. Eventually the reactionary principles and love of power they shared in common brought them together. Leo XIII overruled the Catholic Center Party in Germany and forced it to endorse

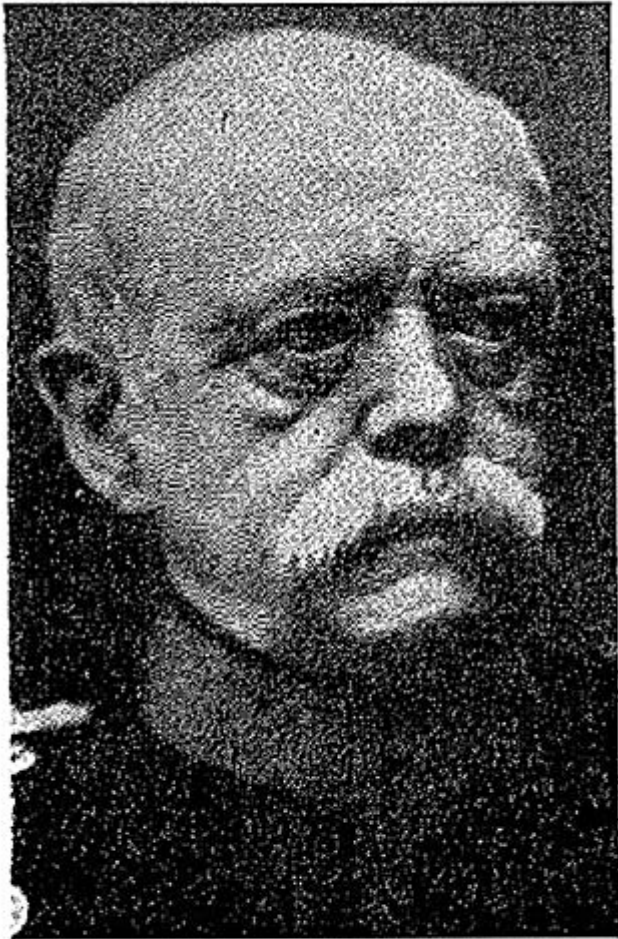
Bismarck's program for the militarization of Germany, known as the Septennate Bill. The flagrant immorality of this deal that has spelled war and disaster for three generations cannot be more aptly expressed than in an editorial of the New York Times of February 8, 1887, that stated in part as follows:

"All is grist that comes to the mills of Rome. The collision between the spirit of military absolutism and the spirit of Parliamentary liberty in Germany, a contest watched with the deepest interest all over the world, and whose issue will be potent in molding the history of Europe for years to come, is viewed by the Pope merely as a welcome opportunity to improve the condition of the Roman Catholic Church in Germany."

"One sentence of [Catholic] Dr. Windthorst's address reveals with pitiless and perhaps unintentional frankness the profound immorality of the temporal policy of the Church of Rome. 'The Pope's advocacy of the Septennate Bill,' said Dr. Windthorst, 'was independent of the merits of the measure, and arose from reasons of expediency and from political considerations.'

"It would be difficult to frame a more accurate analysis of the Papal motives, while at the same time indicating a more sweeping denunciation of the Papal policy. Liberal principles, the right of popular government, the German constitution and its guarantee of Parliamentary institutions, says the Pope, may go to the dogs, if we can secure some further modification of the laws which relate to the Church, and so improve the condition of the Papacy in Germany."





### **OTTO VON BISMARCK**

***The Vatican helped him militarize Germany  
in 1887***

The agreement between the Vatican and Germany for a counter-Reformation of liberal Europe almost brought about war in 1904. It came a decade later. Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, ally of Germany and "the most Catholic of all sovereigns," started the world conflict. The satisfaction that the Vatican felt at the declaration of World War I is best expressed by Count Sforza, a Catholic who knows the inner secrets of European politics. On page 186 of his book, mentioned above, he says:

"A legend more tenacious than history was formed, in 1914 and afterward, regarding Pope Pius X's attitude toward the Habsburg aggression toward Serbia. This legend shows Pius X praying and fighting against the outbreak of the war, horrified to see Christianity divided into two enemy camps, and dying of grief at the invasion of Belgium and all the horrors of war unchained. The truth is quite otherwise...

"As soon as the danger of war became evident, Count Palffy, Austrian Charge d'Affaires at the Vatican, several times informed Pius X's Secretary of State, Cardinal Merry del Val, of the

intentions and the 'duties' of the Dual Monarchy. The Cardinal's replies were deposited in the diplomatic correspondence of the Austro-Hungarian Embassy, correspondence that I have seen.

"In these conversations the Secretary of State spoke expressly in the name of the Pope who, he declared to the Austrian representative, deplored that Austria had not earlier inflicted on the Serbs the chastisement they deserved."

Elsewhere (p. 105) Count Sforza relates:

"It is not strange that the Protestant armies of Germany seemed to Pius X the instrument chosen by God to punish France. When death surprised him on August 20, 1914, he was absolutely certain that nothing in the world could prevent the complete defeat of the French; and in his naivete he said: 'Thus they will understand that they must become obedient sons of the Church.'"

Pope Pius X was succeeded by Benedict XV, a hunch-back cardinal who was elected Pope by one vote... which he would not have received if he himself had voted for the principal rival candidate. Space does not permit the retelling of how this Pope worked with Matthias Erzberger, German propaganda chief and diplomat, through Msgr. Pacelli (now Pope Pius XII), to carry out German directions to effect a 'negotiated peace.' These details and the treaty drafted by Germany that would have reestablished an independent Vatican State are given in an article on the pro-Germanism of Pope Pius XII in the April, 1943, issue of The Converted Catholic Magazine. The intervention of Benedict XV in favor of Germany is abundantly confirmed in the second volume of the papers of Robert Lansing, secretary to President Woodrow Wilson.

## **Conclusion**

In the field of international politics the record of Vatican diplomacy is criminal and blood-stained. This is more particularly true since the rise of Fascism and Nazism. For this reason, on February 10, 1945, 1,600 Protestant clergymen of national reputation went officially on record in a statement addressed to the 'Big Three' leaders at the Crimean Conference in Yalta opposing involvement of the democracies in any deal with the Vatican or other church group. They indicted the Vatican's warmongering with the Axis dictators as follows:

"Supporting Mussolini in Italy, Dollfuss and Schusehnigg in Austria, Hitler in Germany, Franco in Spain, and Detain in France, the papacy has thrown its weight into the scales of the present human struggle on the side of the enemies of democracy."

For the past five years, The Converted Catholic Magazine has recorded and fully documented the facts of the Vatican's tie-up with Fascism, though at first there were few who believed us. Now that the truth is becoming known, it is not enough merely to stand aghast at the shamelessness of the Vatican's warmongering in the past. All must resist its demand to shape the future of the postwar world, and put an end at long last to the Vatican's activities as a disturber of international peace.

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1. Quoted from the official National Catholic Almanac for 1942, page 171.↵
  2. Quoted from G. G. Coulton, The Death Penalty for Heresy from 1184 to 1921, page 88 .↵
  3. Pages 338-9. Other page references to Count Sforza are in this same book, published in 1944 by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. See our list of 'Recommended Books.'↵
  4. Catholic Wm. Teeling, an intimate of the men who signed the Vatican-Hitler Concordat admits the existence of the "secret clause," in his book, Crisis for Christianity, page 128. Its existence is also confirmed by H. W. Blood-Ryan in his book, Franz von Papen, page 223.↵
  5. This quotation is from the N. Y. Times of last February 22. Mr. Williams quoted these words of Pope Pius XI also in the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Eagle of February 21, 1943.↵
  6. Contemporary Italy, p. 34 and p. 100.↵
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## [How The Papacy Came To Power](#)



The union of the church of Rome with the Roman State did not Christianize the State; instead it Romanized the Christian church.

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## Footprints of the Jesuits – R. W. Thompson



History of the Jesuits by a patriotic American statesman, a former Secretary of the Navy, R.W. Thompson.

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## The Vatican in World Politics by Avro Manhattan



This book offers a key to the political situation that shrouds the world. No political event can be evaluated without the knowledge of the Vatican's part in it.

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## The Black Pope – By M. F. Cusack



The Society of Jesus, the Jesuits, are the armed militia of the Roman Catholic Church. They were sanctioned in 1540 by Pope Paul III with one mandate: to defeat Protestantism and regain worldwide Papal rule.

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## Pope Francis is behind Corona virus and the Jabs: Dr. Bryan Ardis



This is a partial transcription of a video below. The speaker is Dr. Bryan Ardis,

Alright, I'll just tell you, people ask me, you have started asking me, "Well, who's behind all this? Why do you think that they would be so evil? Is Fauci evil? Really? Does he really want to murder people? Joe Biden really want to murder people?"

Yeah, they do, actually, it's obvious they do. Or they wouldn't be so coercive, they wouldn't be so bullying, they wouldn't be so threatening to take your livelihood from you, or to take your ability to travel from you without getting the shots. That's not love. It's not consideration for your life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. You can't even pursue happiness if you're dead. So lay off the shots.

