

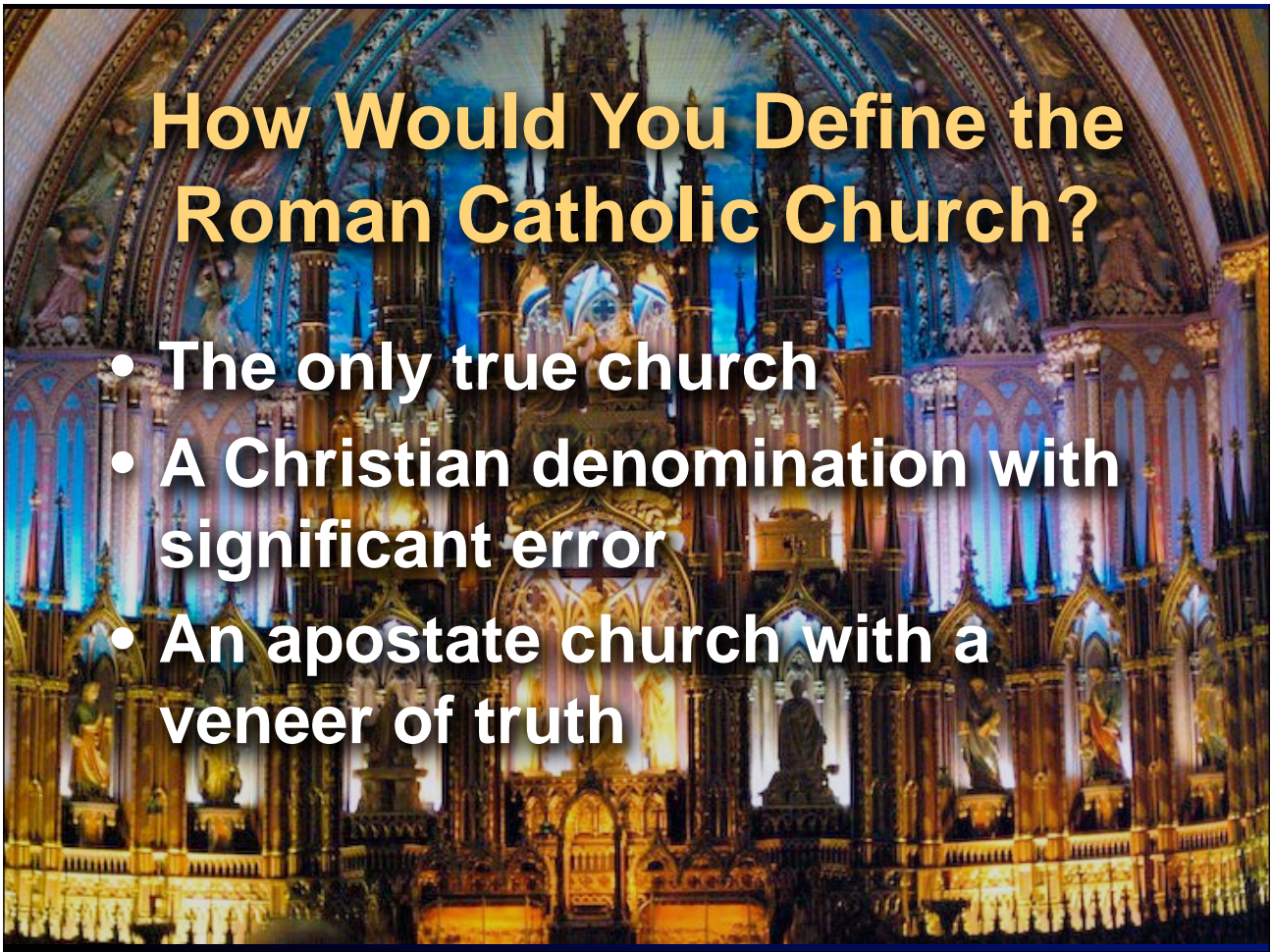
Roman Catholicism's Drift Into Apostasy

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As we contend for the faith in these last days we need to be aware of the growing apostasy that is sweeping through Christianity. God's prophetic word warns that the apostasy which began in the first century church will continue to increase throughout the church age. The increasing apostasy will be a definitive sign that the church age is coming to an end. Paul warned that false teachers would arise within the church. Jude warned they would creep in unaware. Peter warned there would be false teachers who would teach "damnable heresies." Yet, in spite of these and numerous other warnings apostasy continues to grow like never before.

Throughout church history we have seen professing Christians, churches, denominations and seminaries depart from the faith and drift into apostasy. As discouraging as this appears to be, it is also encouraging. Apostasy is one of the ways Our Lord is purifying His Bride in preparation for the wedding feast of the Lamb.



- ## How Would You Define the Roman Catholic Church?
- The only true church
 - A Christian denomination with significant error
 - An apostate church with a veneer of truth

The Roman Catholic Church claims to be the one true Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church, [CCC], para. 2105) founded by Jesus Christ on the rock of Peter (857). It dares to say that the Catholic Church is necessary for salvation (846) and has the authority to act in the power and place of the Lord Jesus Christ (1548).

It claims to possess infallibility in the areas of divine revelation, doctrine, and morals (2035). It declares its bishops have the sole authority to interpret scripture (100) and to administer the sacraments that are necessary for salvation (1129). It claims to be the minister of redemption as it applies the merits of Christ and the saints to its members (1471).

Apostasy in the Church

- Apostasy comes from two Greek words meaning “to stand away from.” It occurs when there is a departure from previously known truth.
- Individual apostates who gain influence and power will eventually lead churches, para-church ministries, denominations and seminaries into apostasy.
- Satan initiates apostasy as an effective weapon as he tries to destroy the church.

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Apostasy can be defined as a diabolical movement away from the faith within the the Lord’s church.

John Owen, the 17th century Puritan described Satan’s influence this way: “He blinds people’s minds, inflames their lusts, pours out his temptations, involves them in false and corrupt reasoning, transforms himself into an angel of light and uses signs and wonders to support his delusions; he never tires, he is always at work.”

Satan’s all out assault on the Christian faith is evidenced by the number of key doctrines he undermines with his legion of false teachers.

Satan Attacks Every Major Doctrine

- The Supremacy of God's Word
- The Sufficiency of God's Son
- The Singularity of God's Gospel
- The Sovereignty of God's Grace
- The Security of God's Children
- The Severity of God's Punishment
- The Sanctity of God's Church

Once Satan has successfully attacked the supremacy of God's Word, all the other doctrines become easy targets. His attack on God's Word is multi-faceted. He and his adversaries oppose it and suppress it in unrighteousness. It is nullified by traditions, invalidated by false teachers, snatched away when sown, added to, distorted and perverted. Rome has been guilty of each one of these attacks on God's Word.

As we look at Rome's drift into apostasy, we will see how they also attacked each one of these other important doctrines.

The New Testament also warns of the fiery darts that will be fired at our Lord's Church.



As these fiery darts have assaulted the church, Christianity has experienced doctrinal and moral corruption. Yet church leaders continue to ignore the many warnings in Scripture and refuse to exercise discernment. As a result more and more people are departing from the faith. It is no wonder our Lord asked "When the Son of Man returns will He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).



Two Streams of Christianity

- **Apostolic Church** - It is made up of born again Christians who are hated and persecuted by the world. The gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Mat. 16:18).
- **Apostate Church** - It departed from the faith to follow doctrines of demons. Spiritually dead people left the apostolic church because they were never part of it (1 John 2:19; 1 Tim. 4:1).

Paul warned of those who had strayed concerning the truth... and had overthrown the faith of some (2 Tim. 2:17-18). Apostasy spreads like cancer and we know how destructive cancer can be on the physical body. Clearly it can have a similar effect on the Body of Christ. Apostasy is not only a departure from the faith of the apostles, but also a departure from the church, from the Lord Jesus Christ and from the Gospel of grace.



Departing from the Church

THE WORD OF GOD

...many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. **They went out from us**, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us
(1 John 2:18-19).

In other words they went out from us because they were never born again. If they had been born again, they would have remained with us.



Departing from Jesus

THE WORD OF GOD

I am amazed that you are so **quickly deserting Him** who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ.
(Gal. 1:6-7).

The Judaizers had convinced some Christians that Jesus was not sufficient to save them. Because of this deception, they were deserting Him and His Gospel of grace. Paul warned them that Jesus plus anything is a false and fatal gospel and those who teach such heresy are to be condemned.

Clearly, when another Jesus is preached, it always leads to another Gospel. We see here, in this passage, the goal of deception is to lure the sheep away from the protection of the Shepherd so that they can be destroyed.



Departing from the Faith

THE WORD OF GOD

The Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,
(1 Tim. 4:1-2).

It is interesting that one of the doctrines of demons that Paul describes is forbidding people to marry. This reminds me of a couple of Catholic nuns I encountered one Sunday as they were visiting Believer's Chapel in Dallas.



Departing from the Truth

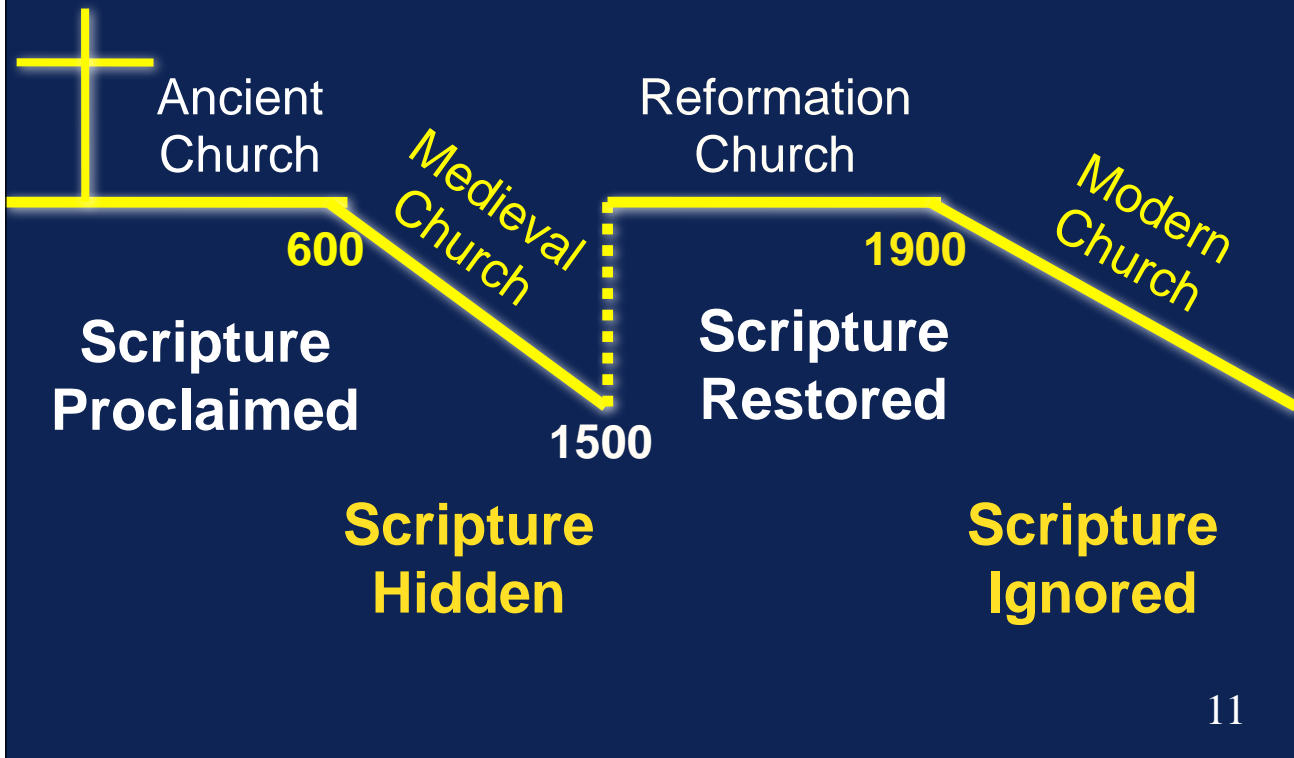
THE WORD OF GOD

Apostates are “men who **turn away from the truth**...[they] profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.

(Titus 1:14-16).

As you can see here, the departure from the faith is seen both in doctrine and *conduct*.

History of the Church



The medieval church was dominated by the Roman Catholic Church and it continues its slide into apostasy.



This overlap of common truth is what convinces many evangelicals that Roman Catholicism is a valid expression of Christianity. The drift into apostasy occurs when the Word of God is gradually replaced by the traditions of men. As I looked at church history and studied how churches and denomination's depart from the faith, I recognized there are at least four steps that lead to apostasy.

First Step Into Apostasy

- God's word is replaced as the supreme authority for faith and practice.
- Worldly traditions are allowed causing confusion and divided loyalties.
- Biblical evangelism is replaced by sacramental salvation or other unbiblical methods of conversion.
- The purity of the Gospel is weakened by compromise and distortion.
- People are given what they want instead of what they need.

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When the Gospel has been watered down or perverted it has no power to save souls.

Second Step Into Apostasy

- **Scripture is twisted and distorted for self-serving agendas.**
- **Biblical ignorance provides fertile soil for false teachers and doctrinal error.**
- **Satan sows his tares with no resistance.**
- **"Infallible" men arise claiming to be successors of the apostles.**
- **God is honored with lips but hearts are far from Him.**
- **Legalism controls people; contenders for the faith are dismissed.**

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When people do not have access to the Word of God or they are not hearing it from the pulpit, they are easy prey for false teachers.

