

12th Century

TREATISE ON ANTICHRIST

Written by the ancient Waldenses and Albigenses of Southern France*

(SOURCE: Jean Paul Perrin, *History of the Old Albigenses Anterior to the Reformation*, originally published in 1618.)

Book III: *Precious Remains of the Doctrine and Discipline of the Old Waldenses and Albigenses, and their Noble Testimony Against the Roman Antichrist.*)

***NOTE:** The reader is admonished to *test the spirit* of these people. Are they heretics or are they the Elect of God? Are they of the lie, speaking lies in hypocrisy, or are they of the truth, speaking the truth in love? Headings and bracketed comments have been added by this present writer for clarification.

Antichrist the Body of False Christians Who Oppose Christ

Antichrist is a falsehood, worthy of eternal damnation, covered with an outward appearance of the truth, and [with] the righteousness of Christ and his spouse, [yet] opposite to the way of truth, righteousness, faith, hope and charity, as likewise to the moral life; and also [opposite to] the ministerial verity of the church, [being] administered by the false apostles, and obstinately defended by both powers, ecclesiastical and secular.

Or **antichrist** is a delusion, which hides the truths necessary to salvation, both in things substantial and ministerial.

Or it is a fraudulent contradiction to Christ and his spouse, and every faithful member thereof. It is not any special person ordained in any degree, or office, or ministry; but it is that falsehood itself, which opposeth itself against the truth, which covereth and adorneth itself with a pretence of beauty and piety, [yet is] not suitable to the church of Christ, as [seen] by the names, and offices, and scriptures and sacraments, and divers other things, may appear. That iniquity which is [described] after this manner, with all the ministers thereof, great and small, with all those that follow them with a wicked heart, and hoodwinked eyes;

this congregation I say, thus taken all together, is called **antichrist**, or **Babylon**, or the **fourth beast**, or the **whore**, or the **man of sin**, or **son of perdition**.

His ministers are called false prophets, lying teachers, the ministers of darkness, the spirit of error, the apocalyptic whore, the mother of fornication, clouds without water, trees without leaves, dead, and twice rooted up, waves of a troublesome sea, wandering stars, Balaamites and Egyptians.

The Papacy, Priesthood, Orders and Roman Catholic Church Described

He is called **antichrist**, because being covered and adorned under the colour of Christ, and of the Church, and the faithful members thereof, he oppugneth [i.e., controverts] the salvation purchased by Christ, and truly administered in the church of Christ, whereof the faithful are partakers by faith, hope and charity. Thus he contradicteth the truth by the wisdom of the world, by false religion, by counterfeited holiness, by ecclesiastical power, secular tyranny, riches, honours, dignities and the delights and delicacies.

And therefore let every one take notice thereof, that **antichrist** could not come in any wise, but [through] all these things above mentioned [which] must needs meet together, to make a complete hypocrisy and falsehood; that is to say, the worldly wise, the religious orders, pharisees, ministers, doctors, the secular power, with the people of the world joined together. And thus all of them together make up the man of sin and error complete.

The Growth of Antichrist Described From Infancy to Adulthood

As an Infant Antichrist Lacked the Power of the State to Force Conversion to His False Christianity

For notwithstanding **antichrist** was long since conceived in the apostles' times, yet he was then in his infancy, and wanted [i.e., lacked] members both inward and outward. And therefore he was the more easily known and destroyed, and excommunicated, as being but rude [i.e., rough in form] and raw, and as yet

wanting utterance. For he was then destitute of rational, definitive, decretive, or determinative wisdom; he wanted as yet those hypocritical ministers, and human ordinances, and the outward show of those religious orders. And therefore, though he were fallen away into that error and sin [i.e., apostatized], yet he had then that with which to cover his villainy, or [to cover] the shame of his errors, or of that sin, yet having none of those riches nor endowments, whereby to allure to himself any minister for his service. [Nor did he then have the means] to be enabled to multiply, preserve, or defend his adherents; for he wanted the secular strength and power, and could not force, nor compel any from the truth unto falsehood. And because he wanted many things yet, therefore he could not defile nor scandalize any by his deceits; and thus being so weak and tender, he could obtain no place in the church.