So anyway, I actually think that this is way bigger than our federal health agencies and our president right now, and our past president, but **I do think they're all being influenced by the same organization** that is orchestrating this entire plan. I actually think, and I'm hoping I'm very hopeful that they're not going to win, actually. But I'll have to tell you. But I am concerned that no one is acknowledging who the real threat is, I actually think. And it's not like I'm just making this up. I'm just going to tell you as much research, as I do is much looking into individuals and what they're saying, watch what they're saying. And then see who else is also saying the same thing. **I actually think the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope, Pope Francis, is over this entire thing.** And I think he's manipulating controlling the entire narrative. I think he's got Anthony Fauci in his pocket. I think he's got Joe Biden, Donald Trump, Francis Collins, I think all of them are being controlled by a division of the Roman Catholic church called the order of the Jesuits, whose sole mission for the last 200 years I'm aware of since 1857, they have been plotting to destroy the Constitution of the United States, as the one last stronghold of a country that preserves and protects religious freedoms. And I think they've been plotting this whole time, in many ways, either through wars now through famine. Now through pandemics of a virus. I think it has been a complete attempt of them to destroy the Constitution, the United States from within, to destroy the borders, to reduce, which is what they've said, we also have to reduce militaries of all countries, demolish all borders of countries. So we can create a one world religion with the Pope as the one-world leader. And if you are not listening to what Joe Biden said, what Anthony Fauci is saying, what Walensky director of the CDC is saying, what Donald Trump is saying, they're all saying the same thing. And they're all doing the same thing. They're pushing for vaccines.

And then following what the Pope said that it's important for us last month, just say no December, sorry, December 2021. The Pope came out and said, who is a Jesuit Pope for the first time in Roman Catholic history. This Jesuit Pope Francis said, "There are only two things the world needs right now. The world needs to defund all of their militaries and reduce their personnel. And then the second thing the whole world needs is more vaccinations. "

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## [The Evangelical Ecumenical Return to](#)



# Rome Movement Exposed



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## **The Pope and the Papacy**

And for tonight I want to talk about the Pope and the Papacy because it's been in the news so much. This isn't really going to be a sermon, I'm just going to try to take you through a little bit of an understanding of it. I want to talk about the Pope himself and then talk about the Papacy in general. I want to tell you at the beginning what is at stake, because what I am going to say will surely offend those who are devout Catholics. It will surely offend those who believe that Catholics are brothers and sisters in Christ. Some will read it as unkind and unloving, but nothing is more loving than the truth. To let somebody perish in a false system isn't loving at all. To rescue people out of a damning and false religion is the only loving thing to do.

And there's a lot at stake here. Not too many years ago, some evangelical Protestants got together, Chuck Colson and some others, Bill Bright and some others, and they met with some Roman Catholics and they came up with a document called "Evangelicals and Catholics Together." And in that document they celebrated a common faith and a common mission. They said we need to embrace each other and carry out this gospel mission together. This was shocking, to put it mildly, to many – to all of those people who affirm clearly a Biblical gospel. There was immediately a counter to that and all kinds of things brought to bear upon the signers of ECT. Perhaps the most notable, at least in my experience, was a special private session called in

Florida where I was locked up with a very formidable group of people for a period of seven hours, including those on the other side, J.I. Packer, Charles Colson being the notable ones; Bill Bright from Campus Crusade.

There was myself and R.C. Sproul, Michael Horton representing the biblical side and reformed theology, and for seven hours we talked about this. What is the gospel? Are the Catholics saved or not saved? That's really important. It became a discussion of are the Anglicans saved or not saved? Is everybody who's within "Christendom" automatically saved? Are they saved because they're baptized? Are they saved because they "believe in Jesus?" It was a very heated discussion at many points. What was at stake? I'll tell you what was at stake. What was at stake is whether or not we evangelize Roman Catholics. That's what's at stake. One billion of them in the world, are they a mission field or are they our co-laborers for Christ? That changes everything. Everything.

On the other side one of the leading evangelicals said, "I think it's so wonderful that we can now see Catholics as Christians because that means millions and millions of people are Christians." As if somehow by them deciding they were Christians they became Christian. I was absolutely incredulous. I almost fell off my chair. It was like what a monumental meeting this is. We just redeemed millions of people without leaving the room. But that is what is at stake in this. Are Roman Catholics the mission field or do we embrace them as fellow believers in Jesus Christ?

The mood of Evangelicalism today is to embrace them. That's what all the spokesmen, self-appointed spokesmen for Evangelicalism keep saying in the media; some of them evangelists, most of them evangelists by their own definition. These people are our brothers and sisters in Christ, indeed the Pope is our brother in Christ, indeed the Pope is the greatest spiritual and moral leader of the past 100 years in the world. Is the Pope in heaven? Of course the Pope is in heaven. He was good and he suffered, etc.

Reclassifying the Pope, reclassifying Roman Catholics as believers isn't that simple. It has massive implications. It has implications that literally overturn centuries of missionary effort. It has massive implications that overturn centuries, if not millennia, of martyrdom. In the long war on the truth, the most formidable, relentless and deceptive enemy has been Roman Catholicism. It is an apostate, corrupt, heretical, false Christianity. It is a front for the kingdom of Satan. The true church of the Lord Jesus Christ has always understood this. And even through the Dark Ages, from 400 to 1500, prior to the Reformation, genuine Christian believers set themselves apart from that system and were brutally punished and executed for their rejection of that system.

It's not my purpose tonight to go into all that is Roman Catholicism and we will do that in the fall. We will do that. We'll take a look at it from many angles, but those believers throughout those centuries along with genuine and discerning believers today understand this is a false system. It has a false priesthood. It has a false source of revelation, tradition in the magisterium. It has illegitimate power granted to it by this magisterium, this papal curia. It engages in idolatry by the worship of saints and the

veneration of angels. It conducts an horrific exultation of Mary above Christ and even God. It conducts a twisted sacrament of the Mass by which Jesus is sacrificed again and again.

It offers false forgiveness through the confessional. It calls for the uselessness of infant baptism and other sacraments. Motivated by money, it has invented Purgatory. And by the way, Purgatory is what makes the whole system work. Take out Purgatory and it's a hard sell to be a Catholic. People hang in there because of the deception of Purgatory. Purgatory is the safety net. When you die you don't go to hell, you go there and get things sorted out and finally get to heaven if you've been a good Catholic. Take away that safety net, that's a hard sell because in the Catholic system you can never know you're saved. You can never know you're going to heaven. You just keep trying and trying. As the priest said on a television program the other night, we are all engaged in a long journey toward perfection. Well, if you're engaged in a long journey toward perfection it's pretty discouraging.

People in that system guilt-ridden, fear-ridden, no knowledge of whether or not they're going to get into the kingdom. The threat of a mortal sin which throws you back out again, and the only thing that makes it work is Purgatory. If there's no Purgatory, if there's no safety net to catch me, then give me some opportunity to get into heaven. It's a second chance. It's another chance after death. I can't buy into this. So they had to invent Purgatory. It's just too much without it.

The harm of indulgences, selling forgiveness for money, the false gospel of works – you participate in your salvation by your good works – the abomination of idols and relics, prayers for the dead, the perversion of forced celibacy, and so it goes. But at the top of the pile of all of this is the amazing, amazing Papacy. The Pope is the one at the top of the Roman Catholic Church who has, in a word, usurped the headship of Christ over his church. The reformers have always understood this. With unashamed boldness, they understood this and they declared this and they faced death for it. Martin Luther, 1483-1546, Luther proved by the revelations of Daniel and John, by the epistles of Paul, Peter and Jude, says the historian D'Aubigné, that the reign of antichrist predicted and described in the Bible was none other than the papacy and all the people said, "Amen." "A holy terror seized their souls. It was the antichrist whom they beheld seated on the pontifical throne. This new idea which derived greater strength from the prophetic descriptions launched forth by Luther in the midst of his contemporaries inflicted the most terrible blow on Rome."

Based on his study of scripture, Martin Luther finally declared, "We here are of the conviction that the papacy is the seat of the seed of the true and real antichrist. I owe the Pope no other obedience than that I owe to antichrist." Luther said, "I am persuaded that if at this time St. Peter in person should preach all the articles of Holy Scripture and only deny the Pope's authority, power and primacy and say that the Pope is not the head of all Christendom, they would cause him to be hanged." Yet if Christ himself were again on earth and should preach, without all doubt the Pope would crucify him again.

John Calvin, 1509-1564, "Some persons think us too severe and censorious when we call the Roman Pontiff antichrist, but those who are of this opinion do not consider that they bring the same charge of presumption against Paul himself after whom we speak and whose language we adopt. I shall briefly show that Paul's words in 2 Thessalonians 2 are not capable to any other interpretation than that which applies them to the papacy." They saw in the antichrist the papacy, the Pope. Why? Because they had some special insight that, in fact, the final antichrist was actually to be a Pope? No. Because the Pope personified everything that the scripture described the antichrist to be.

