

Clear Distinction Ministries

Study Notes

Night #14: “**Protestantism: Our Forgotten Legacy!**”

Rome’s Challenge: Is Your Protest Over?

- What is Protestantism? Many Christians are called by that name today. What is its history? The very heart of the name is **PROTEST**. Protest is in fact a Biblical principle that Christ approves for the right reasons (***Zech. 3:6-8***). Biblical protest is never antagonistic to people but in favor of Truth. **There was a time when to be a protestant was to stand in defense of God’s Word above the traditions of the Papacy**. Can the same be said of the current generation of professed Protestants?

“Romanism is now regarded by Protestants with far greater favor than in former years. In those countries where Catholicism is not in the ascendancy, and the papists are taking a conciliatory course in order to gain influence, there is an increasing indifference concerning the doctrines that separate the reformed churches from the papal hierarchy; the opinion is gaining ground that, after all, we do not differ so widely upon vital points as has been supposed, and that a little concession on our part will bring us into a better understanding with Rome. The time was when Protestants placed a high value upon the liberty of conscience which had been so dearly purchased. They taught their children to abhor popery and held that to seek harmony

with Rome would be disloyalty to God. But how widely different are the sentiments now expressed!”

(*The Great Controversy* pg. 563.1)

- To demonstrate the truth of the above statement, we'll evaluate the quotation below, made by Bishop Tony Palmer before a congregation of Americas leading Protestant Evangelical ministers.

“Division destroys our credibility. **It is fear that keeps us separated because fear is False Evidence Appearing Real.** Its an acronym. F.E.A.R...**because most of your fear is based on propaganda**...in 1999 the Roman Catholic Church & Protestant Lutheran Church signed an agreement that brought an end to the protest. **Luther believed that we are saved by grace through faith alone...the Catholic Church believed that we were saved by works and that was their protest...Brothers and sisters the protest is over—is yours?...i challenge my Protestant pastor friends—if there is no more protest, how can there be a Protestant Church?”**

-Bishop Tony Palmer, Addressing an assembly of Evangelical Charismatic leaders in the United States, Feb. 2014

- “Division destroys our credibility.” This is true only so long as there is no **CREDIBLE REASON** for our division. Why are true Protestants divided from the Papal Church? Are those reasons credible? Indeed they are! It is the duty of Protestants today to make plain those causes in our generation. Such a duty reminds me of those famous

words written at the dawn of this nations independence and separation from Britain; “When in the Course of human events, **it becomes necessary** for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, **a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation,**” - *The United States Declaration of Independence Preamble, July 4th 1776.*

- What are the causes of our separation, our protest and division from the Papacy today? Was it merely fear and propaganda as Bishop Tony Palmer suggested? Was Martin Luther’s protest ONLY against the doctrine of salvation by works? What about his 95 Thesis at Wittenberg protesting the doctrine of indulgences? What about the Protestant position against the worship of statues/idols and dead saints amongst many other things? Can the signing of a piece of paper in 1999, erase the history of murdering Christians that took place from 538 Ad at the start of the Papal power until 1798 AD when she received her deadly wound? God forbid. **Beloved, so long as there is a church on earth, led by a man who professes to be God on earth, the Protest must continue.**

“At Wittenberg a light was kindled whose rays should extend to the uttermost parts of the earth, and which was to increase in brightness **to the close of time.**”

(*The Great Controversy pg. 126.2*)

“The official appointed to conduct the sale of indulgences in Germany—Tetzel by name...declared that by virtue of his certificates of pardon all the sins which the purchaser should *afterward* desire to commit would be forgiven him, and that “*not even repentance is necessary*... More than this, he assured his hearers that the indulgences had power to save not only the living but the dead; that the very moment the money should clink against the bottom of his chest, the soul in whose behalf it had been paid would escape from purgatory and make its way to heaven. (See *K. R. Hagenbach, History of the Reformation, vol. 1, p. 96.*)...Luther, though still a papist of the strictest sort, was filled with horror at the blasphemous assumptions of the indulgence mongers. Many of his own congregation had purchased certificates of pardon, and they soon began to come to their pastor, confessing their various sins, and expecting absolution, not because they were penitent and wished to reform, but on the ground of the indulgence. **Luther refused them absolution, and warned them that unless they should repent and reform their lives, they must perish in their sins.”**

(The Great Controversy pg. 127.2-128.3)

The Heart of Our Protest—Traditions of Men vs the Word of God!