Third Step Into Apostasy

A man in athletic wear is running on a wooden structure that resembles a staircase or a bridge. The background is a clear blue sky. The overall image conveys a sense of movement and progression, which in this context represents the 'third step into apostasy'.

- Religious pride blinds people from the light of the Gospel. Truth is subjective.
- A form of godliness exists but it's void of the Gospel's power. Hearts are hardened.
- Worshiping God in truth is replaced by worshipping false Christs, icons and saints. Love for God has grown cold.
- Biblical warnings to expose false teachers are ignored, doctrinal error is embraced and discernment is dying.
- Sin and immoral lifestyles are tolerated.

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I am convinced religious pride is the most effective tool Satan uses to blind people from the light of the Gospel and the glory of Christ.

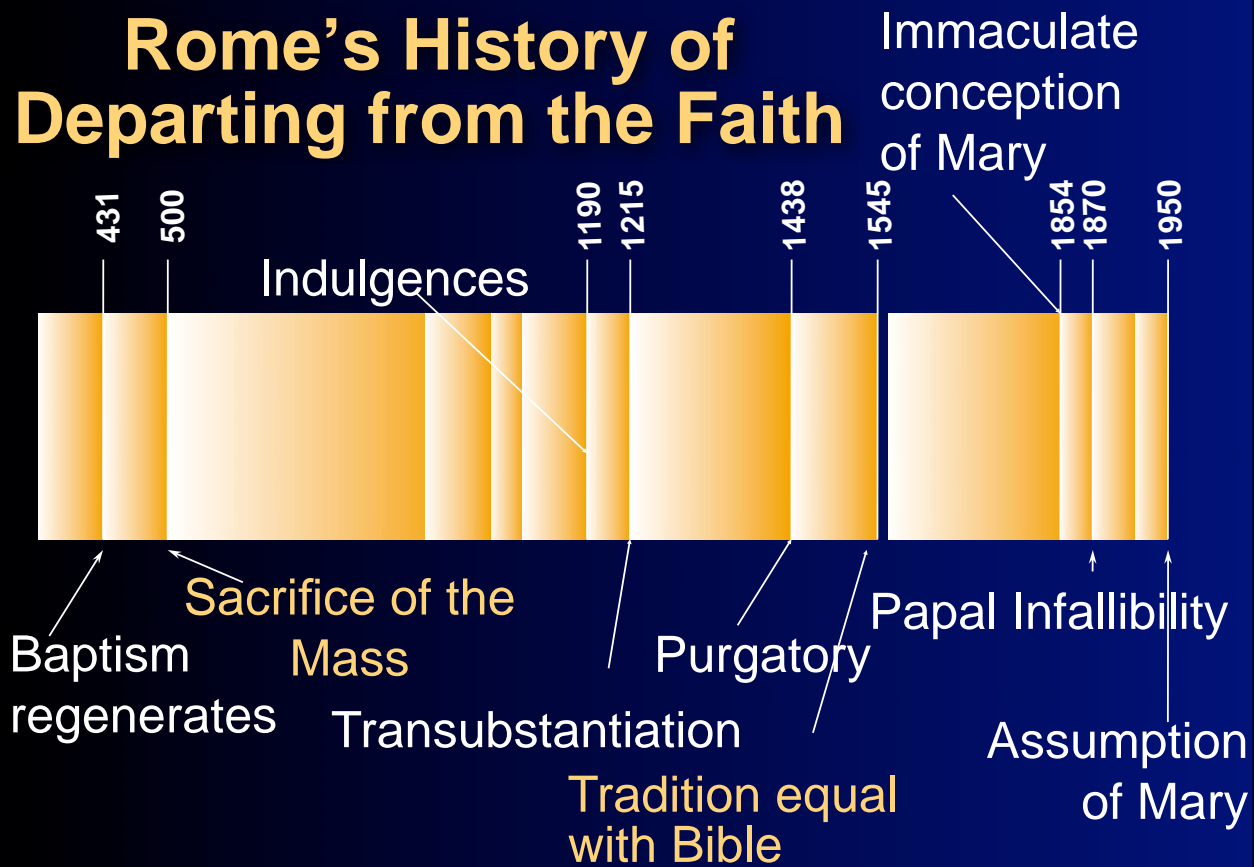
Fourth Step Into Apostasy

- **Doctrines of demons are taught and deception is full-blown.**
- **Jesus is outside the church and Bible believers are anathema.**
- **Lying signs and wonders are called messages from God. Idolatry and prayers to the dead are encouraged.**
- **Grace is turned into a license to sin.**
- **The church's lamp stand has been removed and a certain terrifying judgment is now unavoidable.**

16

There is no point of return for these victims of deception as they teeter on the edge of a bottomless pit.

Rome's History of Departing from the Faith



We will look at each one of these departures in more detail later.

Development of Catholicism

- 2nd century churches abandoned the plurality of elders in favor of a ruling bishop. **Ignatius** taught that churches without a bishop had no authority to do baptisms or the Lord's Supper.
- This major change would pave the way for doctrinal error to enter the church with less resistance.

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It is much easier for the “Father of Lies” to deceive one ruling bishop when there is no challenge or correction from an elder board. Satan’s strategy to destroy the church has always been to place falsehoods in the minds of ecclesiastical leaders.

In God’s providence and under His divine protection, some churches remained under a plurality of elders and refused to appoint a ruling bishop. They believed the proof of the Spirit’s leading was not found in an office but in the lives of believers. The church can fulfill her divinely ordained mission only to the extent she functions according to the Master Builder’s blueprint for His church.

Seeds of Apostasy

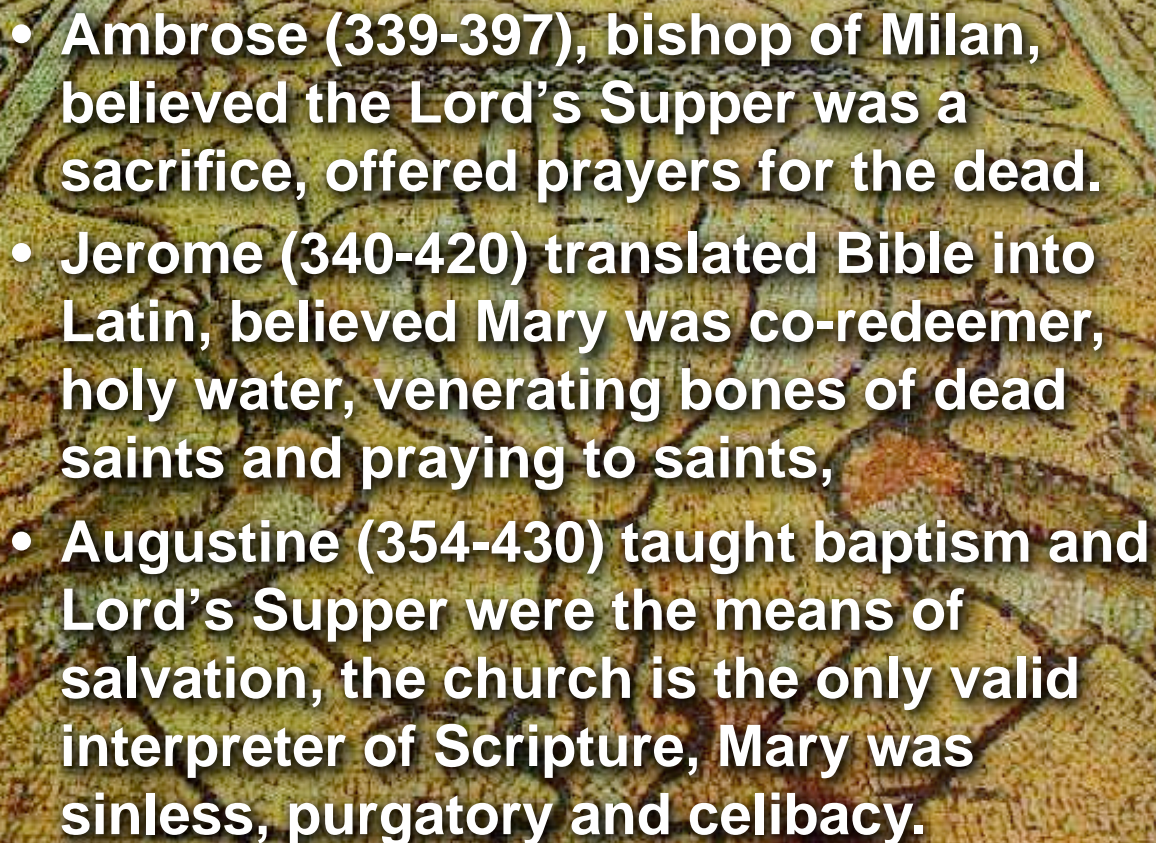
- Clement headed the school of Alexandria from 190-202, blended Greek philosophy with Christianity, evolved idea of purgatory.
- Tertullian (155-255) taught the authority of the church over Scripture and apostolic succession, celibacy for clergy, baptism for forgiveness of sin.
- Origen (185-254) taught allegorical method of interpretation, baptismal regeneration and salvation by works and Mariology.

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Origen lived in Alexandria, Egypt, which happened to be the focal point of Isis worship which was absorbed into Christianity by replacing Isis with Mary.

Roman Catholicism refers to these men as their early church fathers and say their teachings originated from the oral traditions of the apostles. Clearly these teaching are not found in the *written* Word of God.

Paul warned the church of men such as these: "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock... I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears" (Acts 20:28-31).

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- **Ambrose (339-397), bishop of Milan, believed the Lord's Supper was a sacrifice, offered prayers for the dead.**
 - **Jerome (340-420) translated Bible into Latin, believed Mary was co-redeemer, holy water, venerating bones of dead saints and praying to saints,**
 - **Augustine (354-430) taught baptism and Lord's Supper were the means of salvation, the church is the only valid interpreter of Scripture, Mary was sinless, purgatory and celibacy.**

20

All the “church fathers” were embracing some false doctrine, some more than others. Even the so-called Apostolic Fathers of the second century were teaching the false gospel that baptism and martyrdom provided forgiveness of sin. And of the later “fathers,” Clement, Origen, Cyril, Jerome, Ambrose, Augustine and Theodore, “we find the seed plot of almost all that arose later in germ form including the dogmas of purgatory, transubstantiation, priestly mediation, baptismal regeneration, and the whole sacramental system. Therefore, the ‘church fathers’ are actually the fathers of the Roman Catholic Church” (Howard Vos, Exploring Church History).

Jude explained it well, “for certain persons have crept in unnoticed” (Jude 4). The seeds of apostasy are planted inside the church, not on the outside.

The term “Roman Catholic” was defined by Emperor Theodosius on February 27, 380 in the Theodosian Code.

Paganism Enters the Church

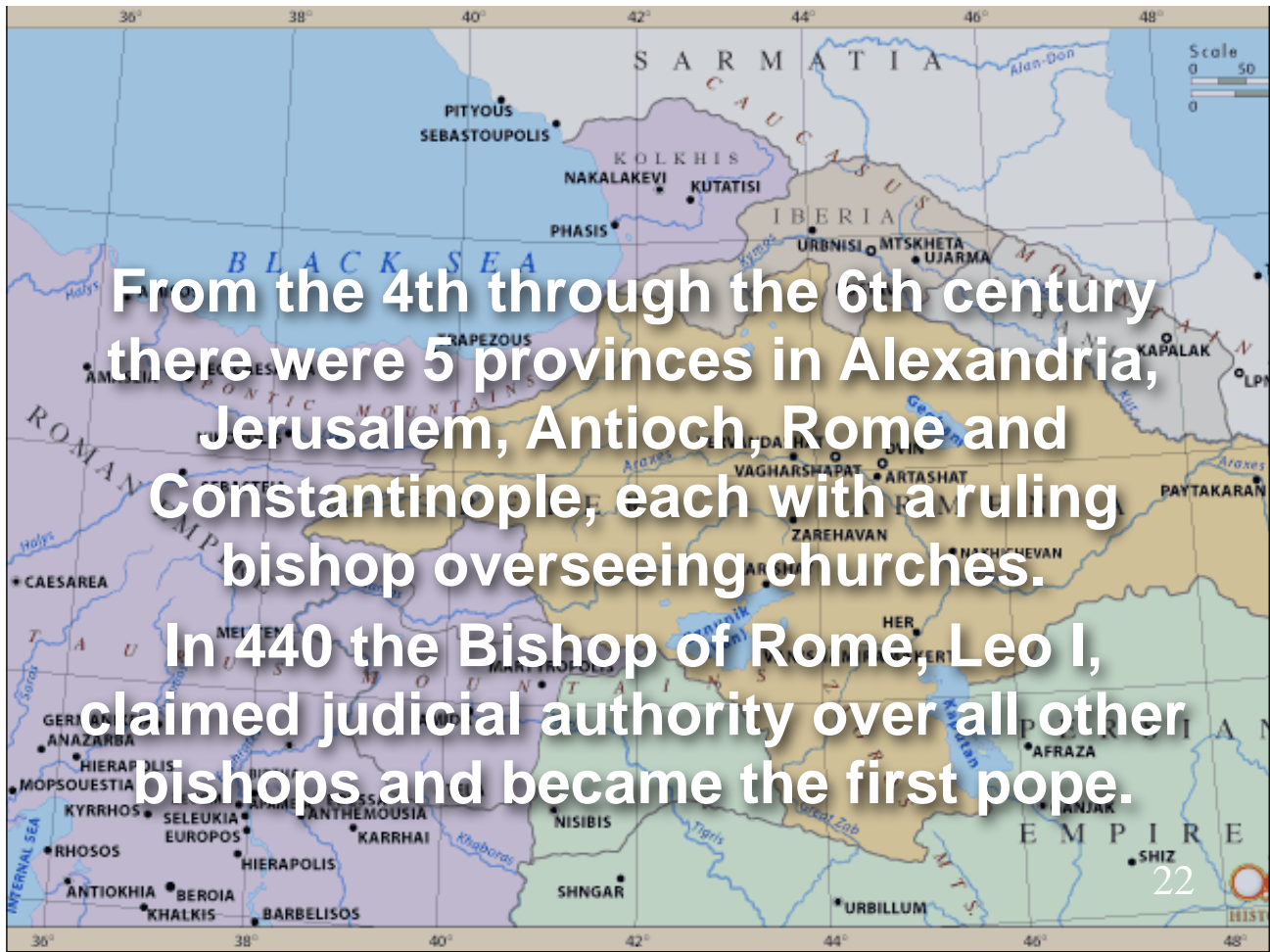
In the 4th century, Roman Emperor Constantine attributed his victory in a major battle to the Christian God and made Christianity the state religion.

