

# The Baptist Examiner

A nation-wide, independent paper, standing foursquare for the distinguishing doctrines of Baptists, and shunning not to declare all the counsel of God.

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20).

Vol. 2, No. 3

ASHLAND, KY., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1932

Whole No. 19

## A Reply To the Recent Encyclical of Pope Pius XI

### A MESSAGE TO ROMAN CATHOLICS

In Which We Show That the Roman Catholic Hierarchy Is Not the True Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, and Urge Them to Turn From This False and Apostate Institution to Christ and His True Churches.

By THE EDITOR

Pope Pius XI, the present successor of a line of pagan pontiffs and of another gradually developed and succeeding line of Roman usurpers, sent out a Christmas encyclical, in which he urged the union of all Christians under his dominion.

In reply to the pope's appeal we send out a message to Catholics everywhere, urging them to turn away from **"MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH .....**drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus."

(Rev 17:5, 6). We thus speak, not through any malice toward Catholics, but because of a desire to awaken them to the true nature of the institution with which they are affiliated. The Roman Catholic Church is the greatest imposter of the ages. We believe it to be pretty clearly foreshadowed in the scarlet woman and mystical Babylon of Revelation. And we would urge our message upon Catholics with special emphasis because the time may not be far-distant when the Man of Sin (2 Thess. 2:3), the Beast of Revelation (Rev. 13), will be revealed; with whom the Roman Catholic Church (represented by the scarlet woman riding on the Beast—Rev. 17:1-4) and the papacy (represented by the second beast or false prophet—Rev. 13:11-17; 19:20) will form a league; ushering in the day of destruction for the Roman Catholic hierarchy, when from heaven it shall be proclaimed. **"Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird"** (Rev. 18:2).

The Scripture says: **"Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good"** (1 Thess. 5:21). Dear Roman Catholic friend, do you know that the teachings of your church are good—that is, that they are according to the truth as taught by Christ and the apostles? You are ready to reply: **"Yes, I know that the teachings of my church are good, because she is the Church of Christ, and the Church of Christ cannot err in her teachings."** All right, be that as it may. But suppose we are able to show you that your church is not the church of Christ? Of course, you think we cannot do that; but will you think with us a little while on the matter? If what we say is not according to the truth of Christ, we do not want you to accept it; and we leave you to be the judge. Not for one moment do we desire to lead you astray, or to force a single belief upon you. All we ask of you is what Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to do.

The Greek word for "prove" in 1 Thess. 5:21 means **"to test, examine, prove, scrutinize."** And the purpose of this is **"to see whether a thing be genuine or not."** All we ask of you is that you **test, examine, prove, and scrutinize your church to see whether it be genuine or not.** If you are unwilling to

do this, then you are unwilling to obey the word of God; and the Scripture says: **"He that is of God heareth God's words."** And if you will not hear them, it may be said of you as it was said of the Pharisees by Christ: **"Ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."** See John 8:47. Your church cannot consistently object to what we are asking you to do; for, while your church does not accept the Bible as a complete and sufficient guide in faith and practice, yet it does profess to believe in the inspiration of the Scriptures and denies that there is any antagonism between its teachings and those of the Scriptures.

In the interest of the truth and your own spiritual welfare we ask your consideration of the following four reasons why the Roman Catholic Church is not the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. **The Roman Catholic Church is not the true church of Christ because it has a human head, while the church of Christ has no head but Christ himself.** See Eph. 1:22; 4:15; Col. 1:18.

There is not a single passage of Scripture that says anything about the church of Christ having a human head. And, even though the Scriptures were not a complete and sufficient guide in faith and practice, we should expect some historical record in the Scriptures if New Testament churches had a human head.

New Testament churches had no pope. Christ flatly affirmed that such an office should not exist among his followers. He called the attention of the apostles to the fact that the princes of the Gentiles exercised dominion and authority over them, and then he said: **"IT SHALL NOT BE SO AMONG YOU."** See Matt. 20:25, 26 and Luke 22:25, 26. Christ said: **"It shall NOT be so among you."** The Roman Catholic Church says: **"It SHALL be so among you."** Which is right?

Peter was first among the twelve apostles, but his was only a primacy among equals and not a primacy of office or authority. This is shown by the fact that when Paul named the pillars of the church at Jerusalem, he mentioned James first instead of Peter. How could this be accounted for if Peter was pope? Does the officiating priest over a local Catholic body stand higher as a pillar than the pope? And picture a subordinate Roman Catholic prelate administering a stinging public rebuke to the pope for instability and inconsistency as Paul did to Peter. See Gal. 2:11-14.

The power of binding (forbidding) and loosing (allowing) that was given to Peter (Matt. 16:18) was given also to all the apostles alike (Matt. 18:18). And this was merely a gift of authority to the apostles as inspired teachers. Moreover, there is not one word about its being transmissible.

The authority to forgive sins was likewise given to all the apostles alike. See John 20:22, 23. And there is no indication