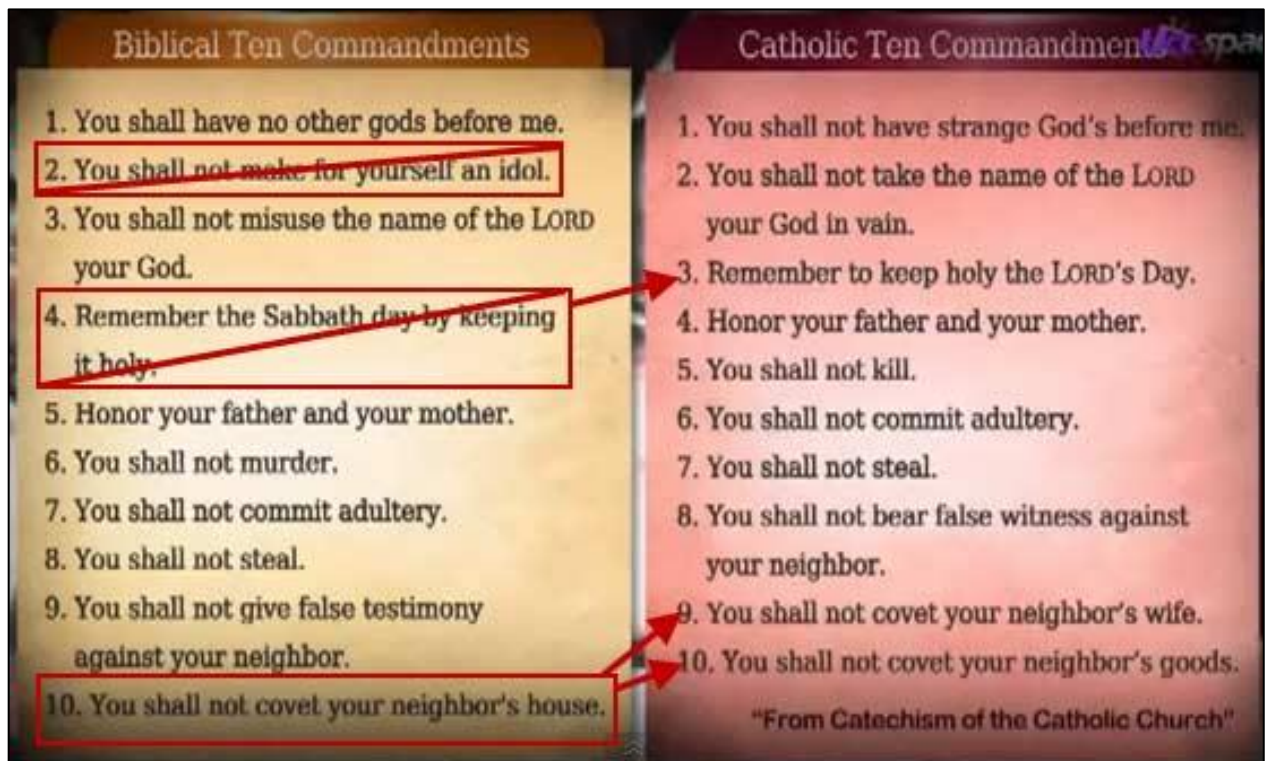
- All of the Protestant reformers lived by the words “Sola Scriptura,” meaning the Bible and the Bible alone. Their faith was in the Word of God, even when it contradicted the tradition of Popes and priests and even kings. **When tradition contradicted the Word of God they, like Peter lived by those holy words “we ought to obey God**

rather than men,” (**Acts 5:29**). There are many traditions, too many to list here, held by Roman Catholics today that have no foundation in the Word of God. Below are listed just a few for our review and what the Bible says about these traditions.

Papal Tradition (<i>Matt. 15:9</i>)	The Bible (<i>Ps. 119:105</i>)
1. Catholic Priests are called “father.”	1. “Call <u>no man</u> your father.” (<i>Matt. 23:9</i>)
2. Sins are confessed to a priest for forgiveness.	2. God <u>alone</u> can forgive sins. (<i>Mark 2:7</i>)
3. Prayers to the spirits of dead saints.	3. This is an abomination to the Lord. (<i>Deut. 18:9-11</i>)
4. Mary as co-mediator with Christ.	4. There is “ <u>ONE MEDIATOR.</u> ”
5. Prayers to Mary.	5. Pray to the Father in Christ’s name. (<i>John 14:13-14</i>)
6. The worship of graven images (Idols)	6. This breaks the 2 nd commandment (<i>Ex. 20:4-6</i>)

- **The Christian position, the Protestant position will always be in favor of God’s Word over the traditions of men.** The Bible said that the Little Horn would “**think to change times and laws**” (***Dan. 7:25***). The Papacy has tried to do that very thing with God’s law (see next page). **In the Roman Catholic Catechism the 2nd commandment, prohibiting the worship of idols has been**

removed, the 4th commandment regarding the seventh day Sabbath has been changed in favor of what is called “the Lord’s day” or Sunday and the 10th commandment was split into two to hide the fact that the 2nd commandment was entirely thrown out. This too, the true Protestant continues to protest today. The protest is against a **SYSTEM** in opposition of God.