Pagans with their heathen customs entered the church through the ritual of water baptism with no repentance. Pagan ceremonies and superstitions were blended into the liturgy.

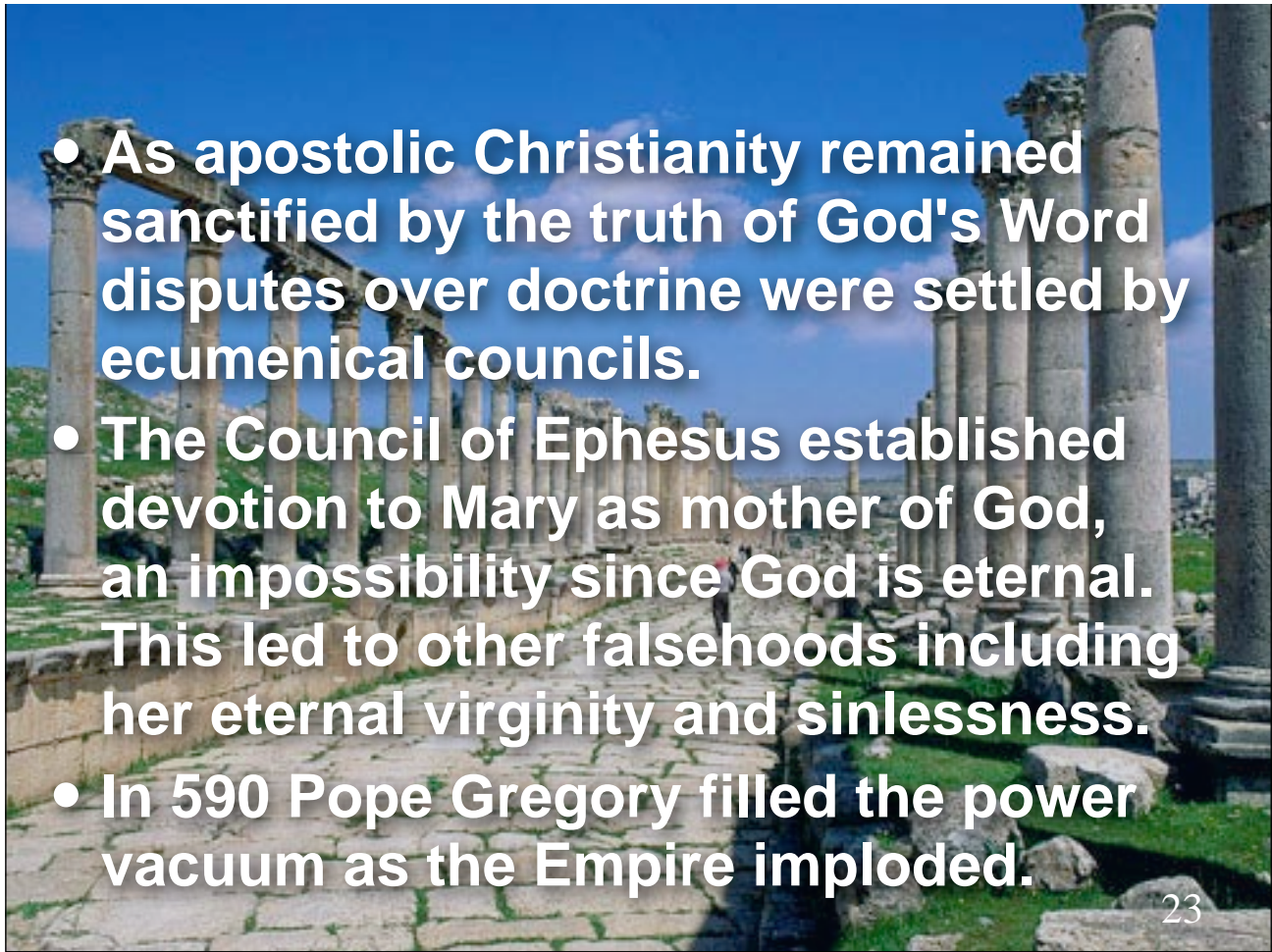
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Pagan temples became places of Christian worship and pagan festivals were refashioned into Christian celebrations. The union of church and state blended pagan traditions with apostolic teaching. Many came into the church politically motivated but religiously disinterested.

Tragically, the church gained the world but lost its soul. The church should have learned from a similar offer that was made to Jesus. When Satan offered the world to Christ, He rejected it, choosing instead to fulfill his mission. When Constantine offered the world to the persecuted church, she foolishly accepted the offer, rather than remain sanctified and fulfill her mission.



Leo appealed to Matthew 16:18 and asserted the bishop of Rome should become the head of all the churches because the bishops of Rome were successors of Peter. When the Roman Empire collapsed, the pope took on the title *Pontifex Maximus* which had previously belonged to the Roman emperors. The fall of the Roman Empire led to the rise of the Roman Church, as power was transferred from one institution to the other. At the time, some bishops sought to increase their authority and prestige by accusing others of false doctrine and seeking state support of their positions.



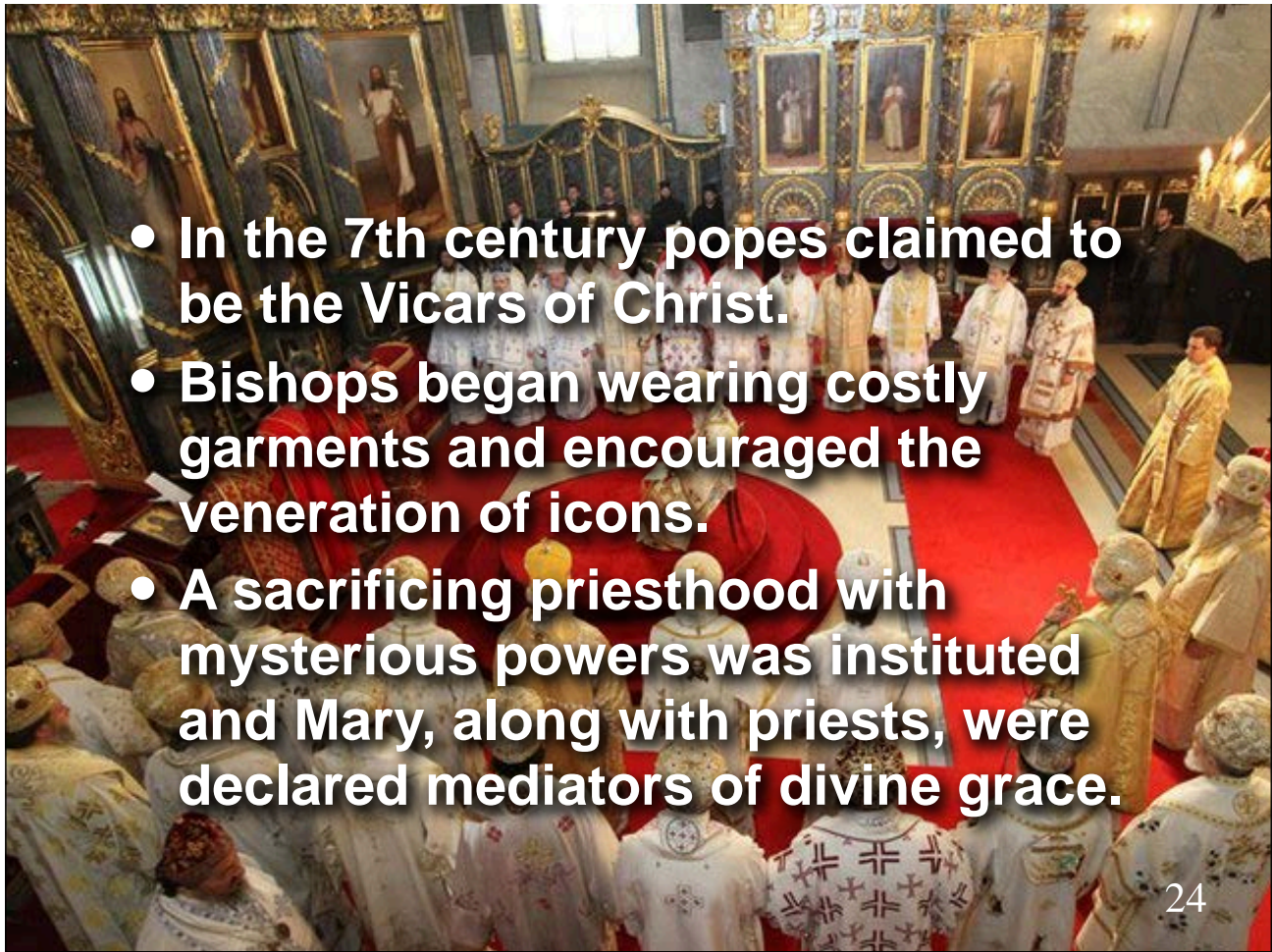
- As apostolic Christianity remained sanctified by the truth of God's Word disputes over doctrine were settled by ecumenical councils.
- The Council of Ephesus established devotion to Mary as mother of God, an impossibility since God is eternal. This led to other falsehoods including her eternal virginity and sinlessness.
- In 590 Pope Gregory filled the power vacuum as the Empire imploded.

23

Gregory I organized a papal government to rule a decaying society. He enforced celibacy for the clergy, expanded the concept of purgatory and converted the Eucharist from a sacrament into a redemptive sacrifice with merit, both for the living and the dead.

He approved the invocation of saints and martyrs and the use of relics and amulets to reduce temporal punishment for sin. Other unbiblical traditions developed, such as baptismal regeneration, infant baptism and a system of 7 sacraments for salvation.

Paul warned that “evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.” (2 Tim. 3:13).



- In the 7th century popes claimed to be the Vicars of Christ.
- Bishops began wearing costly garments and encouraged the veneration of icons.
- A sacrificing priesthood with mysterious powers was instituted and Mary, along with priests, were declared mediators of divine grace.

24

Nothing is more condemned throughout Scripture than idolatry. Making and venerating “graven images” is forbidden but most people were being deceived out of ignorance (Ex. 20:4-5).

From the early sixth century to the sixteenth century, the Bible was a closed book. The Roman Church had become a kingdom of darkness, promoting ignorance and superstition and holding people in bondage. People were so absorbed in their own experiences that they never came to a knowledge of the truth. They sought visions, carried heavy wooden crosses, marched and killed in “holy” wars called Crusades, went on pilgrimages to “holy” places and indulged in superstitious practices. The more devout they were, the more they did, because they thought they were meriting God’s favor.

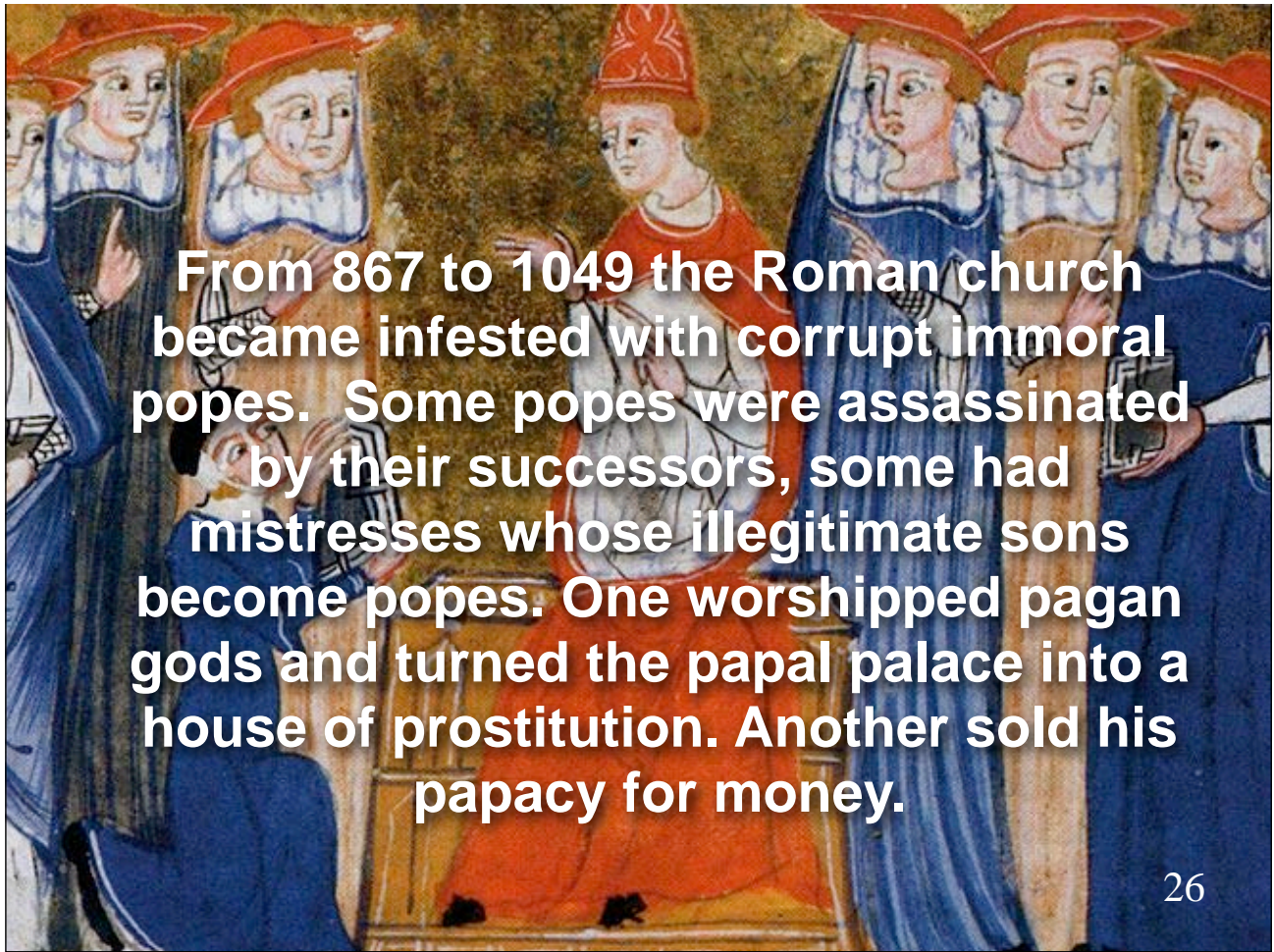
To this day the Catholic Church disguises its pagan beliefs under layers of complicated theology and tradition.