Adult Antichrist Described

But growing up in his members, that is to say, in his blind and dissembling members, and in worldly subjects, he at length became a complete man, grew up to his full age, to wit, then when the lovers of the world, both in church and state, blind in faith, did multiply in the church, and get all the power into their hands. And so it came to pass, that as evil as they were, they would be sought unto, and honored in spiritual matters, covering their authority, malice and sins; for which end they made use of the worldly wise, and of their pharisees, in manner aforesaid.

The Papacy and His Priesthood Described as Usurping Christ's Authority and Godhead

Fulfillment of II Thess. 2:4 Delineated

For it is a great wickedness to cover and colour iniquity worthy of excommunication, and go about to establish one's self by such means, as cannot be attributed to men, but belongs to God alone, and to Jesus Christ as mediator. And for men to deprive God of such and such things, by fraud and usurpation, and to arrogate the same unto themselves, and their works, appears to be the

greatest felony [i.e., treason]; as when one doth attribute to himself the power of regeneration [i.e., baptismal regeneration], of pardoning sins [i.e., absolution], of dispensing the gifts of the Holy Ghost [i.e., in the sacraments of Confirmation, Holy Orders and the Holy Eucharist], and to represent Christ [i.e., as His 'Vicar'], and such like matters. And in all these things, to cover themselves with the cloak of authority [i.e., apostolic succession from St. Peter], and the word, thereby deceiving silly people [i.e., imbeciles], who follow the world in such things that are of the world, separating themselves from God and the true faith, and from the reformation of the Holy Spirit, withdrawing themselves from true repentance, pious practice, and perseverance in goodness, and turning their backs upon charity, patience, poverty, and humility; and that which is worst of all, they forsake the true hope, and rely on all evil, and on the vain hope of the world, serving all those ceremonies instrumental hereunto, and deceitfully causing the people to commit idolatry with all the idols of the world, under the name of saints and relics and their worship. The people perniciously err from the way of truth, being persuaded they serve God, and do well.

Antichrist's Members Guilty of Murdering the Saints In the Name of Jesus

We Should Look for No Other Future Antichrist to Come

[S]tirred up to hate and to be enraged against those that love the truth, even to murder so many of them; so that according to the apostle, we may truly say, this is that **man of sin** complete, that *lifts up himself against all that is called God, or worshipped, and that setteth himself in opposition against all truth, sitting down in the temple of God; that is his church, and showing forth himself as if he were God, being come with all manner of deceivableness for those that perish.* And since he is truly come, he must no longer be looked for, for he is grown old already by God's permission.

The Lord is Destroying Antichrist Through His Spirit in the Mouths of His Prophets

Nay, he begins even to decay, and his power and authority is abated; for the Lord doth already kill the wicked one, by the spirit of his mouth; by divers persons of good dispositions, sending abroad a power contrary to [antichrist], and those that love him, and which disturbeth his place and his possessions, and puts division into that city of **Babylon**, wherein the whole generation of iniquity doth prevail and reign.

What Are the Works of Antichrist?

The *first work* of **antichrist** is to take away the truth, and to change it into falsehood, error, and heresy. The *second work* of **antichrist** is to cover falsehood over with the semblance of truth, and to assert and maintain lies by the name of faith and graces, and to dispense falsehood intermingled with spiritual things unto the people under his subjection, either by the means of his ministers, or by the ministry, or any other ways relating to the church.

The Present Antichrist Unlike Any Evil Since Creation -- His Doom Foretold

Now it is certain these two ways of proceeding do contain so perfect and so complete a wickedness, the likes [of which] no tyrant and no power in the world were ever able to compass [i.e., accomplish] since the creation, until the time of **antichrist**. And Christ had never any enemy like this, so able to pervert the way of truth into falsehood, and falsehood into truth, and who in like manner did pervert the professors of the one or the other, viz. of truth and of falsehood. For holy mother the [true] church, with her true children, is altogether trodden under foot [cf. Rev. 11:2], especially in the truth, and in what concerneth the true worship, in the truthful exercise of the ministry, and the children who partake thereof; causing her to weep bitterly, in the language and complaint of Jeremiah, saying, *Ah! How desolate art thou, O city of the heathen people, and uncircumcised! She is become a widow.* [This condemnation is due her] being destitute of the truth of her bridegroom; [she has become the] lady of [the worldly] people by reason of their subjection to errors and to sin; [she has become the]

princess of provinces by partaking with the world and the things that are in the world [cf. Rev. 17].