John Knox, 1505-1572, the great Scottish Presbyterian sought to counteract the tyranny which the Pope himself had for so many ages exercised over the church. He himself said the Papacy is the very antichrist, the Pope being the son of perdition of whom Paul speaks. Thomas Cranmer, one of the great martyrs in England, died in 1556, said, "Whereof it follows Rome to be the seat of antichrist and the Pope to be the very antichrist himself, I could prove the same by many scriptures." The Westminster Confession was written in 1647. The Westminster Confession, the confession of the reformers says, "There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the Pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof; but is that Antichrist, that man of sin and son of perdition, that exalts himself in the church against Christ and all that is called God."

And again I say it isn't that he is the final antichrist, but he is in his time and in this age the very embodiment of antichrist. And there are, says John, many antichrists in the world before the final one. Cotton Mather, again an American Puritan who died in 1728, "The oracles of God foretold the rising of an Antichrist in the Christian Church: and in the Pope of Rome, all the characteristics of that Antichrist are so marvelously answered that if any who read the Scriptures do not see it, there is a marvelous blindness upon them." And Spurgeon, "It is the bound and duty of every Christian to pray against this Antichrist, and as to what Antichrist is, no sane man ought to raise a question. If it be not the popery in the Church of Rome there is nothing in the world that can be called by that name." Again, I say John said there are many antichrists. Here is the supreme embodiment of it to these great leaders, these great reformed leaders through the ages.

Spurgeon went on to say, "Popery is contrary to Christ's gospel and is the antichrist and we ought to pray against it. It should be the daily prayer of every believer that the antichrist might be hurled like a millstone into the flood and for Christ, because it wounds Christ, because it robs Christ of his glory, because it puts sacramental efficacy in the place of his atonement and lifts a piece of bread into the place of the Savior and a few drops of water into the place of the Holy Spirit. And puts a mere fallible man like ourselves up as the Vicar of Christ on Earth. IF we pray against it, because it is against him, we shall love the persons though we hate their errors. We shall love their souls though we loathe and detest their dogmas. And so the breath of our prayers will be sweetened because we turn our faces toward Christ when we pray."

It was 1553-1558, a terrible five years in England, the reign of Bloody Mary

and all that began seven years after Luther's death. Mary came into England and restored the Pope's authority in England and immediately all Bibles were removed from the churches. All Bible printing ceased and was forbidden. It became a capital crime. Eight hundred English ministers fled to Geneva. Three hundred Protestants were burned at the stake. The first martyr to Mary was John Rogers, a London minister who translated the wonderful Tyndale-Matthews Bible – I've held one of those first editions in my own hand. Ridley and Latimer, the two famous martyrs burned at the stake at Oxford. And William Tyndale, blessed William Tyndale; chaste for years and finally martyred for the crime of translating the Bible into English. All this under the leadership of, and for the satisfaction, of the Roman system and the Pope.

Luther, in the small called articles wrote this, "All things which the Pope, from a power so false, mischievous, blasphemous and arrogant has done and undertaken, have been and still are purely diabolical affairs and transactions for the ruin of the entire Holy Christian Church and for the destruction of the first and chief article concerning the redemption made through Jesus Christ." Luther didn't mince words. He said further, "The Pope is the very antichrist who is exalted himself above and opposed himself against Christ because he will not permit Christians to be saved." Further Luther said, "It is nothing else than the devil himself, because above and against God he urges and disseminates his papal falsehoods concerning Masses, Purgatory, monastic life, one's own works, fictitious divine worship, which is the very papacy, and condemns, murders and tortures all Christians who don't exalt and honor these abominations of the Pope above all things. Therefore just as little as we can worship the devil himself as Lord and God we can endure his apostle the Pope. For to lie and to kill and destroy a body and soul eternally, that is wherein his papal government really consists."

Back to Spurgeon, "Of all the dreams that have ever deluded men, and probably of all blasphemies that ever were uttered, there has never been one which is more absurd and which is more fruitful in all manner of mischief than the idea that the bishop of Rome can be the head of the church of Jesus Christ." No, these popes die and how could the church live if its head were dead? The true head ever lives and the church ever lives in him. And Spurgeon said, "A man" – this is very interesting – "A man who deludes other people by degrees comes to delude himself. The deluder first makes dupes out of others and then becomes a dupe to himself. I should not wonder but what the Pope really believes that he is infallible and that he ought to be saluted as "His Holiness." It must have taken him a good time to arrive at that eminence of self deception. But he's got to, I daresay, by now and everyone who kisses his toe confirms him in this insane idea. When everybody else believes a flattering falsehood concerning you, you come, at last, to believe it yourself or at least to think it may be so.

"The Pharisees, being continually called to learned rabbi, father, the holy scribe, the devout and pious doctor, the sanctified teacher, believed the flattering compliments. They used grand phrases in those days and doctors of divinity were very common, almost as common as they are now. And the crowd of doctors and rabbis helped to keep each other in countenance by repeating one another's fine names until they believed they meant something. Dear Friends,"

says Spurgeon, "It's very difficult to receive honor and expect it, and yet to keep your eyesight, for men's eyes gradually grow dull through the smoke of the incense which is burned before them. And when their eyes become dim with self conceit, their own great selves conceal the cross and make them unable to believe the truth."

Spurgeon said, "Christ did not redeem his church with his blood so the Pope would come in and steal away the glory. He never came from heaven to earth. He never poured out his very heart that he might purchase his people. That a poor sinner, a mere man, should be set upon high to be admired by all the nations and to call himself God's representative on earth, Christ has always been the head of his church." Spurgeon knew what the reformers knew, what any true student of scripture knows. The Pope stood at the top of an illegitimate system, particularly and specifically at the top of an illegitimate priesthood. And Spurgeon wrote this, "When a fellow comes forward in all sorts of curious garments and says he's a priest, the poorest child of God may say, "Stand away and don't interfere with my office. I am a priest. I know not what you may be. You surely must be a priest of Baal." For the only mention of the word vestments in scripture is in connection with the Temple of Baal.

"The priesthood belongs to all the saints. They sometimes call you laity, but the Holy Ghost says of all the saints, "you are God's klēros." You are God's clergy. Every child of God is a clergyman or a clergywoman. There are no priestly distinctions known in scripture. "Away with them," said Spurgeon, "away with them forever." The prayer book says, "Then shall the priest say." What a pity that word was ever left there. The very word priest has the smell of the sulfur of Rome about it, that so long as it remains, the Church of England will give forth an ill savor. Call yourself a priest, sir. I wonder, men are not ashamed to take the title. When I collect what priests have done in all ages, what priests connected with the Church of Rome have done, I repeat what I have often said. I would sooner a man pointed at me in the street and called me a devil than call me a priest, for bad as the devil has been, he has hardly been able to match the crimes and cruelties and villainies that have been transacted under the cover of a special priesthood.

From that may we be delivered, but the priesthood of God's saints, the priesthood of holiness which offers prayer and praise to God, this we have because thou hast made us priests. That is what the saints are. The Roman Empire then is, in the view of these men of God through the ages, a front line for Satan. And for Spurgeon Rome is a deadly enemy, first of all, as well as a mission field. Spurgeon said we must have no truce and make no treaty with Rome. He said this, "War. War to the knife with her. Peace there cannot be. She cannot have peace with us, we cannot have peace with her. She hates the true church and we can only say that the hatred is reciprocated. We would not lay a hand upon her priests. We would not touch a hair of their heads. Let them be free, but their doctrine we would destroy from the face of the earth as the doctrine of devils.

"So let it perish, O God, and let that evil thing become as the fat of lambs, into smoke let it consume. Yay, into smoke let it consume." You can just hear him preaching that in the tabernacle in London. He went on to say, "We must

fight the Lord's battles against this giant error, whichever shape it takes, and so must we do with every error that pollutes the church. Slay it utterly. Let none escape. Fight the Lord's battles even though it be an error that is in the evangelical church, yet we must smite it." We stand on those shoulders. What is our response to this current issue, a truce with Rome? Are we going to betray the martyrs? Are we going to betray the history of our faith? Are we going to betray those who lived and died to get us the truth? Are we going to betray the Tyndales and the Luthers and the Calvins and all the rest? Are we so senseless, are we so blind, are we so ignorant, are we so faithless, are we so cowardly that we will not fight?

The doctrinal ignorance of the evangelical church is shocking, matched only by its cowardice, I fear. That has certainly been revealed to everybody in the recent response to the death of the Pope and the installation of his successor. The promotion of Catholicism that we've seen in the media in the last couple of months has had no equal in history. This is the single greatest promotion of the Roman Catholic system in the history of that system. The world media has set aside the sickening pedophilia, the abuse issues, to parade the pomp and circumstance of this false system as if it were truly all glorious. It is a classic illustration of the old story of the emperor's new clothes. Spiritually it's naked. And here we are at the very time when Roman Catholicism is receiving through the devil's medium – since he controls both – its greatest exposure, it is perpetrating on the world its greatest seduction. It is bringing to the world its damning delusion as never before and protestants and evangelical representatives are just embracing it and its damnable heresies.