The growing apostasy was not universal. The true Shepherd of the Church never left His Gospel without witnesses. As apostates departed from the faith, God raised up others to proclaim His Gospel.



25

The Lord promised the gates of hell would not prevail against His Church (Mat. 16:18). He has always had a remnant of bible believing Christians who opposed heretical teachings. Many of them proved the reality of true saving faith when they were persecuted by the Roman church.



From 867 to 1049 the Roman church became infested with corrupt immoral popes. Some popes were assassinated by their successors, some had mistresses whose illegitimate sons become popes. One worshipped pagan gods and turned the papal palace into a house of prostitution. Another sold his papacy for money.

26

In 904 Pope Christopher was murdered by Pope Sergius III. Sergius III then had an illegitimate son by an adulteress who became John XI. In 955 Pope John II died in the act of adultery. Finally, in 1059, the Roman people lost their right to elect the pope and a college of cardinals was established to elect future popes.

I am reminded of how apostates “profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed. (Titus 1:14-16).



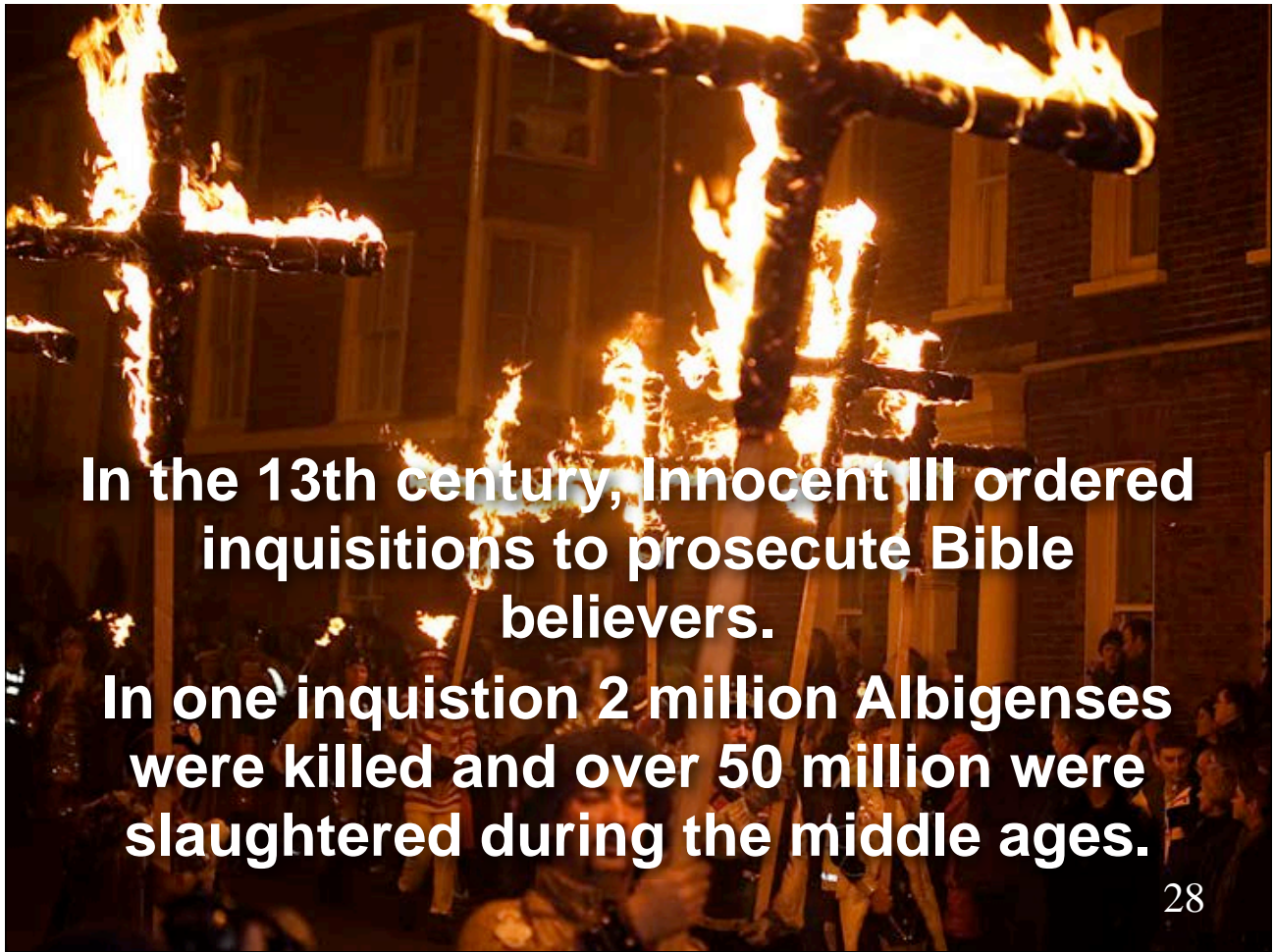
- A series of military campaigns began when Pope Urban II called for crusades to resist Muslim advances.
- The ongoing conflict between the Western (Catholic) and the Eastern (Orthodox) Church ended with a schism in 1054.

27

The two main reasons for the schism were the refusal of the Orthodox Church to submit to the authority of the Roman pope and the refusal to command their priest to be celibate.

In 1215, the 4th Lateran Council declared transubstantiation to be an infallible dogma. This is where the priest is said to have the power to change the inner substance of wafers into the physical body and blood of Jesus Christ.

In 1300 Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the first jubilee year and offered a plenary indulgence to thousands of pilgrims who came to Rome.



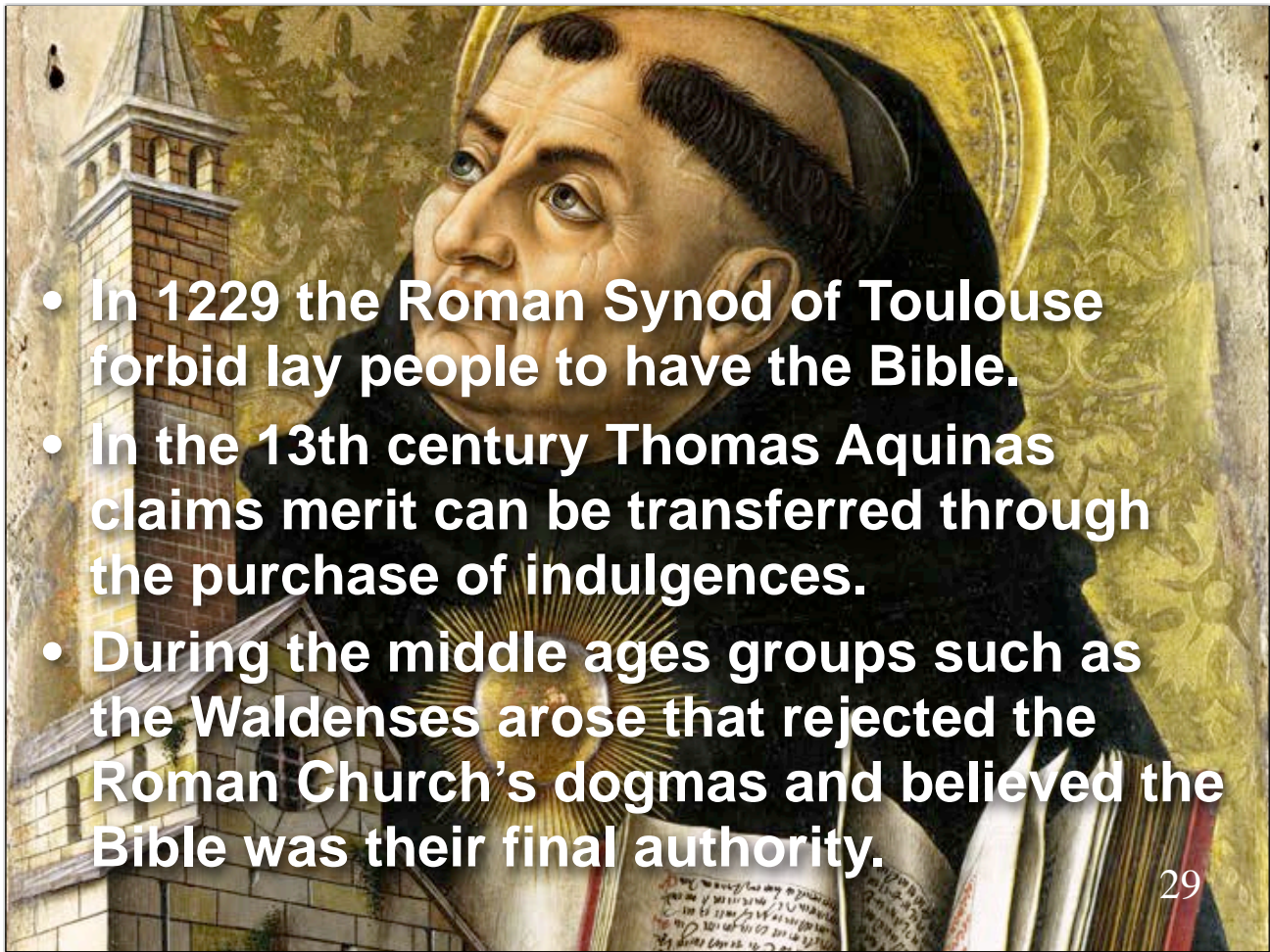
In the 13th century, Innocent III ordered inquisitions to prosecute Bible believers.

In one inquisition 2 million Albigenses were killed and over 50 million were slaughtered during the middle ages.

28

The church of Rome had drifted into full fledged apostasy, not only tolerating sin and sexual immorality, but practicing idolatry and putting to death anyone who contended for the truth of God's word.

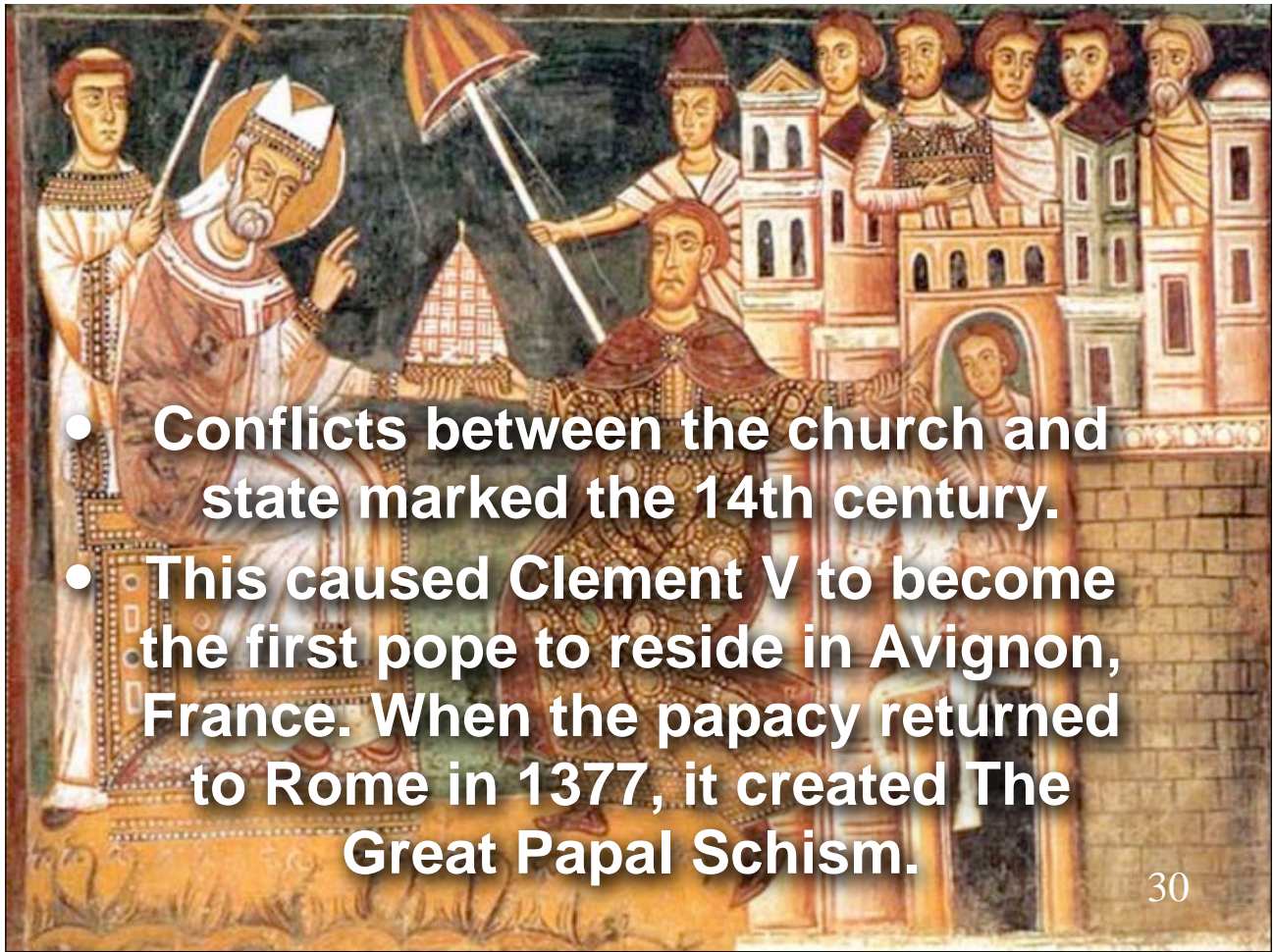
W. C. Brownlee, from *Letters in the Roman Catholic Controversy*, said: "Thus the church of Rome stands before the world, the woman in scarlet, on the scarlet colored Beast. A church claiming to be Christian, is drenched in the blood of sixty-eight million five hundred thousand human beings!"