Antichrist is Now Present in All His Fullness

Weep and look but abroad a little, and thou shalt find those things now accomplished at this time; for the [true] holy church is accounted a synagogue of miscreants [i.e., heretics], and the congregation of the wicked is esteemed the **mother** of them that [allegedly] rightly believe in the word. Falsehood is preached up for truth, iniquity for righteousness; injustice passeth for justice, error for faith, sin for virtue, and lies for verity.

The Eight Works of Antichrist By Which He May Be Identified

The **first** is, that it perverts the service of *Latreia*; that is, the worship properly due to God alone, by giving it to **antichrist** himself, his works, and to the poor creature, [both] reasonable and unreasonable, sensible and senseless. To the reasonable, [we speak of worship directed to] man, male or female, the deceased saints. To the senseless, [we speak of worship directed to] images, carcasses and relics. The works of **antichrist** are the sacraments, especially the sacrament of the eucharist, which he adoreth as God, and as Jesus Christ, together with the things blessed and consecrated by him, prohibiting the worship of God alone.

Antichrist Robs God of His Glory and the Sufficiency of Christ's Atonement

He Teaches Justification By Works

The **second work** of **antichrist** is that he robs and bereaves Christ of his merits, together with all the sufficiency of grace, of justification, of regeneration, remission of sins, sanctification, confirmation, and spiritual nourishment; and imputes and attributes the same to his own authority [cf. John 5:43], to a form of words, to his own works; unto saints, and their intercession, and unto the fire of purgatory. He separates the people from Christ, leading them away to those things aforesaid, that they may not seek those [sufficient, perfect works] of Christ,

by Christ [alone], but only in the works of their hands, not by a living faith in God, nor in Jesus Christ, nor in the Holy Spirit, but by the will, pleasure and works of **antichrist**, [because] according to [the gospel] he preacheth, all salvation consists in his works.

Baptismal Regeneration of Children Through Water Baptism a Mark of Antichrist, Who Usurps the Work of the Holy Spirit

The **third work** of **antichrist** consists in this: attributing regeneration of the Holy Spirit unto the dead outward work [of water baptism], baptizing children in that faith, and teaching that [through the work of] baptism, regeneration must occur. [By such similar teachings] he confers and bestows orders and other sacraments. His Christianity is grounded on such [false beliefs], and is against the Holy Spirit.

The Mass is the Chief Ceremony and Sacrament of Antichrist

The **fourth work** of **antichrist** is that he hath constituted and placed all religion and holiness in going to the mass, and hath patched together all manner of ceremonies, some Jewish, some heathenish, and some Christian. By leading the congregations of people to hear this, he deprives them of the [true] sacramental and spiritual [food by which they are to be nourished], seducing them from the true religion and from the commandments of God. He withdraws them from the works of compassion by his offerings; and by such a mass he has established the people in vain hopes.

The **fifth work** of **antichrist** is that he doth all his works so as to be seen, that he may glut himself with his insatiable avarice, that he may set all things to sale, and do nothing without simony.

The **sixth work** of **antichrist** is that he allows of manifest sins, without any ecclesiastical censure, and doth not excommunicate the impenitent.

The **seventh work** of **antichrist** is that he doth not govern nor maintain his unity by the Holy Spirit, but by secular power, and maketh use thereof to effect spiritual matters.

The **eighth work** of **antichrist** is that he hates and persecutes and searches after and despoils and destroys the members of Christ.

These things are, in a manner, the principal works which he commits against the truth, they being otherwise numberless, and past writing down. It sufficeth for the present to have observed the most general, and those whereby this iniquity lies most covered and concealed.

