

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

In the Light of Scripture

by

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CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN

EPILOGUE

THE WRITERS AND EDITORS OF THIS BOOK are well aware that there are many, many “good” people within the Roman Catholic Church. Such “goodness,” however, is no passport to Heaven, for “**all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**” (Isaiah 64:6). But we recognize also, with thankfulness to God, that there must be many members of the Roman Catholic Church who are truly saved, sincere followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. The reason for this is that while Rome has departed from the Scriptures, there are still those within it who, conscious of being sinners, have with sincere hearts put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour.

But alas, the majority of Roman Catholics are not like this. They have been brought under the influence and bondage of the whole system which distorts the truth. This system admittedly has an imposing historical background, a paramount organization, and a beautiful exterior with elaborate rites, coupled with immense power. All of these things, however, are but counterfeits and no real part of the Gospel of Christ.

The true Gospel is found in an open Bible. Its progress does not depend upon carnal strength. It spreads through the power of prayer and witness. Its teaching knows nothing of an infallible pope, but it does tell of an infallible Saviour, who is Himself the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

We humbly exhort all Catholic readers to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour, and thus to become true children of God.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:12, 13).

No matter who you are or what you have—the pope, priests, baptism, church membership, confirmation, confession, Holy Communion—if you have not the Lord Jesus Christ as your own Saviour, you do not have eternal life. Yet if you have none of those things, but have received the Lord Jesus into your heart, you have eternal life and may be sure of it now.

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God (I John 5:11-13).

Moreover, you can possess the joy and peace of which Paul and Peter speak:

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost (Romans 15:13).

Whom [Jesus], having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls (I Pet 1:8, 9).

Go to the Bible and read it! Either the Catholic Bible or the Protestant Bible will do. Better still, read them both, and compare them one with the other as you read, and you will be surprised to find how very small and few are the differences between them. As you do this you will be able to judge for yourself whether what has been written here is true or false.

If there are things you do not understand, please get in contact with a Christian who knows his Bible, and talk these most important questions over with him. He will be able to help you.

To other readers who are not Catholics, we entreat also, look into your own heart. Have you eternal life? While it is true that the Roman Catholic Church cannot give you eternal life, it is also true that no Protestant church can do it either. Only the Lord Jesus Christ Himself can give this priceless gift to man.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (I Timothy 1:15).

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

Protestants who look carefully into the differences between Roman Catholic doctrine and practice, and the truth revealed in the Bible, will learn to love their Bibles more and to cherish the treasures of God's love in Christ. Faith will be strengthened by this exercise, and they will be protected from error of every sort.

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