- In 1229 the Roman Synod of Toulouse forbid lay people to have the Bible.
- In the 13th century Thomas Aquinas claims merit can be transferred through the purchase of indulgences.
- During the middle ages groups such as the Waldenses arose that rejected the Roman Church's dogmas and believed the Bible was their final authority.

29

The Waldenses were excommunicated by the Church for preaching without the approval of the bishop. This pious group of believers lived a humble life preaching and sharing the gospel in the rural areas throughout France.



- **Conflicts between the church and state marked the 14th century.**
- **This caused Clement V to become the first pope to reside in Avignon, France. When the papacy returned to Rome in 1377, it created The Great Papal Schism.**

30

For the next 38 years, rival popes claimed the papal throne from Rome and Avignon. Efforts at resolution failed and a third pope was elected in 1409 to share the throne. The matter was finally resolved in 1417 when all three resigned and a new election named Martin V the pope.

The next year Jan Hus was burned at the stake for heresy.

The Sale of Indulgences

In 1516, Pope Leo needed cash to finish St. Peter's Basilica so he raised money by selling indulgences for God's forgiveness. Ironically, this cathedral built to worship God was paid for with the wages of iniquity!

Tetzel was appointed to sell indulgences in Germany. Tetzel, proclaimed indulgences were the most precious gift of God. His certificates for pardon of sins had power to save the living and the dead. He assured people that the very moment the money was paid, the soul would escape from purgatory.

Heresy and Corruption

In God's providence, Martin Luther was sent to Rome and was shocked at the immoral corruption of the clergy. While there he climbed these stairs on his knees, believing each step would take away one year in purgatory. Then God's Word spoke to him, "The just shall live by faith."

32

Luther sprang to his feet and ran off in shame and horror. Romans 1:17 never lost its power on his soul. He saw more clearly than ever before the fallacy of trusting human works for salvation. His eyes had been opened, never again to be deceived by the delusions of the papacy.

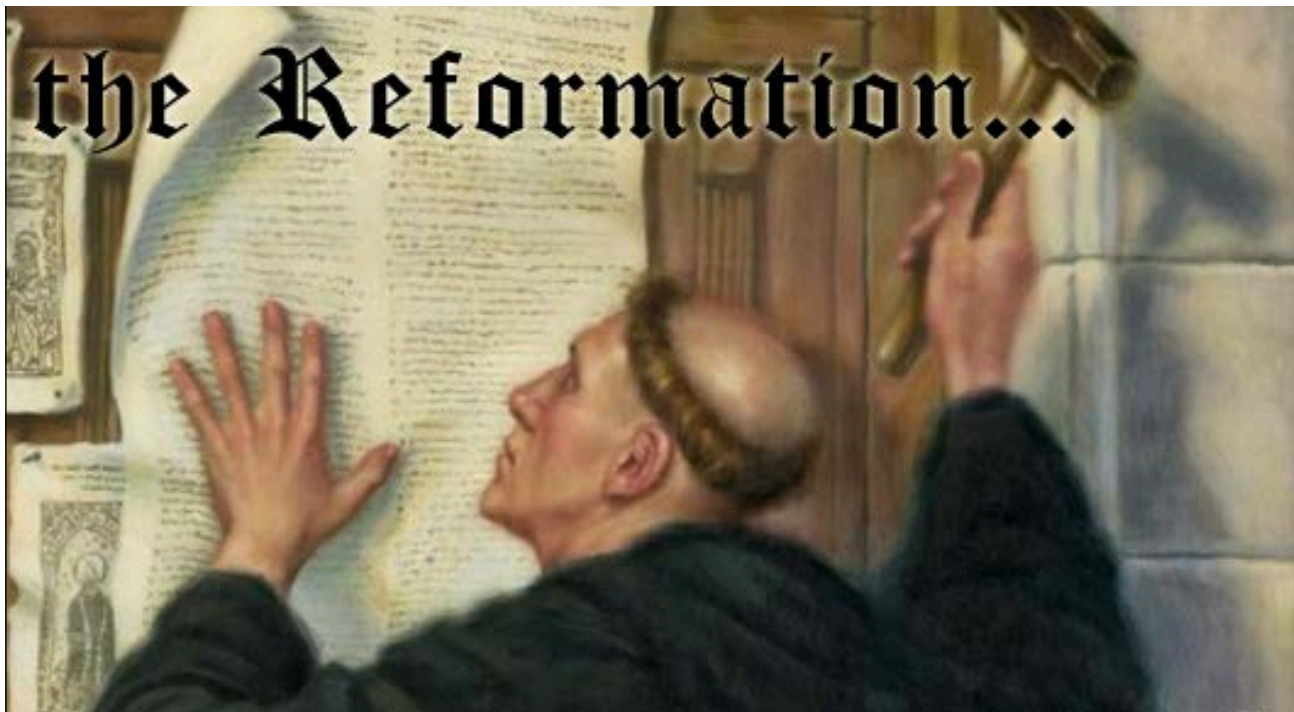
Relics and Indulgences

The Castle Church of Wittenberg had over 1900 relics of dead saints on display.

Catholics were granted indulgences for the remission of sins if they viewed the relics and made confession.

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The gross superstition that accompanied the use of relics originated in paganism. This idolatrous practice is just one of many that reveals the great deception within the Catholic religion.



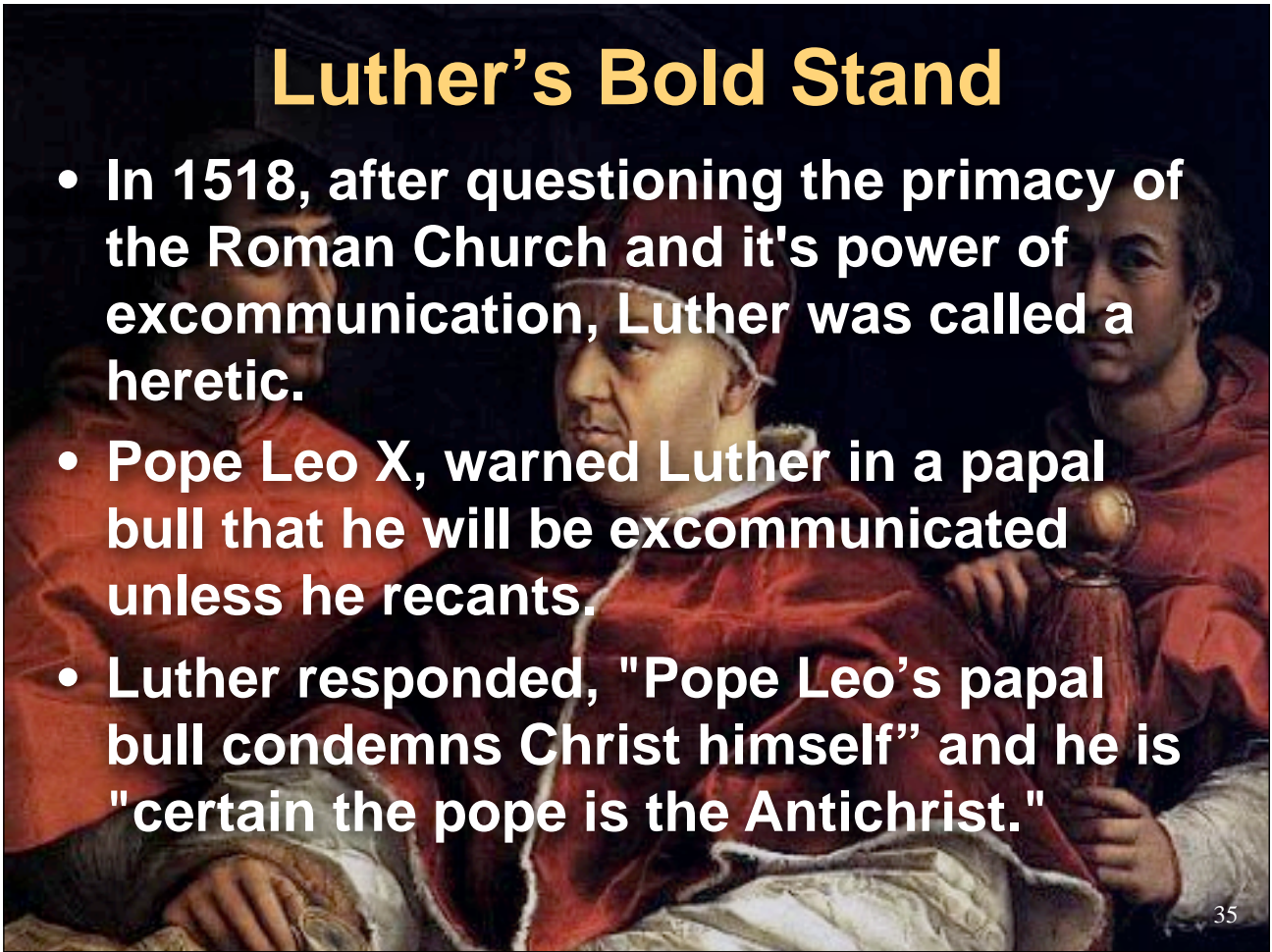
On Oct. 31, 1517, the eve of All Saints Day, when Catholics would be venerating their relics, Luther posted ninety-five thesis against indulgences on the door of the Castle church. ³⁴

Luther exposed indulgences as a wicked method to extort money and a device of Satan to destroy the souls of the deceived.

Years later, the Council of Trent, commanded the veneration of dead bodies condemned those who did not believe in relics. Since it was believed that "many benefits" could come through the bones of dead men, the sale of bodies and bones became big business for the Church of Rome!