The Nine Ways Antichrist Conceals His True Identity

First and chiefly, he makes use of an outward confession of the faith; and it is that whereof the apostle speaketh, "*For they confess in words that they have known God, but by their deeds they deny him.*" [1 John 2:4]

Secondly, he covers his iniquity by the length or succession of time [i.e., his church derives its origin from the time of the apostles], and allegeth that he is maintained [i.e., affirmed and supported] by certain wise and learned men, and by religious orders of certain votaries of single life [i.e., vows of celibacy], men and women, virgins and widows; and besides, by numberless people, of whom it is said in the **Revelation** that "*Power is given him over every tribe, language, and nation, and all that dwell on the earth shall worship him.*" [Rev. 13:7-8]

In the **third place**, he covers his iniquity by the spiritual authority of the apostles [i.e., by claiming to hold the authoritative keys of St. Peter over the Christian Church]; against which the apostle speaketh expressly, "*We are able to do nothing against the truth, and there is no power given us for destruction.*" [II Cor. 13:8-10]

Fourthly, by many miracles here and there, according to that of the apostle, "*Whose coming is according to the working of Satan, by all manner of miracles,*

and signs, and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness."
[II Thess. 2:9-10]

Fifthly, by an outward holiness, by prayers, fastings, watchings [i.e., vigils], and alms-deeds; against which the apostle testifies, saying, "*Having a show of godliness, but having denied the power thereof.*" [II Timothy 3:5]

Sixthly, he covers his iniquity by [quoting] certain sayings of Christ, and by [quoting] the writings of the ancients, and by [quoting] councils. These they observe only so far as they do not destroy and overthrow their wicked life and pleasures.

Seventhly, by the administration of the sacraments in which they lay open the universality of their errors.

Eighthly, by correction or discipline and mere verbal preachings against vices; for they say and do not. [Matt. 23:3]

Ninthly, by the virtuous lives of some, who seemingly live so, but especially of such as really live [virtuous lives] so among them. For the **elect of God**, which desire and do that which is good, are detained there, as in **Babylon**; and are like unto gold, wherewith the wicked **antichrist** doth cover his vanity, not suffering them to serve God alone, nor to put all their hope in Christ alone, nor to embrace the true religion.

These things, and many others, are, as it were, a cloak and garment wherewith **antichrist** doth cover his lying wickedness, that he may not be rejected as a pagan, or infidel, and under which he can go on to act his villainies boldly, and like the whore.... ***the whore of Babylon.***

True Christians Are Bound to Separate From Antichrist

Now it is evident, as well in the Old, as in the New Testament, that a Christian stands bound, by express command given him, to separate himself from **antichrist**. For the Lord saith, Isaiah 52:11-12,

"Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing, go ye out of the midst of her, be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord. For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight," etc.

And Jeremiah 1:8,

*"Remove out of the midst of **Babylon**, and go forth out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as the he-goats before the flocks. For lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country, and they shall set themselves in array against her, from thence she shall be taken."*

In the 16th chapter of Numbers, verse 21,

"Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment."

And again verse 6,

"Depart, I pray you, from the tabernacle from the tabernacle of the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins."

In Leviticus 20:24, 25, 27,

"I am the Lord your God, which have separated you from other people. Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make yourselves abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any

manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean."

Again, in Exodus, chapter 34:12,

"Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land wither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee."

And a little further, verse 15,

"Make no covenant with the inhabitants of the land, lest they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice. Nor shalt thou take thee a wife from among their daughters, lest they having played the harlot;"

That is to say, committed idolatry,

"they cause thy children to go a whoring likewise after their gods."

Leviticus 15:31,

"And therefore ye shall teach your children and bid them beware of their uncleanness, and that they may not die in them, having polluted my sanctuary."

Ezekiel 11:21,

"But the heart that walks on offending and in its offences, I will render their way upon their head, saith the Lord."

