

Pope and Christianity

By Nick Bibile

“Test all things; hold fast what is good.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21)



Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005 the world began to mourn and began to praise his life. The following were some headlines of the new media.

The world is praising Pope John Paul II

Washington Post – “The Church Loses Its Light”

ABC News in Spain – “The life has just ended of probably the most important man of our time”

CBS - World Mourns Pontiff's Passing

Fox News - John Paul was God's gift to a church in need of leadership

NBC – “A towering figure in the history of the church and the world”

President George W. Bush - "The Catholic Church has lost its shepherd. The world has lost a champion of human freedom, and a good and faithful servant of God has been called home,"

President Bill Clinton - "In speaking powerfully and eloquently for mercy and reconciliation to people divided by old hatreds and persecuted by abuse of power, the Holy Father was a beacon of light not just for Catholics, but for all people."

Billy Graham - "Pope John Paul II was unquestionably the most influential voice for morality and peace in the world during the last 100 years."

Pat Robertson – “The Most Beloved Religious Leader of our Age.”

Now **Pope Benedict XVI visited the U.S. Again the media began praising him calling him** calling the Pope as the Holy Father, the Vicar of Christ, Apostle Peter’s succession and church is built on the rock of Peter.

When the world is praising a religious leader, don't you think there is something is wrong? Read the words of our Lord.

Joh 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

I am not against Roman Catholics and I love them as I want them to know the truth. They have been blinded by the traditions of men and many are ignorant of the word of God. The word of God is above traditions.

I challenge them to search the Scriptures in order to know what is true. The Scriptures are not merely the writings of men but of the Holy Spirit, **Jesus said:** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

Also Jesus said:

Mr 7:9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

Peter said:

"But holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:21).

Paul said:

"All Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correcting, for instructing in justice; that the man of God may be perfect, equipped for every good work: (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Constantine the Roman emperor (A.D 313) granted liberty to all Christians as before Christians were persecuted and killed but now Constantine gave religious freedom to the people. He exempted Christian ministers from taxes and encourage to build churches. He moved his capitol to Byzantium and he called Constantinople, "New Rome." Of the Empire.

Then Emperor Theodosius (A.S 378-398) made Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire and made church membership compulsory. All unconverted people attended church. We see the great apostasy of the church as the Roman Empire had conquered the church. The church became a political organization. Ministers became priests.

Do not judge the person but his doctrine

The following is from CNN, biography on Pope John Paul II

“Before he became the Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Christ, Successor of St. Peter, Prince of Apostles, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, Patriarch of the West, Primate of Italy, Sovereign of Vatican City and the only pope featured in a comic book -- Marvel doing the honor in 1983 -- Pope John Paul II was Karol Jozef Wojtyla.”

Many are praising the Pope for all the good work he has done. He was against abortion, homosexuality, he even visited the person who tried to assassinate him in prison. He visited Israel, the Muslim Mosques and met with world religious leaders, he set high moral values. This is the great deception as people look to the man instead his doctrine/teachings.

There were Pharisees and Jewish religious leaders who had a great outward passion for God, they had all the rituals, the traditions and looked very holy outside but Jesus rebuked them for their error in doctrine. Jesus called them wolves in sheep clothing. There are many holy people who look like sheep but when you check their doctrine we see a wolf.

What is the meaning of Pope?

The word pope means Papa, Father. Many are calling him Holy Father. This is an abomination to God. **Jesus said, "Call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven" (Matt. 23:9)**

Here Jesus is not talking of our physical fathers but referring to a spiritual father, the only spiritual Father we have is God not the Pope. The Pope commands all to call him 'Holy Father', and his priests feel insulted if persons do not address them as 'Father'

The word was first applied about 500 A.D to all Bishops and then it became restricted to the Bishop of Rome. Roman Catholic Church will list Peter as the first Pope but in truth for 500 years there were no Popes. It was first given to Gregory I by the wicked emperor Phocas, in the year 604. Gregory, however,

refused the title, but his second successor, Boniface III (607) assumed the title, and it has been the designation of the bishops of Rome ever since.

Was Peter the first Pope in Rome?

Pope is falsely called the successor of Apostle Peter, historically; no one can prove Peter was the first bishop of Rome. Acts 28:30 it says that Paul spent two entire years at Rome in his own quarters, welcoming everyone who came to him. Now if Peter were in Rome being the first pope why didn't Apostle Paul mention that he visited Peter even once.

If Peter was the first Pope why didn't the rest of the apostles recognize his divine appointment? They gave more supremacy to Apostle James.

In Acts 15 we find the great Jerusalem Council. Again, if anywhere Peter's papacy should be recognized, here is the first counsel and we see Peter does not act like a pope but makes his defense but it is not Peter who has the last word, it is James. It was James who concludes the matter and then the vote is taken. James had more supremacy over Peter.

Ac 21:18 And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.

Ga 2:9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

If Peter was the first Pope then why Apostle Paul rebuke him?

According to the Roman Catholic Church the Pope is infallible, means he never makes mistakes. No one can rebuke the pope. However Apostle Paul rebuked Peter.

Ga 2:11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

Did Peter ever claim to be the Pope?

There is not one verse in the Bible where Apostle Peter claimed to be the first Pope. Peter said he was apostle and elder but not a pope.

1Pe 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed.

