

preface

Due to the controversial, sensitive and serious nature of this work, the author wishes to underscore certain precious principles which guide his efforts. It is not, nor has it ever been his goal to ridicule, preach hatred or call for the destruction of any religion or faith by human hands. This author believes in the right and freedom of the individual to believe and worship according to the dictates of one's conscience and the right to free speech, especially of a critical nature. On the other hand, this work was motivated by a relentless desire to uncover truth. Where this search led and what the search was to uncover was an unknown factor at the outset of this undertaking. If any reader is 'offended' by the facts exposed and the publishing of this author's inquiry and findings or is in disbelief as to the truth of its contents, the author strongly suggests the reader pursue an independent investigation, publishing one's rebuttal to his evidence and arguments.

The author also wishes to state at the outset his belief that by far the majority of people who share the Roman Catholic faith are caring, loving and law-abiding citizens. Many have died selflessly for our country in the fight to maintain our sovereignty with the many freedoms we enjoy today. Their contribution to society and compassion for their fellow man is frequently manifested in good works which are often exceptional. Their zeal, sincerity and work ethic is often beyond reproach and admirable. Thus, this book is not an attempt to personally smear or attack the integrity of the Faithful within the Roman Catholic Church. It is rather an examination into the truthfulness of the many spiritual claims by the Church hierarchy and its leader, the Roman Pontiff. If they are not telling the truth, of what import is that fact to its worldwide congregation and the other professing Christians, who do not necessarily share their spiritual and political views, but share their belief in certain fundamental creedal truths? Does the Word of God, the Holy Bible, hold an opinion on the Roman Catholic Church and its Papa, the Pope, or is it silent? What does history tell us, if anything? And what do the unbiased facts of history and public Church documents mean in the context of the 'big picture' regarding the destiny of the Church, the Body of Christ, as revealed in God's Word? Is the first stage of the Second Coming of Christ imminent? Is the 'secret' Rapture about to take place? Is Antichrist about to emerge out of the 'Revived Roman Empire?' Is Church unity under the

umbrella of Ecumenism a good thing, encouraged by Jesus and the Apostles?

how this book came to be written

When the author became a Christian some nine years ago, by the sovereign grace of the Lord, it was not his intent to make a 'career move' into full-time research and writing, expending thousands of dollars with little to no income generated. Instead, spreading the Good News seemed a reasonable and passionate objective. Early on in his Christian walk the author was made aware of the controversy over 'tongues.' Advocates on both sides of the issue brought forth their arguments pro and con, without resolving their differences. This controversy sparked a deeper question in the mind of the author, 'How is it Christians can be divided over spiritual issues if the Holy Spirit is their Teacher?' Next, the author became fascinated with the subject of Prophecy and Eschatology. Indoctrinated into the 'Scofield' school of seven dispensations and Futurism, this writer eagerly awaited the Rapture with the best. Having no background in Theology as a new believer, the doctrine of Free-Will reigned supreme, although it must be admitted the author could not logically reconcile the many seemingly conflicting scriptures expressing the sovereignty and free-will of God over all His creatures versus the free-will and responsibility of man.

In addition, a thirst and quest for spiritual knowledge led the author to request and receive materials from ministries across the nation. It was a Southern California ministry that confronted this Christian with hard, profound and thought-provoking questions: How is it that Christendom's most popular evangelist is beloved and honored by the world while our Lord Jesus Christ, undeniably the greatest man who will ever live, was despised by the world and crucified? Also, Are Roman Catholics Christian? It was solely on the basis of graven images, not justification, that a debate was sparked within the author's mind as to the orthodoxy of Roman Catholicism. As one young and untrained in the Christian faith, not a single sermon or one Bible study attended by this writer broached these subjects. Asking questions proved fruitless, as those with more knowledge and experience easily reproved any disquieting thoughts the author had. Thus, with

absolutely no previous background in research or knowledge of secular history, Church history and Roman Catholicism, this writer was moved to find the truth for himself, starting from proverbial 'scratch.' The results of years of study have uncovered terrifying and shocking truths. Truths which must be shouted from the housetops, not subverted as they have been for two centuries.

The Lord has faithfully and supernaturally provided these nine years since this writer's conversion. He has led this Christian to treasures of knowledge which is his supreme pleasure and solemn duty to share with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, His Body and Temple of the Holy Spirit.

“Therefore every scribe which is taught unto the kingdom of heaven, is like an householder, which bringeth forth, out of his treasure, things both new and old.” [1]

Although the work before the reader is biblically and historically based, not the result of angelic revelations and εκστασις [2], involving years of research, study and reflective thought, there will be found in it new ideas and thought-provoking, challenging concepts providing further evidence for the arguments set forth by this author.

And lastly, but not least, the author wishes to thank Yale University Press for permission to quote from their 1989 version of the 1534 edition of Tyndale's New Testament, modern-spelling edition by David Daniell. Sadly, there is yet another controversy in the Church regarding Bible versions. William Tyndale, the English martyr and first Bible translator to use the Greek text in writing and publishing his English language Bible, is little known both for his contribution to the Christian Church and the ensuing King James Bible. Mr. Daniell deftly exposes the fallacy of King James cultists by explaining Tyndale's 1534 New Testament to be the basis of both the Geneva and King James versions.[3] Thus, if anyone is to be idealized, it must be Tyndale.

May our Lord Jesus Christ be lifted up and glorified through this work and may the reader be blessed, given wisdom to understand the spiritual truths contained herein. And to those adhering to the religion of Roman Catholicism and its head, the Pope, may you, by the grace of God,

“Come away from her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins,

that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins are gone up to heaven, and God hath remembered her wickedness.” ^[4]

NOTES

1. Tyndale's New Testament, modern-spelling edition by David Daniell (Yale University Press, New Haven, 1989): Matthew 13:52.
2. The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, (Thomas Nelson reprint, 1984): Greek #1611: 'Trance.'
3. Tyndale's New Testament, introduction by David Daniell, pp.x-xiv.
4. Tyndale: Revelation 18:4-5.