Deuteronomy 20,

"When thou shalt enter into the land, which the Lord thy God shall give thee, take heed thou do not according to the abominations of those people; for the Lord abhorreth all those things: and by reason of such sins, he will blot them out. When thou shalt enter their land, thou shalt be clean, and without spot with thy God. Those people whose land thou goest to possess, hearken to the soothsayers and diviners; but thy God hath disposed otherwise in thy behalf."

New Testament Scripture Cited Teaching Separation

Now it is manifest in the New Testament, John 12, that the Lord is come and hath suffered death, that he might gather together the children of God; and by reason of this truth of unity and separation from others, it is that he saith in St. Matthew 10:35-36,

"For I am come to separate a man from his father, and set the daughter against the mother, and the daughter-in-law against the mother-in-law; and they of a man's household shall be his enemies."

And he hath commanded this separation, saying,

"Whosoever doth not forsake his father and his mother," etc.

And again,

"Beware of false prophets which come unto you in sheep's clothing." [Matt. 7:15]

Again,

"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees." [Matt. 16:6]

"Take heed lest any seduce you; for many shall come in my name, and seduce many. And then if any tell you, behold, Christ is here or there, believe them not, and walk not after them." [Matt. 24: 4-5, 23]

And in the **Revelation**, he warneth by his own voice, and chargeth his [elect] to go out of **Babylon**, saying,

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying, O my people, come forth out of her, and be not partakers of her sins, that ye receive none of the plagues: for her sins are come up into heaven, and the Lord remembereth her iniquity." [Rev. 18:4-5]

The apostle saith the same,

"Join not yourselves under one yoke with the unbelievers; for what participation hath righteousness with iniquity, or what fellowship is there between light and darkness, or what communion hath Christ with the devil, or what part hath the faithful with the infidel, or what agreement is there of the temple of God with idols? And therefore go forth from the midst of them, and separate yourselves, saith the Lord, and touch no unclean thing, and I will rescue you, and be instead a father to you, and you shall be as sons and daughters to me, saith the Lord, the Almighty." [II Cor. 6:14-18]

Again, Ephesians 5:7-8,

"Do not partake with them, for ye were in the way of darkness, but now ye are in the light of the Lord."

Again, I Cor. 10:20-21,

"I would not have you become the companions of the devil. Ye cannot participate of the Lord's table and of the table of devils."

So II Thess. 3:6-7,

"O brethren, we declare unto you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you beware of every brother walking dishonestly, and not according to the customs which you received from us. For ye know after what manner ye ought to be followers of us."

And again, a little after he saith,

"If there be any that obey not our word, set down in this Epistle, have ye nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed."

Again, Ephesians 5:11,

"Have no communion with the works of darkness, which are unfruitful."

And II Timothy 3:1,

"Be it known unto you that in the latter day, there will be troublesome times."

And afterwards [verse 5],

"Having a show of piety, but denying the power thereof, turn thyself away from such."

Separation From Antichrist Summarized

By what hath been said hitherto, it appears clearly what is the wickedness of **antichrist**, and his perverseness. Also the Lord commands our separating from him, and joining ourselves with the holy city Jerusalem. Therefore, knowing such things, the Lord having revealed them to us by his servants, and believing this revelation, according to the holy Scriptures, and being admonished by the commandments of the Lord, we do both inwardly and outwardly depart from

antichrist; because we know him to be the same: and we keep company and unity with another, freely and uprightly, having no other intent or purpose, but purely and singly to please the Lord, and be saved. And by the Lord's help, we join ourselves to the truth of Christ, and his spouse, how small soever she appear, as far forth as our understanding is able to comprehend. And therefore we thought good to set down here for what causes we departed, and what kind of congregation we have, to the end that if the Lord be pleased to impart the knowledge of the same truth unto others, those that receive it may love it altogether with us. [Not all receive and believe the prophetic Word.]