The media, have you noticed how uncritical they are? Have you noticed how they don't ever bring up the scandal of the priests? We hear people say, "Well, Catholicism is a different denomination." Catholicism isn't a different denomination, it's a different religion. I don't think people know the difference between a denomination and a religion. Has Rome changed? No. Oh, Rome morphs. Rome is chameleon. Whatever it needs to be in any nation at any time it will become. Whatever it takes. That's how the devil always works. He moves, changes, to become whatever wins over people. But here is protestant evangelicalism abandoning sound doctrine, shaming the name of Christ, and all in bold relief so the whole world can see. And the world was watching the death of Pope John Paul II in an unrivaled spectacle of worship given to a man.

The question came up is the Pope in heaven? And you hear all these people say yes, yes. People have asked me, "Is the Pope in heaven?" And my answer is, "Is the Pope Catholic?" Isn't that the answer? I think he is. I think the Pope is Catholic. Does he believe Catholic theology? Yes. He is the guardian of Catholic theology. You get in by works, by Mary, by penance, by baptism, by confession, by rosary. No, this is another gospel. This is not the true gospel. A couple of weeks ago, two messages, we talked about the nature of saving faith and we reminded you salvation is by faith alone. Not in Catholicism, by a combination of grace and faith and works. But we know what the New Testament teaches.

"No one," Romans 3:20 says, "Will be declared righteous in God's sight by

observing the law." Romans 3:26, "God justifies those who have faith in Jesus." Faith alone, Christ alone. Romans 3:28, "We maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law." Romans 4, "Abraham was justified not by works. If he was justified by works he had something to boast about." But what does scripture say? He believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. When a man works his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However to the man who doesn't work but trusts God, who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Romans 4, "It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise," verses 13 and 14, "it was through faith." Romans 9:30-32, "The gentiles who didn't pursue righteousness have obtained it; righteousness, that is, by faith." Romans 10:4, "Christ is the end of the law so there may be righteousness for everyone who believes." Romans 11:5-6, "There's a remnant chosen by grace and if by grace it is no longer by works. If it were, grace would no longer be grace." Galatians 2:16, "A man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So too we have put our faith in Jesus that we may be justified by faith, not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified."

Galatians 3:10, "And all who rely on observing the law are under a curse because cursed is everyone who doesn't continue to do everything written in the book of the law." "The righteous will live by faith," Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you are already saved through faith and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God and not of works, so that no one can boast." Paul in Philippians 3 gives his testimony. He says, "Not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but a righteousness which is through faith in Christ; the righteousness which comes through God and is my faith." Titus 3, "God saved us not because of righteous things which we have done, but because of his mercy having been justified by his grace. We have become heirs of the hope of eternal life."

You know all those verses. Salvation is by faith alone, in Christ alone, through God's grace alone. When you put your trust in Jesus Christ, God declares you righteous not because you are, but because he imputes the righteousness of Christ to you, because he imputes your sin to him. Christ bears your sin, you receive his righteousness. This is the glory of the great doctrine of justification. Roman Catholicism does not believe that. The Council of Trent, 1545-1563, came out with statements. Listen to some of them.

"To those who work well unto the end and trust in God, eternal life is to be offered." That doesn't sound like anything I just read. "To those who work well unto the end and trust in God, eternal life is to be offered." Listen to this. "It is given as a reward promised by God himself to be faithfully given to their good works and merits. By those very works, which have been done in God, fully satisfied the divine law according to the state of this life and to have truly merited eternal life." Eternal life in the Catholic system is something you earn by your works. You merit it and you receive it because of your merit. That is absolute and total contradiction. That is another gospel.



There are hundreds of canons that came out of the Council of Trent. I'll just share a few. I did a few of these two weeks ago, but some of the Canons, just listen. This is what Trent, this is Catholic dogma. "If anyone says that the sinner is justified by faith alone," – meaning that nothing else is required to cooperate – "in order to obtain the grace of justification, and that it is not in any way necessary that he be prepared and disposed by the action of his own will, let him be anathema." And the pronounced damnation on anybody who said salvation was by faith alone. These were directed directly at the reformers.

Another one, "If anyone says that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in the divine mercy which remits sins for Christ's sake, or that it is this confidence alone that justifies us, let him be anathema." And they keep saying it again and again. Another one, "If anyone says that the righteousness received is not preserved and also not increased before God through good works, but that those works are merely the fruits and signs of justification obtained and not the cause of its increase, let him be anathema." In other words, the reformers understood the Bible as well, as all true believers had, that works are the results of justification not the cause. But if you say that you're cursed by Roman Catholicism and the Council of Trent.

Here's the final one. "If anyone says that the good works of the one justified are in such a manner that gifts of God that they are not also the good merits of Him justified or that the one justified by the good works that he performs by the grace of God and the merit of Jesus Christ whose living member he is, does not truly merit an increase of grace, eternal life and in case he dies in grace the attainment of eternal life itself and also increase in glory, let him be anathema." The idea is you keep doing more works, more works, more works. You increase grace. God increases grace. You increase works and together you achieve a higher and higher rate of sanctification, which they call justification, until finally you have obtained eternal life. That's what it says. "The attainment of eternal life." If you don't believe that you attain your eternal life by your works, you're cursed.

Did Pope John Paul II believe that? Of course he believed that. Why? Because the church is infallible. Catholic theology can't be amended because it's infallible and he is the faithful guardian of that system. We should grieve for that man because he gained the whole world and lost his soul. The most loved and admired man by Catholics in the world, blinded by the prince of this world, never saw the light of the true gospel. I grieve for the many who are deceived by this Pope and his religion. It breaks my heart to see so many people in that system who can't discern truth from error, genuine Christianity from its counterfeit. And my heart really breaks to hear from protestant evangelicals that this man was a true Christian, leading others to true Christianity.

The religious corruption of Rome has been on constant display for the whole world to see. Literally, the splendor and pageantry are extraordinary; people standing in long lines for hours to virtually worship a dead man with a rosary in his hand and a twisted crucifix by his side. One man said on the television, one Catholic bishop, "We prayed for him and now we're going to

pray to him," meaningless repetition of prayers which are an abomination of God. Twenty-six years in that position, never knew the truth. And the princes underneath him in their purple and scarlet robes are disguised as angels of light along with him. The magnificence and grandeur of this corrupt religion that has become so rich at the expense of people, at the impoverishing of people, as bewitched a gullible world. They preach another gospel. How can we not see that? And for any man to be called Holy Father and accept it – Jesus called God "Holy Father" in John 17 in his high priestly prayer. Jesus said, "Call no man Father as if any man is the source of spiritual life." Call no man Father, yet the whole priesthood, they're all called Father. Occasionally I'm even called Father, which is no small offense to me. He is called Holy Father. He has usurped the title intended for God. He's called the head of the church. He's usurped a title intended for Christ. He's called the Vicar of Christ, vicar connected to the word vicarious – the one who stands in the place of Christ. And he has stolen that from the Holy Spirit. He has set himself in the place of God, he has set himself in the place of Christ and he has set himself in the place of the Holy Spirit and that is overstepping your bounds.

I don't think Jesus or God the Father or the Holy Spirit would go to a meeting with Muslims, say they share a common spiritual bond and kiss the Koran. I'm reminded of Luke 16 where there is a rich man dressed in purple and fine linen living in splendor every day. He dies and he finds himself in Hades, tormented and begging for people to go back and warn them. I think the Pope is in that very situation. But what did he actually believe? What did he actually say, this Pope John Paul II, that was just buried? We know that he believed salvation was not in Christ alone, and there is another gospel that damns. But let me ask the question what did he believe about Mary? "In Christ alone," we heard it and we sang it. After the death of his mother when he was eight years old. Karol Wojtyła, that's how you say his name – the Pope that died – after the death of his mother when he was eight he developed an intense devotion to Mary. When he became Pope in 1978 he formally rededicated himself and his whole pontificate to Mary. He traveled around the world making visits to numerous Marian shrines around the world so he could venerate her in the fashion that Catholic theology calls him to. That's hyperdulia or a higher dulia or higher veneration than for angels.

An example of his preoccupation and devotion to Mary motivated thousands, if not millions, of Roman Catholics to make Mary the primary focus of their lives, the primary focus of their prayers. He had a papal crest that was developed and a simple coat of arms that in the middle was a huge M for Mary. When he died his coffin was decorated with a large M. His personal slogan, which he embroidered into all his papal robes in Latin, "Totus tuus ego sum, Maria," – I am totally yours, Mary. "Totus tuus ego sum." By the way, those are the opening words in his last will and testament, and in that will and testament after devoting himself to Mary he said, "I place this moment," referring to the moment of his death, "in the hands of the mother of my master, totus tuus. In the same eternal hands I leave everything and everyone to whom I have been connected by my life and my vocation. In these hands I leave above all the church and also my nation and all of humanity." He put his own life, the church and the whole world in the hands of Mary. That is

ridiculous. That is ludicrous. He says, "Each of us has to keep in mind the prospect of death. I, too, take this into consideration constantly and trusting the decisive moment to the mother of Christ and of the church; to the mother of my hope." That's paganism. That would nauseate Mary if she knew about it, and she doesn't. She never heard a prayer from anybody ever. Neither did any other saint.