Pope had stolen the titles that belong to the Lord Jesus Christ and by committing blasphemy against God.

Universal Bishop

Pope is called the Universal Bishop. This is again blasphemy again the God as this title belongs not to the pope but to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto **the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.**

Our Most Holy Lord

Pope is called, '**Our Most Holy Lord**' - Council of Trent, 1545. Here again the glory that belongs to God is being stolen by the pope. Read Isaiah 6:3

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

God's holiness is repeated not to the second degree but to the third degree, which means he is infinitely holy. On the other hand the Antichrist is called with the number 666, repeated to the third degree of evil

Head of the Church

The pope is called the head of the church. Again this title does not belong to the pope but to Christ Jesus.

Col 1:18 **And he is the head of the body, the church:** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

The Chief Shepherd.

Pope is not the Chief Shepherd but Christ is the Chief Shepherd.

1Pe 5:3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the **chief Shepherd** shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Is the Church built on Peter or Jesus?

Roman Catholics go to the Bible to say that Peter was the first Pope. Let us see the scripture.

Mt 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, **that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

In Verse 17, Jesus calls Peter Simon Barjona. He does not call him Peter but calls his real name, Simon Barjona, Barjona means son of Jonah. He calls him blessed are you Simon, son of Jonah.

Then in verse 18 Jesus said, thou art Peter. It is very interesting a verse later he doesn't call him Simon son of Barjona but address him, thou art Peter. Simon Barjona was also called Peter.

Mt 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, **Simon called Peter**, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

What is the meaning of Peter? Peter in Greek is Petros it means a small rock or a stone. Jesus in Matthew 16:18 said, Thou art Peter, meaning a small rock/stone. Then Jesus said upon this rock. Rock here in Greek is not Petros but Petra meaning a large rock and on that large rock he will build his church not on a stone.

He did not say upon you Peter the small rock/stone I am going to build by church. But Jesus said upon this rock referring to him as the large rock. If Jesus appointed Peter to be the first Pope then a few verses later Jesus called the First Pope Satan get thee behind. Infallibility of the pope is vanished in few seconds!

Mt 16:23 **But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan:** thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Also the rest of the scriptures in the Bible the rock is referred not to Peter but to Jesus.

1Co 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that **Rock was Christ**.

Jesus is the rock not Peter or the Popes. They all died but Jesus lives. If the church is built on a man's foundation we are in trouble. But the true church is built on Jesus the rock and it cannot be destroyed.

Mt 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

In the Old Testament the Rock was referred to the LORD.

Ps 94:22 But the LORD is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge.

Peter himself said in his epistle that we are all living stones built up a spiritual house and Christ is the Chief Cornerstone.

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, and precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Apostle Paul said the chief cornerstone is Jesus not Peter.

Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:

Foundation of the Church is not Peter but Christ as per Apostle Paul.

1 Cor 3: 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Isa 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold; I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Did Jesus give authority to Peter only?

What about Jesus telling Peter: **“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matt 16: 19)**

The word keys are used as metaphorically as a key has to do with a door. Keys of the kingdom of heaven has to do with door of faith, the door for the gospel. It was first given to Peter and we see at the Pentecost how the Lord used Peter opening this door to the Jews in preaching the gospel (Acts 2:1) and then to the Gentiles (Acts 10:1) But it was not only given to Peter but to the rest of the apostles, a commission to preach the gospel to all nations, then to all the believers. It was not given to one man but to the church in unity.

Only Jesus has the keys to hell and death.

Re 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and **have the keys of hell and of death.**

Only Jesus has the authority to shut and open doors

Re 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

What about when Jesus said, **“whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”**

Here we see Jesus gave the church to exercise authority in reference to church discipline, this authority was not only to Peter but to the church.

Mt 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.

Mt 18:18 **Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

19 Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Then who is the Pope?

Pope is the substitute of Christ Jesus, very clearly an anti Christ.

The New York Catechism says, *“The Pope takes the place of Jesus Christ on earth. By divine right, the Pope has supreme and full power in faith and morals over each and every pastor and his flock. He is the true Vicar of Christ, the Head of the entire Church, the father and teacher of all Christians. He is the infallible ruler, the founder of dogmas, the author of and the judge of councils, the universal ruler of truth, the arbiter of the world, the supreme judge of heaven and earth, the judge of all, being judged by no one, God Himself on earth.”*

The Greek word [*anti*] in scripture most nearly denotes something that is "in place of" another thing. The root meaning is, "instead of" or "in place of". It is not the original but a substitution, not Christ but a substitute for Christ. Instead of Christ a false Christ an Antichrist.

Mt 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceives you.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Conclusion.

Now let's see the greatest preacher of all time next to Jesus and the apostles, Charles Spurgeon what he had to say of the Pope.

"Of all the dreams that 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." - MTP Vol 14 pg. 621.

"Christ did not redeem his church with his blood that the pope might come in and steal away the glory. He never came from heaven to earth, and 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 the church." - MTP Vol 60 pg. 592

Roman Catholicism is not telling the truth but the word of God the Bible is telling the truth. The Roman church is not infallible but the word of God is infallible.

The pope is not infallible but the Lord Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The teachings of Rome is full of error as it denies the original sin, justification by faith alone, salvation by grace alone.

The Church of Rome takes great pains in not telling the truth and wants people to stay in ignorance of the word of God.

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