Reasons Why the Waldenses Separated From Antichrist

Now then the causes of our separation are these ensuing. Be it known to everyone in general, and in particular, that the cause of our separation is this:

- namely, for the real truth's sake of our faith, and by reason of our inward knowledge of the only true God, and the unity of the divine essence in three persons; which knowledge flesh and blood doth not afford;
- and for the befitting service due only God;
- for the love of him above all things;
- for sanctification;
- and for his honour above all things and above every name;
- for the living hope through Christ in God;
- for regeneration and the inward renewing by faith, hope and charity;
- for the merit of Jesus Christ, with all the sufficiency of his grace and righteousness. [They acknowledged being saved by grace through faith in the imputed righteousness of Christ.]
- for the communion of saints;
- for the remission of sins;
- for a holy conversation;

- and for a faithful accomplishment of all the commandments in the faith of Christ;
- for true repentance;
- for final perseverance and life everlasting.

How the True Ministers of God May Be Identified

The ministerial truths are these: the outward congregating of the pastors with the people in convenient place and time, to instruct them in the truth by the ministry; leading, establishing and maintaining the church in the truth aforesaid [including the truth of the identity of Antichrist]. The said ministers press faith and a good life, and are exemplary for manners and obedience, and watchfully follow the example and work of the Lord towards the flock.

The things which the ministers are obliged to do for the service of the people are these; the preaching of the word of the gospel; the sacraments joined to the word, which do certify what the intent and meaning thereof is, and confirm the hope in Christ, unto the faithful; the ministerial communion hath all things by the essential truth. And all other ministerial things may be reduced to the aforesaid. But as to the particular truths, some of them are essentially necessary to man's salvation, [while] other some conditionally [not necessary unto salvation]. They [the essential truths] are contained in the twelve articles of the Christian faith [i.e., The Apostles' Creed]. As for **Antichrist**, he hath reigned a good while already in the church by God's permission.

The Errors of Antichrist Enumerated

The errors and impurities of **antichrist**, forbidden by the Lord, are these, viz.:

- A various and endless idolatry, against the express command of God and Christ.
- Divine worship offered not to the Creator, but to the creature, visible and invisible, corporal and spiritual, rational and sensible, natural and artificial, under the name of Christ, or saints, male and female,

and of relics and authorities. Unto [these] creatures they offer the service of worship of faith, [looking to the creature for their] hope, [offering to the creature their] works, prayers, pilgrimages, alms, oblations and sacrifices of great price.

- And those creatures they serve, honour, and adore several ways: by songs and hymns, speeches, solemnities, and celebration of masses, vespers fitted unto the same, by certain hours, vigils, feast-days, thereby to obtain grace, which is essentially in God alone, and meritoriously in Christ, and is to be obtained by faith alone through the Holy Spirit.

The Seven Iniquities of Antichrist Enumerated

(1) Antichrist Robs God of His Glory:

And indeed there nothing else that causeth idolatry, but the false opinions of grace, truth, authority, invocation, intercession, which this antichrist hath deprived God of, to attribute the same to these ceremonies, authorities, the works of a man's own hands, to saints, and to purgatory. And this iniquity is directly against the first article of faith, and against the first commandment of the law.

(2) Antichrist Loves the World:

Also, the excessive love of the world that is in **antichrist** is that from which springs such a world of sin and mischief in the church, as well in them that govern, as [well] in them that officiate in the same; who sin without control. They are against the truth of faith, and against the knowledge of God the Father. Witness St. John saying, *"He that sinneth, knoweth not, nor seeth God: for if any love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."* [1 John 2:15]

(3) Antichrist Teaches Salvation By Means Other Than Faith in Christ Alone and Dispensing Grace For Money:

The [third] iniquity of **antichrist** lies in the [false] hope which he giveth of pardon, grace, justification, truth and life everlasting, as things not to be sought and had in Christ, nor in God by Christ, but in men, either living or already deceased; in human authorities, in ecclesiastical ceremonies, in benedictions, sacrifices, prayers, and such other things as were before mentioned; not by a true and lively faith, which worketh repentance by love, and causeth one to depart from evil, and give himself up to God. Again, **antichrist** teacheth not to settle a firm hope in regeneration, spiritual confirmation, communion, remission of sins, sanctification of eternal life; but to hope through the sacraments, or by means of his wretched simony [i.e., the sale of indulgences], wherewith the people are greatly abused; insomuch, that putting all things to sale, he invented a number of ordinances, old and new, to get monies; [teaching] that if any do such and such a thing, he shall get grace and life. And this two-fold iniquity is properly called in the Scriptures, adultery and fornication; and therefore such ministers as lead the simple people into these errors are called the **whore of the Revelation**. And this iniquity is against the second article, and again, against the second and third commandment of the law.