In notes included in his will, John Paul II quoted the words of a former Polish cardinal, "Victory, when it comes will be a victory through Mary." And if you closely follow the preaching of this man, you can see that intense devotion to Mary in a message to the general audience in May of 1997. John Paul said, and I quote, "The history of Christian piety teaches that Mary is the way which leads to Christ." When the assassination attempt, if you remember, failed in 1981 I think it was, he credited Mary with saving his life. On the anniversaries of that assassination attempt in 1992 and 1994, he made a special pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in order to offer ceremonial prayers of thanksgiving to Mary.

He wrote a book. John Paul II's Book of Mary. The ad copy inside the book says the book is for people "who seek a deeper relationship with Jesus and his mother." The table of contents lists all the titles that the Pope applied to Mary: Gate of Heaven, Mediatrix of all Graces, Mirror of Perfection, Mother of the Church, Mother of Mercy, Pillar of Faiths, Seed of Wisdom. Let me just tell you what some of the things in the book say. I'm quoting here, "Mary shares our human condition but in complete openness to the grace of God. Not having known sin she is able to have compassion on every kind of weakness." Not having known sin. Why, then, in her magnificat did she call God her savior?

He says, "She understands a sinful man and loves him with a mother's love. Precisely for this reason she is on the side of truth and shares the church's burden in recalling always and to everyone the demands of morality." He says, "For every Christian, for every human being, Mary is the one who first believed. Precisely with her faith, as spouse and mother, she wishes to act upon all those who entrust themselves to her as her children. And it is well known that the more her children persevere and progress in this attitude, the nearer Mary leads them to the unsearchable riches of Christ." Again here's this whole life of effort and effort and you're trying to get to Christ and you can't. You're trying to get to Christ and it's hard to get to Christ and Christ is a tough guy, but he can't resist his mother, so you get to his mother and she gets on his case about you and you get in. That's it.

He says further, "According to the belief formulated in the Psalm documents of the church, the glory of grace referred to in Ephesians 1:6 is manifested in the mother of God, to the fact that she has been redeemed in a more sublime manner. As Christians raise their eyes with faith to Mary in the course of their early pilgrimage, they strive together to increase in holiness. Mary, the exalted daughter of Zion, helps all her children wherever they may be and whatever their condition to find in Christ the path to the Father's house." The Father's house is just really hard to find. Christ knows the way, but you can't get Christ's attention so you work on his mother and he can't resist her and that's how the whole deal works.

He further says, "Nobody else can bring us, as Mary can, into the divine and human dimension of the mystery of the gospel." Let me stop here and say Mary has nothing to do with the salvation of anybody. This pope wrote, "We can turn to the blessed virgin trustfully imploring her aid in the awareness of the singular role entrusted to her by God, the role of cooperator in redemption, which she exercised throughout her life and in a special way at the foot of the cross." This new Pope, Benedict XVI, Ratzinger is his given name, in his first statement as Pope said, "I place the church and myself into the hands of Mary." Both of them make Mary responsible for everything. If you go to Catholic churches around the world – I've been to them all over the place – you'll see the paintings or the décor and at the top is always Mary; rarely ever God – the image of God – rarely ever Christ, almost always Mary.

What about the issue of salvation? How did Pope John Paul II view salvation, being an informed Catholic? Well, he was a modified universalist, okay, a modified universalist. He stopped short of saying plainly that he believed everybody in the world would eventually be in heaven, but he used the phrase universal salvation hundreds of times in his writings. And he often expressed uncertainty about whether any human being would ever go to hell. In a message to the general audience in July of 1999, the Pope said this, "This images of hell that sacred scripture presents to us must be correctly interpreted. They show the complete frustration and emptiness of life without God." So he transports hell into now and says hell is just a way to describe living your life now without God. "Rather than a place" – this is his book, this is what he said in his speech, "Rather than a place, hell indicates the state of those who freely and definitively separate themselves from God who is the source of all life and joy." So hell is your life now without God.

"Eternal damnation remains a real possibility, but we're not granted, without special divine revelation, the knowledge of whether or which human beings are affectively involved in it." We have no idea who's going to go there. It is a possibility, but we have no idea who's going to go there. And then he said, this, "The thought of hell must not create anxiety or despair." Well, isn't that kind? That is so kind. And you know the devil would want to minimize hell, wouldn't he? Make it go away? In his encyclical titled *Redemptoris Mater*, the Pope said, "The eternal design of God the Father, his plan of man's salvation in Christ as a universal plan. Just as all are included in the creative work of God in the beginning, so all are eternally included in the divine plan of salvation." It sounds like universalism to me.

In a 1995 message he said, "Christ won universal salvation with the gift of his own life. For those, however, who have not received the gospel proclamation as I wrote in encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, salvation is accessible" – these are people who have never heard the gospel – "salvation is accessible in mysterious ways in as much as divine grace is granted to them by virtue of Christ's redeeming sacrifice, without external membership in the church. It is a mysterious relationship. It is mysterious for those who receive the grace because they do not know the church and sometimes even outwardly reject her."

Ah, so you don't know the church, you don't know the gospel, but in some

mysterious way you get saved. There are evangelicals who have written books and said the very same thing. The Pope wrote, "Followers of other religions can receive God's grace and be saved by Christ apart from the ordinary means which he has established." From the same document about Redemptoris Missio, he says, "The redemption that brings salvation to all." He says, "The Holy Spirit offers everyone the possibility of sharing the paschal mystery in a manner known only to God. Salvation always remains a gift of the Holy Spirit. It requires man's cooperation both to save himself and to save others." So what you have is this: salvation by works in which you cooperate with God, but not necessarily knowing the gospel or knowing about Christ.

So he denies the exclusivity of salvation through Christ, affirms a universal kind of salvation by which people can get there by doing good in whatever way they know to do good. This is something else he says – it's just amazing – "The universality of salvation means that it is granted not only to those who explicitly believe in Christ." Since salvation is offered to all it must be made concretely available to all, but it is clear that today, as in the past, many people do not have an opportunity to come to know or accept the gospel revelation or to enter the church. Since Christ died for everyone and since the ultimate calling of each of us comes from God and it's there for a universal one, we are obliged to know that the Holy Spirit offers everyone the possibility of sharing in this paschal mystery, again in a manner known only to God.

One of his best-known books is called Crossing the Threshold of Hope, an aggressive and ecumenical manifesto really. He said this: "The Muslims worship the one true God. Hinduism is another means of taking refuge in the one true God. Buddhists have God's help in reaching true enlightenment." He said that there is much that is holy and true in all false religions and even animism can prepare a person's heart to receive the truth of Christ. Basically he said God helps every man create his own personal salvation by doing good, and the Holy Spirit, he said, operates in every religion. This is the message everybody would like to hear, right? Stay where you are and do your best.

You say how can he ever draw this conclusion out of scripture? It doesn't come out of scripture. If you want to know what he believes about scripture, I'll give you a little of it. John Paul II, like all Roman Catholics since the Council of Trent, flatly deny that scripture is supreme authority in all matters of faith, conduct and doctrine. The words of Vatican II, "The Roman Catholic Church does not draw her certainty about all revealed truth from the holy scriptures alone, but both scripture and tradition must be accepted and honored with equal feelings of devotion and reverence." What it really comes down to is you deny what the scripture says, you twist and pervert what the scripture says, and you invent another religion based upon tradition.

The Catholic Church says tradition is equal to scripture and the Catholic Church determines what is tradition. He also says of the church that the popes determine the true meaning of scripture and they alone know the true meaning of scripture and the meaning that they determine to be the true meaning is infallible. So you have a man who claims to be the head of the church, the Vicar of Christ. He arrogates to himself an authority that

belongs to God alone. He feels free to interpret scripture any way he wants to and it is infallible. And in the process, of course, abandons the plain sense of scripture that teaches Christ alone is the way to salvation by faith alone.

Well enough about him. Let me just kind of conclude by looking at the papacy itself, because he's representative of it. He's not as deadly as some popes have been, not as immoral as some popes have been. He's a nobler soul, humanly speaking, than many. Let me just talk about what the papacy affirms for itself. I have a source for this, *The Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma* by Ludwig Ott written in 1952 and into English translated in 1955. It's been a staple in my own understanding of Catholic theology for years. Here are statements of Catholic dogma from the primary source, "The Pope possesses full and supreme power of jurisdiction over the whole church, not merely in matters of faith and morals, but also in church discipline and the government of the church."