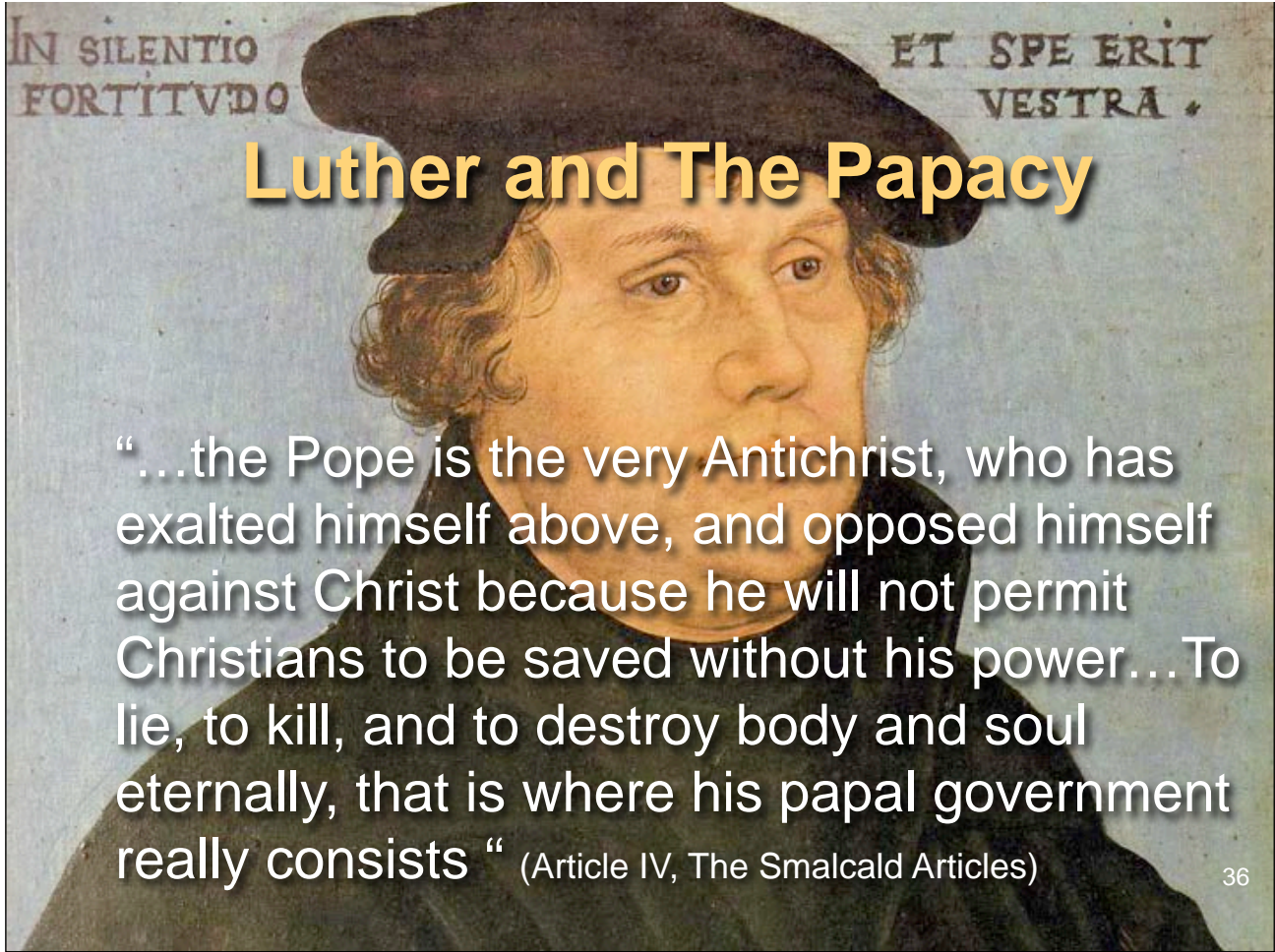
Luther's Bold Stand

- In 1518, after questioning the primacy of the Roman Church and its power of excommunication, Luther was called a heretic.
- Pope Leo X, warned Luther in a papal bull that he will be excommunicated unless he recants.
- Luther responded, "Pope Leo's papal bull condemns Christ himself" and he is "certain the pope is the Antichrist."



35

Luther said, "A serious struggle has just begun. Up until now, I have been only playing with the pope. I began this work in God's name; it will be ended without me, and by His might."



Through the proclamation of God's Word by Luther and other Reformers, the truth was setting many captives free from religious deception and bondage.

The Vatican's First Attempt to Reverse the Reformation

Luther responded in 1541: "Popish writers pretend that they have always taught, what we now teach, concerning faith and good works, and that they are unjustly accused of the contrary, thus the wolf puts on the sheep's skin till he gains admission into the fold."

37

This attempt by Rome to reverse the reformation was a pre-cursor to the unity accords that are seducing many evangelicals today. Rome's historic apostasy is now drawing other professing Christians into its web through the ecumenical movement.

We need to be students of history and learn from it. "Those who will not learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

Rome's Apostasy Is Complete

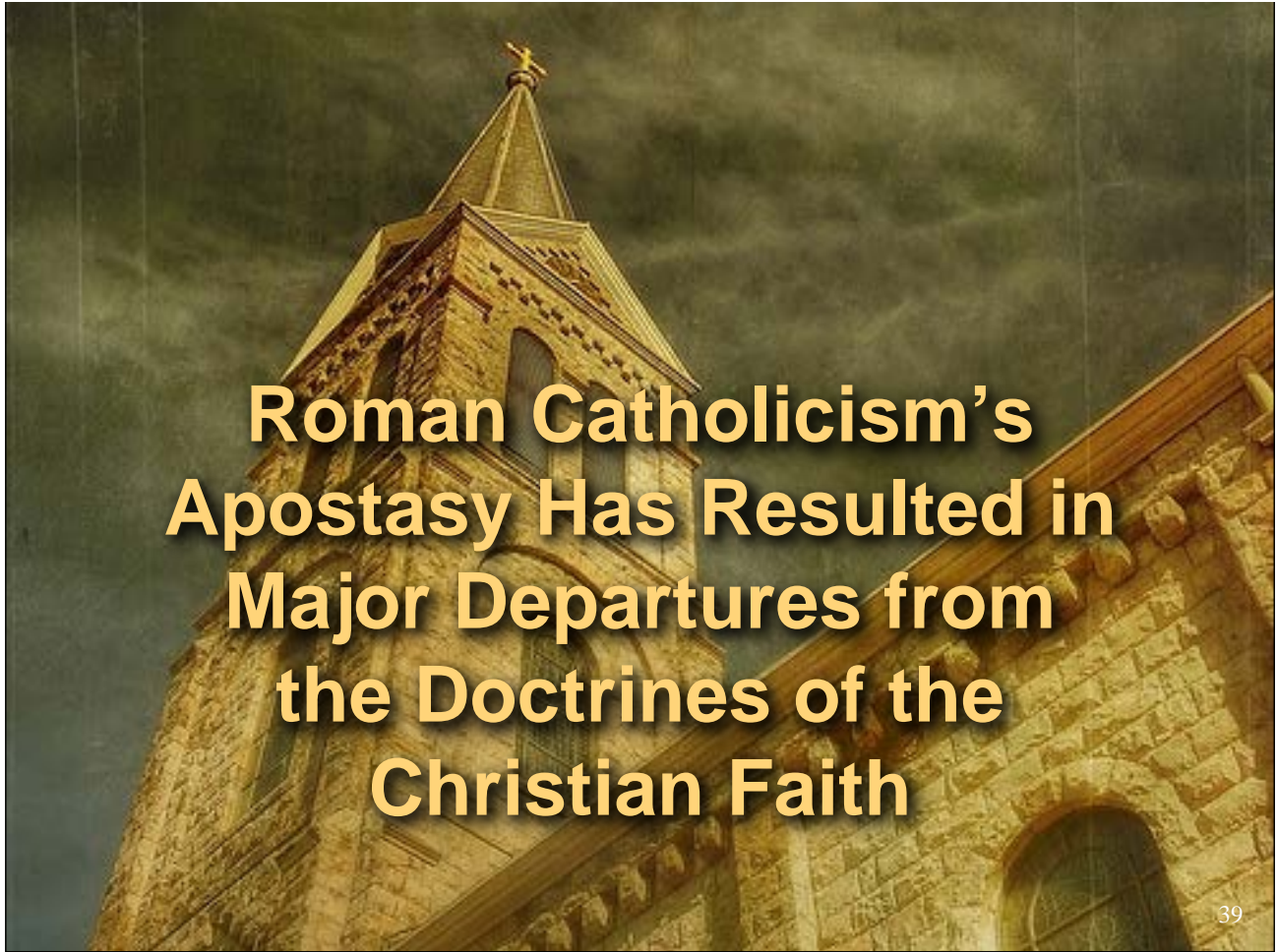
Rome deliberately and dogmatically departed from the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the Council of Trent in 1545.

Her apostasy is documented by over 100 infallible anathemas that condemn Bible believers who trust Christ as He is revealed in Scripture.

38

The council also elevated religious tradition to be equal in authority to God's holy Word. The Bishops placed the Bible on the list of forbidden books. They would not forgive the sins of anyone who had a Bible in their possession until they returned it.

Twenty four years after Trent a papal bull established devotion to the rosary which guides Catholics through 53 repetitious prayers to Mary. Praying to anyone other than the triune God is blasphemy.



We all need to know this so we will know how to contend for the faith. There is much at stake if we don't... The glory, honor and name of Jesus Christ, the sanctity of His Church. the purity of His Gospel and the eternal destiny of those who are being deceived.



Rome's Rejection of Scriptural Authority

- Rome rejects the supreme authority of Scripture by elevating its tradition and bishops to be equal in authority (CCC, 95)
- Rome corrupts God's Word by adding its traditions to it (CCC, 97).
- Rome declares its bishops *alone* have been entrusted with giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God (CCC, 85)

Some Scriptures are easy to understand but the ignorant and unstable twist them to their own destruction. The apostle John wrote: "These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him" (1 John 2:26–27)

Paul made it clear about the authority of Scripture when he wrote: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16).

We also see the warning for adding to God's Word. "Every word of God is pure... Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar" (Prov. 30:5–6).

The Denial of Jesus Christ

- Rome denies He is the only sinless mediator and the only head of the church (I Tim. 2:5; Col. 2:9-10)
- denies His atonement is sufficient for eternal justification (Heb. 10:14)
- denies His work of redemption is finished (Heb. 9:12, John 19:30)
- denies His blood as the only purification for sin (1 John 1:7).

41

Peter wrote: “false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, ***even denying the Master who bought them***, bringing upon themselves swift destruction” (2 Pet. 2:1). Roman Catholicism denies the finished work of Christ and offer a counterfeit Christ in His place.

The Jesus of Catholicism



These are the three primary ways Jesus is depicted in the Catholic religion. In all three depictions, he is helpless to do anything for Catholics.

The Sacrifice of the Mass

“The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice.” (CCC, 1367)

“If any one says the sacrifice of the mass...is not a propitiatory sacrifice; or, that it ought not to be offered for the living and the dead for sins, pains, and satisfactions; let him be anathema.” (Council of Trent)

43

This highly mystical ritual is multi-sensory which appeals to the flesh. The Sacrifice of the Mass involves touching, seeing, tasting the wafer god as well as smelling the incense and hearing the bells.

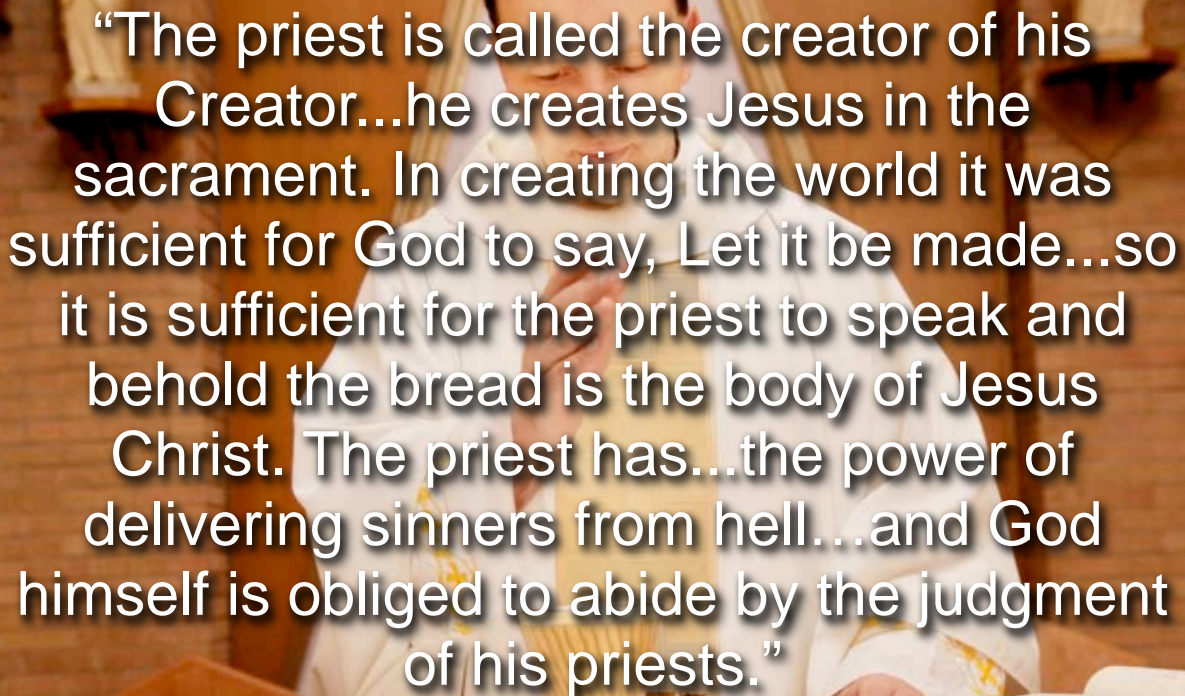
Rome's illegitimate priesthood encourages the idolatrous worship of a wafer as the physical presence of Jesus (CCC, 1378). Yet the Lord Jesus said “if anyone says, here is the Christ!...do not believe it” (Mat. 24:23). God's Word make it clear that Jesus is not physically present in the Eucharist, “He shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin” (Heb. 9:28).

Which is the True Jesus?

- **Catholics teach Jesus is received physically, frequently, in the stomach. “The body, blood...soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ...is truly, really and substantially contained in the Eucharist” (CCC, 1374-78).**
- **Christians receive Jesus once, spiritually, in the heart. “Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith” (Eph. 3:17).**

44

Paul wrote: “For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough” (2 Cor. 11:4).