“It is true that there are real Christians in the Roman Catholic communion. Thousands in that church are serving God according to the best light they have...But Romanism as a system is no more in harmony with the gospel of Christ now than at any former period in her history. The Protestant churches are in great darkness, or they would discern the signs of the times. The Roman Church is far-reaching in her

plans and modes of operation. **She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done. Catholicism is gaining ground upon every side.**"

(The Great Controversy pg. 565.3-4)

"Protestants have tampered with and patronized popery; they have made compromises and concessions which papists themselves are surprised to see and fail to understand. Men are closing their eyes to the real character of Romanism and the dangers to be apprehended from her supremacy. The people need 1)to be aroused 2)to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty."

(The Great Controversy pg. 566.1)

The Role of the Jesuits In History:

- The current head of the Papacy, Pope Francis is a known **Jesuit**. In 2015, he became the **1st pope to ever address the Congress (law makers) of these United States**. The evidences of a closing distance between this Protestant nation and the Papacy is evident. What does it all mean? Let's allow history to speak for itself concerning **the Jesuit order and its influence**. We've gathered 7 sources.

**1. John Adams, 2nd President of the United States of America Said:
(1735-1826)**

“My history of **the Jesuits** is not eloquently written, but it is supported by unquestionable authorities and is very particular and very horrible. **Their restoration is indeed a step toward darkness, cruelty, despotism and death...I do not like the appearance of the Jesuits!** If ever there was a **body of men who merited eternal damnation on earth and in hell**, it is this Society of Loyola.”

**2. Marquis de LaFayette, French Statesmen/General During the
American Revolutionary War Said:
(1757-1834)**

“It is my opinion that **if the liberties of this country—the United States of America—are destroyed, it will be by the subtlety of the Roman Catholic Jesuit priests, for they are the most crafty, dangerous enemies to civil and religious liberty!** They have instigated most of the wars of Europe!”

**3. Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United states Said:
(1809-1865)**

“The war [American Civil War] would never have been possible without the sinister influence of the Jesuits.”

**4. Napoleon Bonaparte, French General & Emperor Said:
(1769-1821)**

“The Jesuits are a MILITARY organization, not a religious order. Their chief is a general of an army, not the mere father abbot of a monastery. And the aim of this organization is power—power in its most despotic exercise—absolute power, universal power, power to control the world by the volition of a single man.”

**5. Fyodor Dostovsky, Famous Russian Novelist Said:
(1821-1881)**

“The Jesuits...are simply the Romish army for the earthly sovereignty of the world in the future, with the Pontiff [Pope] of Rome for emperor...that’s their ideal...It is simple lust of power, of filthy earthly gain, of domination—something like a universal serfdom with them as masters—that’s all they stand for.”

**6. Robert J. Breckinridge, Politician & Presbyterian Minister Said:
(1800-1871)**

“The Society of Jesus [the Jesuit Order] is the enemy of man. The whole human race should unite from its overthrow...For there is no alternative between its total extirpation and the **absolute corruption and degradation of mankind.”**

**7. Friedrich von Hardenberg, German Philosopher Said:
(1772-1801)**

“Never before in the course of the world’s history had such a society [the Jesuit Order] appeared. The old Roman Senate itself did not lay schemes for world domination with greater certainty of success.”

“Throughout Christendom, Protestantism was menaced by formidable foes. The first triumphs of the Reformation past, Rome summoned new forces, hoping to accomplish its destruction. At this time the order of the Jesuits was created, the most cruel, unscrupulous, and powerful of all the champions of popery. Cut off from earthly ties and human interests, dead to the claims of natural affection, reason and conscience wholly silenced, they knew no rule, no tie, but that of their order, and no duty but to extend its power... There was no crime too great for them to commit, no deception too base for them to practice, no disguise too difficult for them to assume. Vowed to perpetual poverty and humility, it was their studied aim to secure wealth and power, to be devoted to the overthrow of Protestantism, and the re-establishment of the papal supremacy.”

(The Great Controversy pg. 234.2)

“When appearing as members of their order, they wore a garb of sanctity, visiting prisons and hospitals, ministering to the sick and the poor, professing to have renounced the world, and bearing the sacred name of Jesus, who went about doing good. But under this blameless exterior

the most criminal and deadly purposes were often concealed. It was a fundamental principle of the order that the end justifies the means. By this code, lying, theft, perjury, assassination, were not only pardonable but commendable, when they served the interests of the church. Under various disguises the Jesuits worked their way into offices of state, climbing up to be the counselors of kings, and shaping the policy of nations."

(The Great Controversy pg. 235.1)