The Vatican Council declared, interpreting that, "If anyone shall say that the Roman pontiff has the office merely of inspection and direction and not a full and supreme power of jurisdiction over the universal church, not only in things which belong to faith and morals but also in those which relate to the discipline and government of the church spread throughout the world, or asserts that he possess merely the principal part and not the fullness of this supreme power, or that this power which he enjoys is not ordinary and immediate, both over each and all the churches and over each and all the pastors and the faithful, let him be anathema."

You question his authority in any sense and you're cursed. It's a mortal sin. He's unassailable. It goes on to say a true power, a universal power, a supreme power and a full power is possessed by any pope who can "rule independently on any matter without the consent of anyone else, he himself is judged by nobody because there is no higher judge on earth than he." He is the king of the earth. That's why the Vatican is its own nation, because he can't submit to any monarch. He is the king of the world. Further Catholic dogma says the Pope is infallible when he speaks *ex cathedra*. *Ex cathedra* is when he speaks out of his seat. When he speaks as Pope, he is infallible. Catholic dogma says, "God in heaven will confirm the Pope's judgment in his capacity as supreme doctor of the faith, he is preserved from error."

By the way, papal infallibility was voted in in 1870. That was convenient. It was voted in by a split vote. Interesting. They had to vote several times to finally get it through and it never was unanimous. John Paul II apologized for the historical failings of Catholics in a very vague way because when he was confronted with some of the issues of the past, some of the embarrassing things like forced conversion and anti-Semitism and some of the horrible things that were done, he apologized in a vague way. And you have to understand this. How can you apologize if you're infallible? How can an infallible church apologize? But listen to what they believe. They do not believe that the church consists in the laity. The church does not consist in the laity. The laity are the sons and daughters of the church, but the church is the Roman curia, the papal court of cardinals, bishops and priests. And when John Paul apologizes for the short failings of the Catholics, he is not

meaning the infallible church that consists of the papacy and the curia. "They are not guilty, for they are always to be held as immaculate." The sins have been committed by the sons and daughters of the church who make up the laity. This is absolutely ridiculous given the sexual perversion of the priesthood, which even Benedict XVI tried to sweep under the rug with a silly comment about the percentage of perverted priests – he wouldn't use that word – but the percentage of pedophile priests is no different than the normal population.

All of this is brushed under the carpet as fast as it can be in an effort to protect the illusion of holiness. Really it's hard to say whether the claim to infallibility is more ridiculous or more wicked – wicked because it attributes to man what belongs only to God, ridiculous because popes have been so wrong so often and because the whole system is so wrong. One might conclude that they are infallible when it comes to being wrong. Let me just conclude with three thoughts. 1. The papacy is unbiblical. It is unbiblical. There's not one tiny shred of evidence in scripture for the papacy nor is there any evidence for cardinals, bishops, priests, nuns. It's all an invention of men and demons to create an illusion of spirituality and an illusion of transcendentals. It was all developed by evil people Satanically led to create a false religion that would be the enemy of the truth. The appeal is because of the power, the prestige and the money.

Do they try to support the papacy from the Bible? Yes. Listen to this. Again, this is their theology from Ludwig Ott, The Fundamentals of Roman Dogma. "Christ appointed the apostle Peter to be the first of all the apostles and to be the visible head of the whole church by appointing him immediately and personally to the primacy of jurisdiction." What they do is go back and say Peter was the first pope appointed by Christ. "If," says the Vatican Council, "If anyone says" – this is back in 1823 – "If anyone says that he, the blessed apostle Peter, was not constituted by Christ our Lord, prince of all the apostles and visible head of the church militant, or that he directly Peter and immediately received from our Lord Jesus Christ the primacy of honor only and not one of true and proper jurisdiction, let him be anathema." If you deny the papacy of Peter, you are cursed. You are cursed. So if you say the Pope is not the successor of Peter, you are also cursed, says Ott.

Here's another test of biblical fidelity that the Roman Catholic system fails utterly. No student in the New Testament would deny that Peter was important. He is important; important apostle, leader, spokesman for the 12, at the top of all four lists of the 12 – he's always at the top. He was a spokesman. I wouldn't want to call him Holy Father or Holy anything. He was weak and selfish and sinful and cowardly and unfaithful. He may have been in Rome. He may have died in Rome, but there's no evidence. They say he went to Rome, was the pastor of a church in Rome, died in Rome, was buried in Rome. St. Peter's is supposed to be built where he was buried. There's no evidence for that at all. One thing is certain, he never pastured a church in Rome, if he ever went there. How do you know that? Well, Paul wrote Romans in the year 56 and made no reference to Peter. If Peter was in Rome there was already a church there. If Peter was the pastor of the church in Rome why doesn't he refer to Peter? He greets a whole bunch of people in chapter 16. He just keeps

greeting one after another, after another, after another. It would be pretty serious to overlook Peter.

When Paul was later imprisoned in Rome in the year 60-62 he wrote four letters and he included in those letters all who came to him. Never mentions Peter. In his last letter, 2 Timothy written in the year 64 or about that, he gives greeting to 10 people in Rome; not Peter. Not Peter. Galatians 2:7-8, you might want to look at that for just a minute. Galatians 2:7-8, "I have been entrusted," Paul says, "with the gospel to the uncircumcised" – to the gentiles – "just as Peter had been to the circumcised." Peter was never called to pastor a gentile congregation, to take the gospel to the gentiles. Never. Galatians chapter 2 talks about, verses 11 to 14, when Peter came to Antioch, Paul had to oppose him to his face because he stood condemned because of his terrible, terrible compromise. It was he who denied the Lord, as you know. It was he who disobeyed the Lord. It was he who was cowardly.

By the way, the head of the Jerusalem church – you might think at least Peter would be the head of the Jerusalem church, but he's not. According to Galatians chapter 2 and Acts chapter 15, the head of the Jerusalem church was James. It was James, not Peter at all. There's no indication whatsoever that Peter had anything to do with the city of Rome. In 1 Corinthians 1, the apostle Paul addresses the factions in the Corinthian church. He says, "Some of you say I am of Paul, Apollos, I am of Cephas or Peter and I of Christ." He doesn't sort Peter out. He doesn't make any great thing of him at all. In fact, he makes it very clear that none of these people are particularly significant. They're not the ones who deserve the credit for the work of God. Go to chapter 3, "What, then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants to whom you believe. I planted, Apollos watered, God was causing the growth." It's a very low-key way to treat yourself. He doesn't give any elevation to anybody. Furthermore, Paul went to Rome to preach and in Romans 15:20, he says, "I aspire to preach the gospel not where Christ was already named." If Peter had been there and planted a church then that would not be true. He didn't go where somebody else had been. Peter was already the bishop of Rome. Why would Paul want to go there and strengthen and establish that church?

In 1 Peter, let's hear it from Peter himself. 1 Peter 1, "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ." That's all; an apostle of Jesus Christ. He introduces himself as nothing more than that, not the apostle, not the head of the church. 1 Peter 5, "I exhort the elders among you as your fellow elder." As your fellow elder. I'm just one of you. I'm just a partaker of the glory to be revealed. Shepherd the flock of God. Exercise oversight not under compulsion but voluntarily according to the will of God. Not for money, but with eagerness. "Not as" – here it comes, verse 3 – "lording it over those allotted to your charge." Boy, there's a direct hit at the papacy. We're just fellow elders. Don't ever lord it over. Peter himself actually taught against the priesthood, which of course the papacy is the highest place. First Peter 2:5 he says, "You are living stones. You are to build up a spiritual house for a holy priesthood." This is what we know as the priesthood of believers. In verse 9, "You are a chosen race. You are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession." There's no priesthood but the priesthood of believers.



By the way, Peter completely disappears after Acts 15. Completely. But in spite of all of this, the Roman Catholic Church affirms that Peter was the first Pope, the head over the whole church, and the author of papal succession. Where do they get it? They get it from three passages completely misrepresented, Matthew 16, and this one you know, "Jesus said, "I say to you you're Peter and on this rock I'll build my church." You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church. It's a play on words. He's not saying you are Peter and upon you'll build my church. You are Peter – petros. Petros, small stone. Upon this petra, rock bed, I will build my church. What rock bed? The rock bed of the reality of Christ. Simon Peter in verse 16, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the Living God." And Jesus says, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, because flesh and blood didn't reveal this to you. My father who is in heaven I say you are a small stone but it's on the rock bed of who I am that I will build my church."

How can that be perverted? The language is crystal clear. Verse 19 – they like this one – "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Wow, that sounds like authority. You get to open and shut. Whoever controls the door is in charge. You get to decide who comes in and who goes out. Isn't he saying that to Peter? Yes, because it was true of Peter, but he didn't just limit it to Peter. If you look at chapter 18 where you have the discipline section he says to anyway in verse 15, "If your brother sins go and reprove him in private. If he listens you've won your brother. If he doesn't listen take two or three witnesses. If he still doesn't listen, tell the church and if he still doesn't listen to the church put him out. Truly I say everybody, to all of you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Peter wasn't given any authority that every believer doesn't have. Same thing.