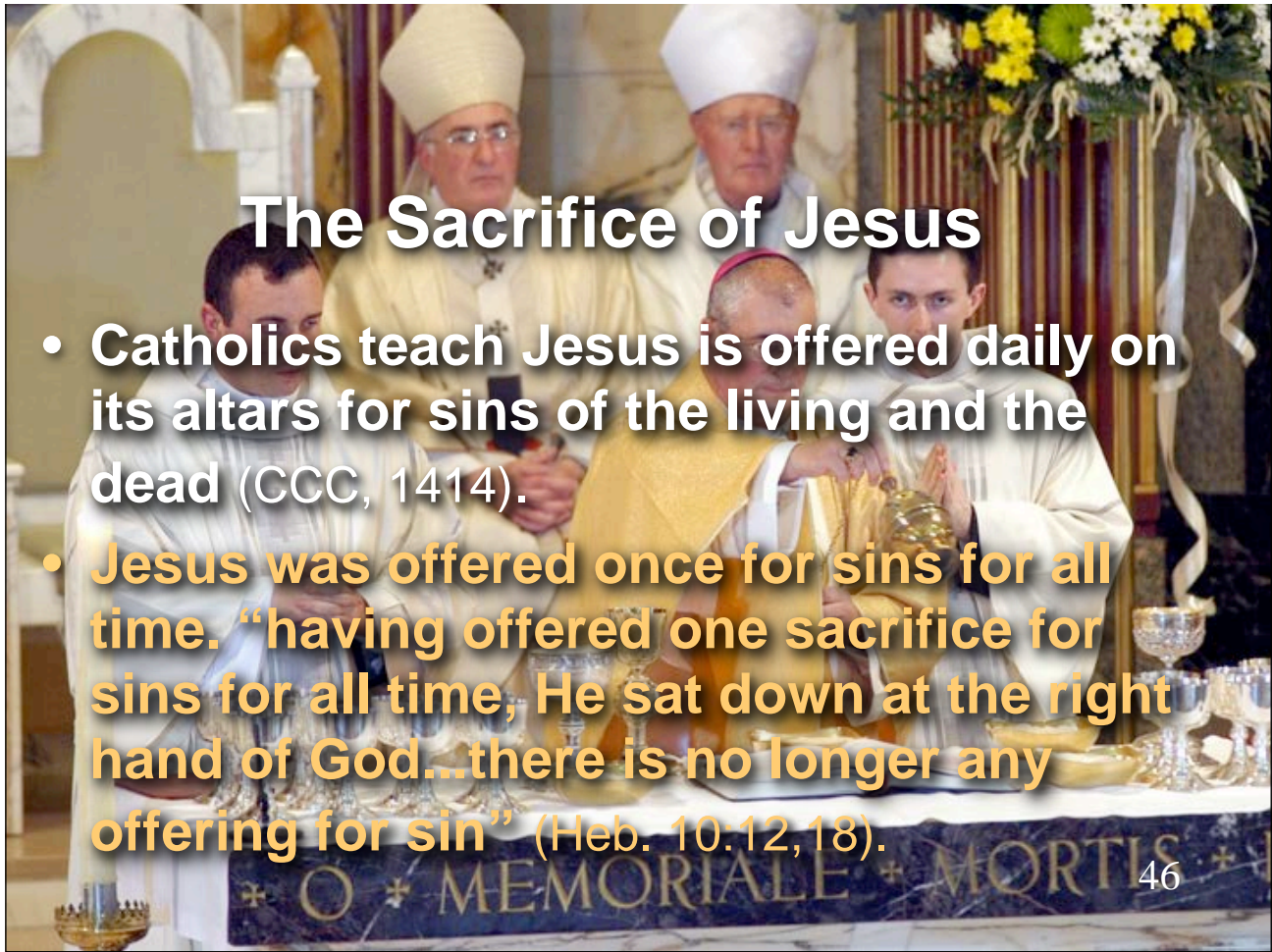
A photograph of a priest in white vestments performing a ritual. He is holding a golden chalice and a host. The background is a brick wall with a window. The text is overlaid on the image.

“The priest is called the creator of his Creator...he creates Jesus in the sacrament. In creating the world it was sufficient for God to say, Let it be made...so it is sufficient for the priest to speak and behold the bread is the body of Jesus Christ. The priest has...the power of delivering sinners from hell...and God himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of his priests.”

18th Century Bishop, St. Alphonsus de Liguori
The Dignity and Duties of the Priest

45

This bishop who blasphemed God was canonized in 1839 and proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1871.



The Sacrifice of Jesus

- Catholics teach Jesus is offered daily on its altars for sins of the living and the dead (CCC, 1414).
- Jesus was offered once for sins for all time. “having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, He sat down at the right hand of God...there is no longer any offering for sin” (Heb. 10:12,18).

The perfect high priest offered Himself the perfect sacrifice to a perfect God who demands perfection. The Mass is truly a blasphemous offering to God.

A Perversion of the Gospel

Biblical Gospel

- is by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph. 2:8-9).
- Those who believe anything else believe in vain. (1 Cor. 15:2)
- Cursed are those who preach another gospel. (Gal. 1:9)

Catholic Salvation

- ❖ is by faith *plus*:
- ❖ sacraments (1129)
- ❖ the Mass (1405)
- ❖ purgatory (1030)
- ❖ indulgences (1498)
- ❖ baptism (1256)
- ❖ law keeping (2068)
- ❖ good works (2016)

47

Another Jesus always leads to another gospel. Rome's Jesus is not sufficient to save sinners completely and forever so they need another gospel to instruct Catholics what they must do to be saved. Catholics teach they must merit the graces to attain eternal life. "We can merit for ourselves and for others the graces needed for the attainment of eternal life (CCC, 2010).

The Perversion of the God's Grace

Rome declares Grace is initiated by water baptism, lost by mortal sin, merited by good works, obtained through indulgences, distributed through Mary, the mediatrix of all grace in the sacraments and withheld from those excommunicated.

48

God's Word warns of those who will pervert His grace. "For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, ***who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality*** and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ" (Jude 4).

Opposing Views of Justification

Roman Catholics

- It is by grace + merit, God's work **in** us
- It is a process - righteousness is **infused**
- The duration of justification is **temporal** - lost by sin
- God justifies those who are **good**

God's Word

- It is by grace alone, God's work **for** us
- It is instantaneous - righteousness is **imputed**
- The duration of justification is **eternal** - never undone by sin
- God justifies the **ungodly** (Rom. 4:5)

49

Canon 9 from the Council of Trent: "If any one says, that by faith alone the impious is justified; such that nothing else is required to co-operate in order to the obtaining the grace of Justification, let him be anathema."

When you get justification wrong you get the Gospel wrong.
Justification is the hinge on which the gates of heaven open and close.



Apostates Follow Doctrine of Demons

**Rome adopted Satan's first lie
"You surely shall not die," with
its doctrine of venial sins.
Speaking through deluded
"ministers of righteousness,"
Rome declares venial sins "do
not cause death, only temporal
punishment." (CCC, para. 1863)**

50

God's Word declares: "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). "The soul that sins will surely die" (Ez. 18:4).

Purgatory

"If they have died repentant...but have not made satisfaction for [sins]...then their souls, after death, are cleansed by the punishment of Purgatory; also...the suffrages of the faithful still living are efficacious in bringing them relief from such punishment, namely the Sacrifice of the Mass, prayers and almsgiving." Council of Florence 1438

51

John MacArthur calls purgatory the safety net for Catholics. That's because most Catholics don't believe they are bad enough for hell so an intermediate place of purification is an attractive option. The Bible declares "...the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

Rome rejects God's promise of eternal life by teaching those justified may end up in hell (CCC, 1035).

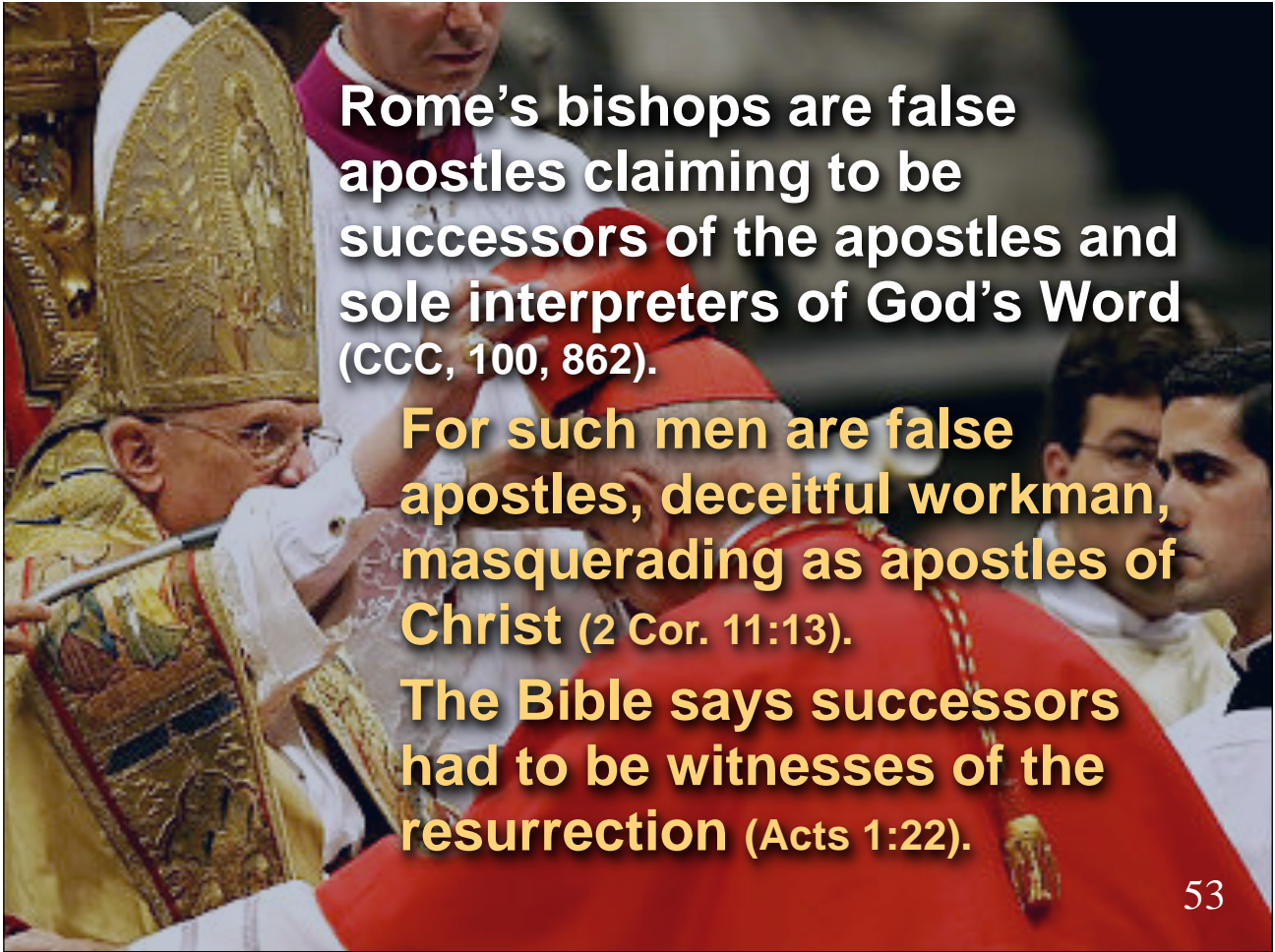
"...those whom he justified he also glorified." (Rom. 8:30).

Rome replaces the sovereign regenerating work of the Spirit with baptismal regeneration (CCC 1213).

Children of God are "born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:13).

52

Christians "have been born again, not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God" (1 Pet. 1:23).



Rome's bishops are false apostles claiming to be successors of the apostles and sole interpreters of God's Word (CCC, 100, 862).

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workman, masquerading as apostles of Christ (2 Cor. 11:13).

The Bible says successors had to be witnesses of the resurrection (Acts 1:22).

You can see how replacing the plurality of elders with ruling bishops in the 2nd century was a major catalyst for the drift into apostasy.

The Papacy is the Head of an Apostate Church

- Steals titles from the Triune God - Holy Father, Head of the Church, Vicar of Christ
- Receives Worship due only to God
- Usurps God's infallibility
- Condemns all who believe God's Gospel
- Robs Christ of His power over souls



54

The Pope has "supreme, full, immediate, and universal power in the care of souls. He is said to exercise this power unhindered" (CCC, 937).

Any pope who flouts his own authority, boasts of his own holiness and steals the titles given to God alone, defies imagination. Yet so many are so deluded by the papacy. Clearly the most wicked thing anyone could ever do is to deceive people about their eternal destiny. The pope is responsible for over a billion souls that trust him for the truth.

Papal Infallibility

The first Vatican Council in 1870 pronounced a dogma stating the Pope is preserved from the possibility of error "when, in the exercise of his office as shepherd and teacher of all Christians, in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole Church".

55

The doctrine was first proposed in the Middle ages and continued to gain approval by the bishops until it became dogma.

Mary Quite Contrary

The **Immaculate Conception** of Mary became dogma in 1854 declaring she was conceived without original sin.

In 1950 Mary's bodily **Assumption** into heaven became dogma



These doctrines formulated as early as the 6th century and through the piety of the people were finally declared dogma. The Council of Trent had earlier declared Mary was sinless throughout her life.

People who refuse to believe this are anathema. Catholics are also obligated to attend Mass on Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception and, in many countries, on Aug. 15 the feast of her assumption into heaven

An Apostate's Prayer

Come to my help, dearest Mother and advocate, in thy hands I place my eternal salvation and to thee do I entrust my soul...take me under thy protection, and it is enough for me. For, if thou protect me, I fear nothing; not from my sins, because thou wilt obtain for me the pardon of them; nor from the devils, because thou art more powerful than all hell together; nor even from Jesus, my Judge himself, because by one prayer from thee he will be appeased.

57

This is a popular prayer of Catholics taken from a book titled, *Devotions in Honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help*.

Let us look at some biblical contrasts between born-again Christians and apostates.