[\(4\) Antichrist's Monastic Orders and Priests Oppose Justification By Faith Alone, Through Grace Alone:](#)

The [fourth] iniquity of **antichrist** consists in this: that he hath invented besides the matters aforesaid, certain false religious orders and rules of monasteries, putting men in hope of acquiring grace, by building certain churches; and also because they do therein often and devoutly hear mass, receive the sacraments, make confession to the priest, though seldom with contrition, observe his fasts, and empty their purse for him, and be a professed member of the church of Rome. Or if he hath dedicated or vowed himself to be of such an order, cap, or frock, all that he does [e.g., vow of celibacy] press as duties contrary to all truth. And this iniquity of **antichrist** is directly against the eighth article of the creed, "*I believe in the Holy Ghost.*"

(5) Antichrist Deceives By Claiming to be the True Church:

The [fifth] iniquity of **antichrist** is, notwithstanding his being the fourth beast described by Daniel, and the whore of the Revelation, he nevertheless adorns himself with the authority, power, dignity, ministry, offices, and the Scripture, and makes himself equal with the true and holy mother the church, wherein salvation is to be had ministerially, and nowhere else; wherein is found the truth of life, and doctrine, and of the sacraments, and subjects. For if he should not cover himself in this manner, his ministers being such notorious sinners, he would soon be abandoned by all: for kings and princes supposing him to be like, or equal to the true and holy mother the church, they loved him, and endued him against the commandment of God. And this iniquity of the ministers, subjects and ordained persons, given up to error and sin, is against the ninth article, "*I believe a holy church.*"

Iniquities Within the False Church Further Explained

In the second place, those that being partakers of the outward ceremonies, instituted only by human inventions, do believe and hope to partake of the reality of pastoral cures and offices, if they be shaved or shorn like lambs, and anointed or daubed like walls, and made holy by touching the mass book; and by taking the chalice into their hands, they proclaim and publish, that they are ordained lawful priests to all intents. In like manner, as is said before, the people subject [themselves] to them, communicating with them by words, signs, and other outward exercises, they conceive that they partake of the truth [by so doing]. And this is against the other part of the ninth article, "*I believe the communion of saints.*" But it behooves us to depart from the wicked communion of the monks, by whom carnal men were easily drawn away. [For these monks] through covetousness, make men trust in things of naught, [things] riotous and wretched, provided [these carnal men] give liberally unto them, [falsely claiming] such men are made partakers of their poverty and chastity.

(6) Antichrist Falsely Promises Forgiveness of Sins to the Unrepentant:

The [sixth] iniquity of **antichrist** consists in this: that he doth feign and promise remission of sins unto sinners, not unto the truly contrite, but such as are wilfully persevering in their evil practices: in the first place, he doth promise them forgiveness of their sins for their auricular confessions' sake, and [through] human absolution [by a priest], and through their pilgrimages. This he does out of covetousness. And this iniquity is against the eleventh article, "*I believe the remission of sins.*" For this [remission] is [only] in God authoritatively, and in Christ ministerially, through faith, repentance and charity, and obedience to the word, and in man by participation.

(7) Antichrist Gives False Hope of Everlasting Life Through Its Doctrines of Extreme Unction and Purgatory:

The [seventh] iniquity lies herein, that to the very end of their lives they go on, hoping and trusting thus in the forementioned iniquities and coverings, especially till they come to the extreme unction, and their invented purgatory; insomuch, that the ignorant and rude multitude do persevere in their error, they being taught and made to believe, that they are absolved of their sins, though they never really depart from them, so as to hope for forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting. And this iniquity is directly against the eleventh and twelfth articles of the faith."

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