So what is this? It's the authority to say to someone your sins are forgiven or your sins are not forgiven based on what? Based upon whether they believe, whether they repent. If you have the right to say to someone you can enter the kingdom by how they respond to the gospel. You can say to someone you're loose from your sins because you put your trust in Christ. You can say to someone you're bound in your sin because you refuse Christ. You can say it as well as I can say it, Peter can say it, anyone can say it. We have that authority based upon how people respond. The Pope is wrong to say we don't know the mystery of who's going to be in heaven and who's going to be in hell. Yes we do. We have the authority to say you are inside the kingdom and you are outside. You are forgiven; you are not based upon the response to Christ.

They also use a second passage, Luke 22:31. Luke 22:31 where Jesus says, "Simon, behold Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat. I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail and once you have turned again strengthen your brothers." They say that is sort of a declaration of his papal primacy. Boy, that is some stretch. He says I'm turning you over to Satan and your faith isn't going to totally fail, but you're going to deny me "before the cock crows," he says in verse 34. But you're going to be

restored. Strengthen your brother. So they say here is the great commission to be the ultimate, supreme strengthener, the Pope. Again ludicrous interpretation of that text.

The other one they use is John 21. John 21. I have to keep reminding people that they use the scripture but they don't need it because they can just invent doctrines. Verse 15, John 21, Jesus finishes breakfast and says to Peter, "Do you love me?" "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." "Tend my lambs." Then he says it again, "Shepherd my sheep." Then he says it again, "Tend my sheep." They say in this three-fold all of Peter he was made the supreme shepherd. No. In 1 Peter 5, I just read it to you. He said I'm nothing but a fellow elder under the chief shepherd. They say that from Peter on there's an unbroken chain of papal succession. That's absurd. The first person who was actually Pope was in the 6th century. And then they had to go back and pick, out people who could fill in the gaps back to Peter. I wish I had time to give you the history of the papacy. It is one ugly story. Just remember nobody was really an official pope until 600. Before that there were elements of the church, the institutional church – there were powerful elements of the church in Rome and Constantinople and other places, about five of these huge ones. It was a battle for power.

The bishop of Rome, because Rome was significant, wanted to be the head of everything and finally got his wish after a long and unhappy history. But there were periods of time when there was no bishop in Rome at all: 304-348, 638-640, 1085-86, 1241-43, 1267-71, 1292-1294, 1314-1316, 1415-1417 there weren't any. The point I'm making is there's no succession here. Certainly there's no divine succession. The papacy was bought and sold and bartered. It was invented, it was reinvented. At some points there was as many as three who all called themselves popes at the same time fighting for power. Alexander VI bought the papacy as an illustration. Having purchased enough votes, the majority was obtained when he voted for himself. In his days, the Vatican was the scenes, say historians, of frequent orgies, such as the banquet of chestnuts attended by 50 or more prostitutes who squirmed and crawled naked amidst lit candles to pick up chestnuts scattered on the floor and afterwards entertained the guests in carnal indulgence.

One historian says, "With Alexander VI, the papacy stood forth with all the strength of its emancipation from morality." The litany of licentiousness in the history of the papacy is staggering, absolutely staggering. Bought and sold, fought over, murdered for, multiple popes, conflicting lists of popes with different names, different numbers. If it wasn't so sad it would be like a joke. It wasn't really until Gregory the Great, 590-604, that there was a legitimate Pope. Supposedly from Peter on there was a succession. Falsified, forged documents were intended to prove that. So you can literally obliterate the papacy because there is no apostolic succession. The claim is ridiculous; absolutely ridiculous. It was just a big battle for power and then they wanted to establish that power. Once it got centered on the bishop of Rome and he became the Pope, he wanted to affirm and magnify his power and so he created the idea of succession and started filling in the gaps going back.

It is unbiblical. Secondly it is unholy. You can read it for yourself. You can read the history of the papacy. It's just horrific really. Terribly

sinful and yet in The New Catholic Encyclopedia, claims the one receiving the sacrament, the Pope, and the ones who elect the Pope are to be characterized by "outstanding and habitual goodness of life, especially perfect chastity." So the Pope is perfect and has to be chosen by perfect men. That's impossible, obviously. I would say this. That the papacy is the biggest hoax ever foisted on the world. The biggest hoax ever. Popes who were fornicators and bribers and murderers, and some who were good men in the human sense, dot the landscape of this history and make it impossible to see in it the work of God or any apostolic succession.

Well since my time is gone, let me just give you one other thought. It is unbiblical, it is unholy and it is arrogant and idolatrous. The Pope has the right to pronounce sentence of deposition against any sovereign on the planet, so says the papacy. That means the Pope is the king of the world. He can depose any king. The Catholic Encyclopedia says "We declare, we say, we define, we promise that every being should be subject to the Roman Pontiff." The Pope is the supreme judge, even of civil laws, and is incapable of being under any true obligation to them. He is above all law, he is above all kings. At the consecration of Roman Catholic bishops there is an oath of allegiance to the Pope; whenever a bishop is consecrated an oath of allegiance is given. Here's what it says: "With all my power I will persecute and make war on all heretics, schismatic's and those who rebel against our Lord the Pope and all his successors, so help me God and these holy gospels of God."

So you swear to make war on anybody who rebels against the Pope. Where is humility in this? Romanism is a gigantic system of church worship, sacrament worship, Mary worship, saint worship, image worship, relic worship, priest worship and Pope worship. J.C. Ryle was right when he said it's a huge, organized idolatry. A man wearing a gold crown triple-decked with jewels worth millions? A cardinal's garb that costs tens of thousands of dollars? Peter said, "Silver and gold have I? None." Paul said, "I coveted no man's gold, no man's silver, no man's clothing." "The Pope is surrounded by a dazzling display of arrogant overindulgence. Its theater is nothing more than theater to give the illusion of God, the illusion of transcendence, the illusion of spirituality. It is a pompous display of wealth. It is a lavish indulgence in ridiculous buildings with ridiculous robes, crowns and thrones to cover and mask a sinful system like the whitewashed tombs that Jesus referred to."

There was never such a thing as a papal coronation before the 10th century and now the world has gone berserk over this as if it was true religion. I said this a few weeks ago. I'm going through Luke. The more liturgy, the more mystery, the more ceremony, the more apostasy. The Pope is in direct violation of everything in scripture and sets himself up as the greatest person on earth. But then friends, it's not a bad guess to see the final antichrist as a pope. Colossians 1:18 speaks of Jesus Christ, "He is the head of the body of the church. He is the beginning. He is the first born from the dead so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything." Who gets first place in everything? Christ. Christ. Oh, they've got a clever system. How to preserve error, how to perpetuate error, make heresy

infallible and the arch heretic unassailable, irreformable and absolutely authoritative. It is possible that the final antichrist could be a pope because the final antichrist will be a dominating world leader. He will be not subject to any other world leader. He will be in an imitation of Christ, an antichrist, a pseudochrist. He will have international power. He will be a gentile. And his system seems, in the Book of Revelation chapter 17, to be headed up in Rome.

If the Pope can fool evangelicals, it seems to me that the antichrist won't have much trouble doing the same with the world. Well, let's leave it at that.

#### **Webnaster's comment**

Apparently John Fullerton MacArthur doesn't realize the Pope and the biblical antichrist are one and the same person! Most evangelicals today have been deceived to think that the Antichrist is a single individual who will arise from obscurity in the *future*, and *only* in the future!. This way of interpretation of Scripture is known as *futurism*. Protestants up till the 18th century did not hold such a view of a future only Endtime Antichrist. For more information, please see [The Antichrist Is Hidden In Plain Sight](#)

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## **History of the Papacy By Rev. J.A. Wylie, LL.D**



Rev. J.A. Wylie, LL.D.

I got this from <http://www.biblebelievers.com/wylie/papacy/index.html> which is already in HTML text. I'm posting only the preface and first chapter on my blog so I can find it easier.

**The following quote on J.A. Wylie is taken from a Publisher's Preface by Mourn Missionary Press:** "The Rev. James Aitken Wylie was for many years a leading Protestant spokesman. Born in Scotland in 1808, he was educated at Marischal College, Aberdeen and at St. Andrews; he entered the Original Secession Divinity Hall, Edinburgh in 1827, and was ordained in 1831. Dr. Wylie became sub-editor of the Edinburgh Witness in 1846, and, after joining the Free Church of Scotland in 1852, edited the Free Church Record from 1852 until 1860. In 1860 he was appointed Lecturer on Popery at the Protestant Institute, a position he held until the year of his death. Aberdeen University awarded him the LL.D. in 1856.

"Dr. Wylie was a prolific writer on Protestant themes. In 1851 the

Evangelical Alliance awarded him first prize for his writing **The Papacy**, which he submitted as his entry for a competition for the best essay on Popery. "The writing for which Wylie is best known is his History of Protestantism which extends to nearly 2,000 pages and was first published in 1878."