Born-Again Christians

- Possessors of Christ, made alive by the Spirit (Rom. 8:10-11)
- Earnestly contend for the God-given faith of the apostles (Jude 3)
- Exalt Jesus Christ as the only Master, Lord and Head of the Church (Eph. 1:22)

Apostates

- Professors of Christ who are spiritually dead (Mat. 7:22; Jude 12)
- Deliberately depart from the faith of apostles (1 Tim. 4:1)
- Deny Jesus Christ as the all-sufficient Savior and the only Lord and Head of the Church (Jude 4)

There is great comfort in knowing that a born-again Christian has been sealed by the Holy Spirit and can never fall away into apostasy. This is based on the promises and power of our omnipotent God and Savior.

Born-Again Christians

- Know God and do the works prepared by Him (Eph. 2:10)
- Devoted to apostolic teaching and sound doctrine (Acts 2:42)
- Saved by grace because of what **God has done** in Christ (Rom. 3:24-26)

Apostates

- Claim to know God but deny Him by their deeds (Titus 1:16)
- Exchange sound doctrine and truth for myths (2 Tim. 4:3-4)
- Believe salvation is based on what **man must do** for God (Gal. 1:6-9)

59

In these days of growing apostasy the line the contrast between born-again believers and apostates has become blurred. What was once a black and white issue at the time of the Reformation has now unfortunately become gray within evangelical circles.

It is my prayer that we can all learn from church history and contend earnestly for the faith against the growing ecumenical movement.



What Must We Do?

- Don't be surprised by the growing deception in the church. God allows it for the testing of our faith.
- Abide in the Word faithfully and study it systematically to learn the whole counsel of God (John 8:31-32). Ignorance of Scripture leaves Christians prone to deception (Mat. 22:29).
- Grow in the knowledge of Christ to be able to contend earnestly for the faith (Col. 2:6-7).
- Love the truth with a passion so that you will hate the error that opposes God's word (2 Thes. 2:10).

60

We must be obedient to the Word of God and keep away from every brother who does not live according to apostolic teaching. (2 Thes. 3:6); avoid those who oppose sound doctrine. (Rom. 16:17); withdraw from those who advocate a different doctrine (1 Tim. 6:3-5); remain sanctified by the truth (John 17:17); avoid being yoked with unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14-17) and expose false teachers (Eph. 5:11).

What is at Stake if We Don't Contend for the Faith?

- The glory, honor and name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The sanctity of His Church.
- The purity of His Gospel
- The eternal destiny of those who are being deceived

61

There are many examples I could give of the dreadful consequences that arise as a result of not contending earnestly for the faith.



The Consequence of Not Contending for the Faith

“The rift that occurred between Catholics and Protestants 500 years ago is ‘theological pettiness’. We’ll have plenty of time in Heaven to figure out who was right about Purgatory and Mary. John Paul was a Man of God...whom all Christians should admire, thank and emulate.”

Pastor Andy McQuitty, Irving Bible Church

62

This was published in the May 2005 publication of Irving Bible Church called Chatter shortly after Pope John Paul II died.

A Vivid Contrast

- The apostles were strong, bold, fearless, dogmatic, intolerant, inflexible with the truth, unaccommodating of sin and error.
- New Evangelicalism is identified by Christians who are: cautious, tolerant, pragmatic, flexible, accommodating, passive, non-controversial, politically correct, non-offensive and non-dogmatic with self-serving agendas. agendas



63

Charles Woodbridge said, "The New Evangelicalism is a theological and moral compromise of the deadliest sort. It is an insidious attack upon the Word of God. The New Evangelical advocates toleration of error and follows the downward path of accommodation to error, cooperation with error, contamination by error, and ultimate capitulation to error"



Apostates are on a Different Path to Eternity

The Narrow Way

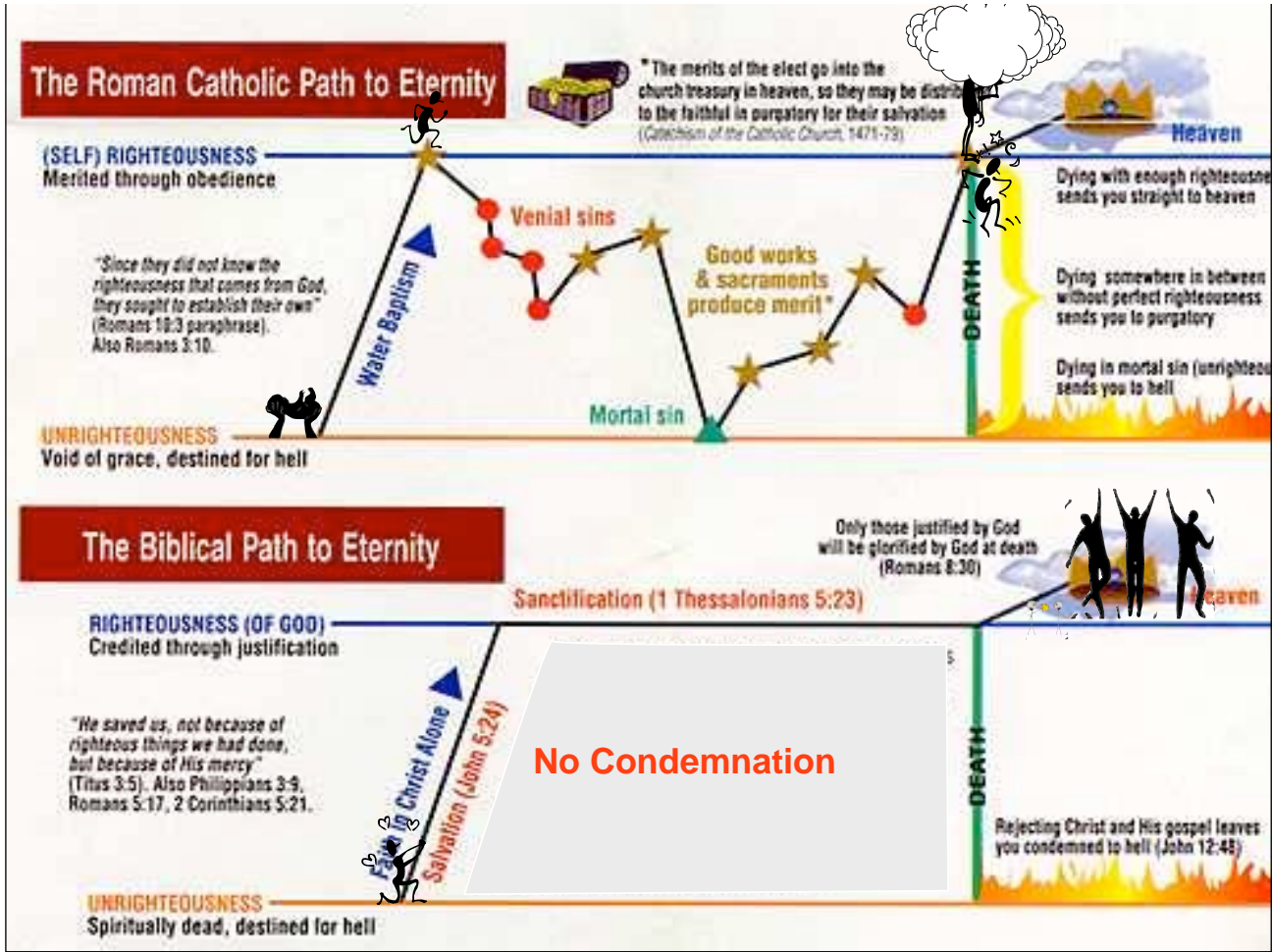
The Broad Way

- 📖 leads to life
- 📖 few find it
- 📖 difficult, must strive to enter it
- 📖 by God's grace & righteousness

- ⚡ leads to destruction
- ⚡ many are on it
- ⚡ easy, follow anyone other than Jesus
- ⚡ by good works & self-righteousness

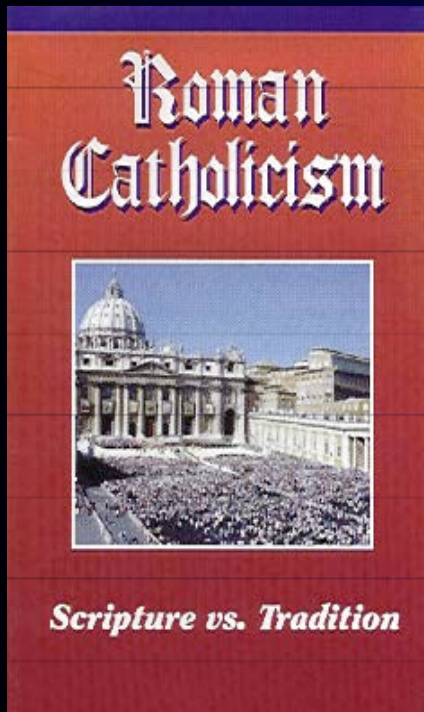
I have a great compassion for those who are traveling the broad way that I once traveled for over 30 years.

May we all leave her with a greater compassion for Roman Catholics who are victims of the worst kind of deception. You and I have been entrusted with the truth, let us proclaim it with clarity and boldness!



These two paths to eternity are available on our Gospel tracts entitled Roman Catholicism: Scripture vs. Tradition.

Gospel Tracts



This 16-panel booklet shows how the *Catholic Catechism* contradicts the Bible and persuades Catholics to trust God and His Word over man and his traditions
Available in Spanish and Portuguese

66

Many of our resources will equip and encourage you to rescue victims of deception by pointing them to the truth that will set them free.



The Christian's Responsibility

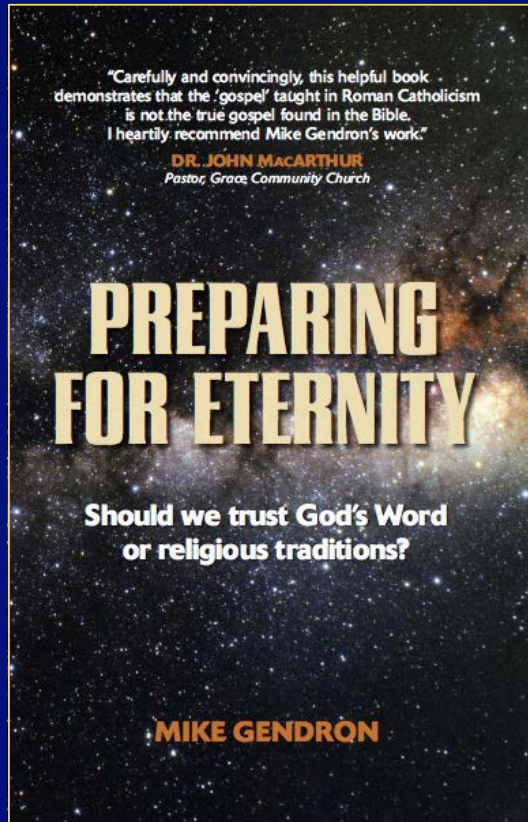
- **God's Holy Word gives constant warnings to the church to be on guard against doctrinal defection which leads to apostasy.**
- **Christians are to stand firm on the truth of God's Word and be sober and alert lest we be swept away by the growing wave of apostasy in the last days.**

67

We must speak the truth in love when anyone willfully misrepresents the authority, character or attributes of God. It is the duty of every Christian to know, proclaim, guard and defend the truth of God's word (1Tim. 6:20-21).

To do nothing shows, either an indifference towards the Lord Jesus, or a greater loyalty to another person or institution. May we all show our loyalty to our Lord and Savior by being faithful to His great commission! Amen!

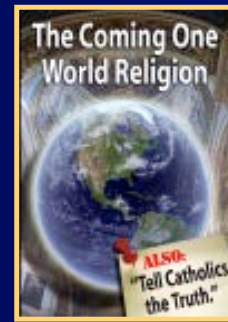
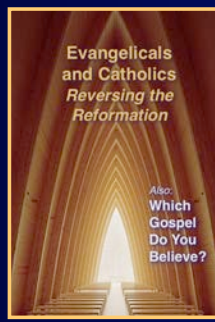
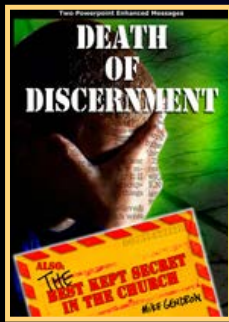
GOSPEL RESOURCES



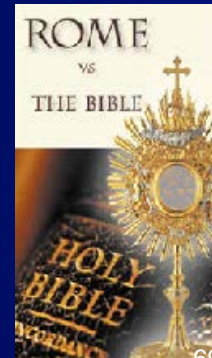
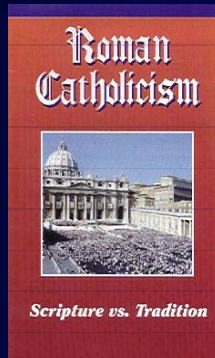
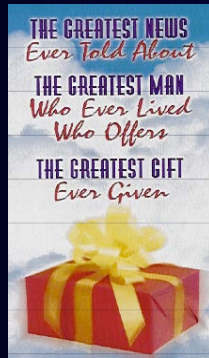
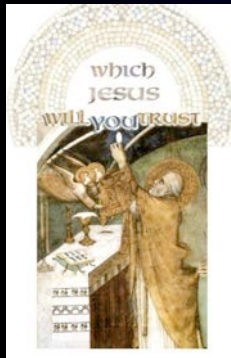
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Proclaiming the Gospel Ministries was established in 1991 by Mike Gendron to serve and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping and encouraging Christians to proclaim the Gospel clearly, faithfully and effectively. The ministry also exposes the fatal errors of Roman Catholicism and apostate Christianity, along with other faith movements such as the emerging church, purpose driven church and the church growth movement. We also proclaim the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ and exhort believers to contend earnestly for the faith until that glorious day.



www.ProclaimingTheGospel.org