### Preface to People's Edition

The compilation of a *Synopsis* and classified *Index*, has made it necessary for the author to re-read his work after an interval of thirty years. The perusal has fully satisfied him that the book is every whit as adapted to the present position of the popish controversy, the whole extent of which it covers, as it was when first published. Since then, it is true, two important dogmas have been promulgated from the papal chair; the Immaculate Conception of Mary (1854), and the Infallibility of the Pope (1870) ; but these decrees are rather the official ratification of what had been for centuries the teaching of Popes and popish doctors, than the importation of new elements into the question calling for a readjustment of the argument.

The loss of the temporal sovereignty, which has also befallen the Papacy since the first publication of this volume, is an event of graver consequence. But let it be borne in mind that it is the *temporal sovereignty*, not the *temporal power*, which the Papacy has lost; it is its paltry Italian kingship of which it has been stripped; not the temporal and spiritual supremacy of Christendom. Temporal power is a root-prerogative of the Papacy. With or without his crown, the Pope, so long as he exists, will be a Great Temporal Power. What signifies it that a small branch of this tree has been lopped off, while the trunk still stands erect, nay, is even stronger than before? Freed as it now is from the scandals, political and moral, which were attendant on its government of the Papal States, the Papacy is now in a better position for prosecuting its cherished aim, which is to be the supreme arbiter in all international disputes. It seeks, in short, to become President of a great European Council, in which kings and nations shall await its decisions, and be pledged to carry out its behests, peaceably if possible, by arms if necessary. From being the moral dictator of Christendom, it is but a little step to being, as the Papacy was once before, its armed ruler and head.

Will the reader pardon a word about the history of the book, and its Continental experiences? When the German translation appeared (Elberfeld, 1853), the Romanists of the Continent welcomed it with a chorus of anathemas. *L'Univers* of Paris cursed it energetically. The journalists of the Rhine were equally wroth. Without naming either the book or its author, they made their readers aware that a crime of fearful atrocity had been committed, which called loudly for punishment by the sword. We give a specimen: –

- "A very shameful book has lately been printed and published in Elberfeld by William Hassell, consisting of thirty-six sheets, and in which Popery and the Catholic religion are exposed as a work of Satan and a restoration of old heathenish idolatry, and a cunning delusive invention of the Pope and the Catholic priesthood as the mother of revolutions and communism. >From beginning to end, with the same cool deliberation, it

consists of lies, injuries, and abuses, which have from time to time been brought against the Pope and the Catholic religion, heaped together, and made into one compact whole. The most unheard-of violence offered; and the holiest of the Catholics scorned and derided. The rulers of the country are exhorted throughout to observe how the Catholic religion causes the destruction of every State, and how the Catholic priesthood are even now endeavouring to exercise unbearable tyranny and cruelty over princes and people. . . . The Catholic Church in Prussia is a lawful safeguard against such calumnies, and the abuse of the Catholic religion is provided for in its penal laws." *Rheimsches Kirchenblatt*, Cologne.

In an article on the above in the *Witness* of Nov. 20, 1853, we find Hugh Miller saying: –

- "The editor of this paper gave expression long ago in its columns to his admiration of Mr. Wylie's masterly work on the Papacy –a work which has since been extensively spread over Protestant Europe. . . . Still, however, his decision was that of a personal friend of the author, and the various favourable critiques which bore out his estimate of its merits were at least Protestant critiques. Our present testimony respecting it must be recognised as above suspicion; it comes from Popery itself, and we find that Popery regards it as a dangerous work, suited to do the Catholic religion great injury, and that penal laws furnish the only effectual instruments for dealing with and answering it."

Dr. Graham, in his volume, *The Jordan and the Rhine*, says: –

- "This work has at last made its appearance in the German language. . . . The Papists are up on all sides, not to reply but to denounce, not to reason and answer, but to invoke the civil power. They never name the book lest an inquiring Papist should be inclined to purchase it. In Cologne no bookseller would take charge of it –Papist or Protestant. The argument is very sharp and severe, but the reason is led captive, and the infinite superstition dissected with a master's hand. It will confirm the wavering and strengthen the weak. May the Lord grant His blessing to it as a means of counteracting the idolatries and idolatrous tendencies of the age."

### **Enormous recent Papal Advances.**

Since the first publication of this work the Papacy has made enormous strides to temporal dominion and spiritual supremacy in our country.

1. The public administration of the empire, which up till 1850 was almost purely Protestant, has since been largely Romanized.
2. The Papal Hierarchy has been established in both England and Scotland, and the ordinary machinery of Rome's government is in full operation over the whole kingdom.

3. The empire has been divided into dioceses, with the ordinary equipment of chapters and provincial synods in each, for bringing canon law to the door of every Romanist, and governing him in his social relations, his political acts, and his religious duties.
4. The staff of the Romish Church has been trebled.
5. In Scotland alone there has been an increase of 216 priests, 250 chapels, 15 monasteries, and 34 convents.
6. The priests of Rome have been introduced into our army and navy, into our prisons and poor-houses, reformatories and hospitals, thus converting these departments of the State into a ministration of Romanism.
7. The annual sum paid as salaries, etc., to the Popish priesthood approaches a million and a half, making Popery one of the endowed faiths of the nation.
8. Considerable progress has been made in the work of breaking down the national system of education, and replacing the board schools with denominational schools in which the teaching shall be Romish.
9. The annual grants to such schools in England and Scotland have now risen to £200,000. Thousands of Protestant children attend them, and are being instructed in the tenets of Popery, and familiarized with Romish rites.
10. Two-thirds of the youth of Ireland are being educated by monks and nuns, at a cost to the country of £700,000 yearly.
11. Ritualism has grown into a power in England. In many of the national churches the ceremonial of the Mass is openly celebrated, crucifixes and Madonnas are frequent, auricular confession is practised, the dead are supplicated, and new-constructed cathedrals are arranged on the foregone conclusion that Popery is to be the future religion of Great Britain.
12. All the great offices of State (the English wool-sack and the throne excepted), closed against Romanists in the Catholic Emancipation Act, have been opened to them.
13. The oath of the Royal Supremacy has been abolished.
14. The words "*being Protestant*" have been dropped from the oath of allegiance.
15. The most brilliant post under the Crown, the viceroyalty of India, has been held by a Papist, and may be so again.
16. An avowed Romanist sits in the Cabinet, with more, it may be, to follow.
17. Cardinal Manning has had precedence given him next to the Royal family, a step towards the like precedence being given to Popish over Anglican Protestant bishops.
18. A special Envoy has been sent with congratulations to the Pope on

occasion of his jubilee, and a nuncio has in return been received at Court from Leo XIII.

19. There is a serious talk of re-establishing diplomatic relations with the Vatican;

20. And, *mirabile dictu*! the project has been broached of restoring the Pope's temporal sovereignty: and the idea is being agitated, although it must be plain to all that it cannot be carried out without overthrowing the kingdom of Italy and plunging the nations of Europe into war.

These are great strides towards grasping the government of the British empire. And all this has been done despite the warning testimony of the nations around us which Popery has destroyed, and in disregard of the unanswered demonstration of a modern statesman –

That to become a subject of the Pope is to surrender one's "moral and mental freedom;"

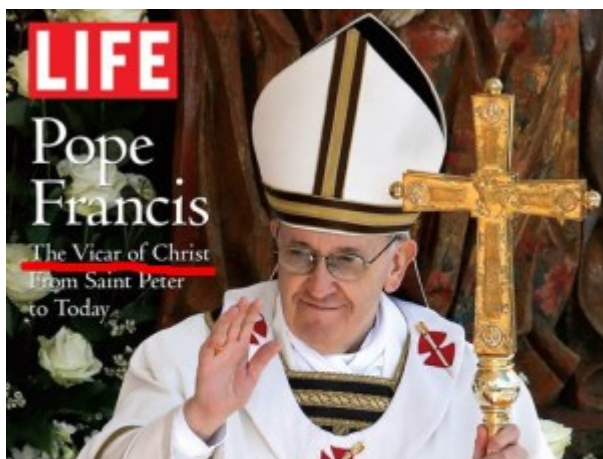
And incapacitate one's self for yielding "loyalty" to the Queen, and "civil duty" to the State.

If the end of this policy shall be good, HISTORY is a senile babbler, and PROPHECY is but the Sibyl, with her books, over again.

Continue to [chapter I Origin of the Papacy](#)

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## Pope Francis: The Vicar of Christ



Vicar: (From Latin) vicarius, *a substitute*,  
Anti: (From Greek) against, opposite, *instead of*,  
Vicar of Christ = Anti Christ

Greek vs. Latin

Vicar: (From Latin) vicarius, *a substitute*,  
Anti: (From Greek) "against, opposite, *instead of*,



Vicar of Christ = Anti Christ

1John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

All the Protestants recognized the Antichrist not as one who will come later, but one who was always present with them: The Pope!