



Mark. 4:26

The Spirit of Prophecy

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Denmark

The Nordic Newsletter Edition

January 2013

Is the Pope in Jeopardy ?

By Richard Bennett

Amidst pictures of the ailing condition of the Pope, news of an intense power struggle within the Vatican has overflowed publicly. The latest revelations regarding the affairs of the *Vatican Bank* are not startling as the Papacy has a long, long history of financial scandals. The current one was reported in *The Australian* on June 18, 2012,

"In the latest scandal to engulf the Pope a church official has warned that a 'time bomb' is about to explode over mafia money allegedly invested in the Vatican bank. Prosecutors are investigating claims a Sicilian mafia godfather laundered cash through the Institute for Religious Works (IOR), as the bank is officially known. The move follows the *arrest* of the Pope's former butler and the leaking of files outlining Vatican corruption, cronyism and infighting, in the worst crisis of the Pope's seven year papacy."

The Pope's Depleted legacy

The portrayal and description of Vatican City and its Pope leave much to be explained. For example, "Here are a few excerpts from the Reuters' story: Call it Conspiracy City. Call it Scandal City. Call it Leak City. These days the holy city has been in the news for anything but holy reasons. It is a total mess, said one high-ranking Vatican official who spoke, like all others, on the condition of anonymity.

Some news sources speak of various mysterious scheming against the Pope as the reason why these calamities have come upon Benedict XVI while others are adamant that the Pope should be using his power more actively by taking charge of the situation. *The Australian* reports that "...Benedict XVI, 85, implicitly denounced the leaks as the work of the devil." The Pope is undoubtedly right on that score, *but* not primarily from the causes that are presently being named. *Rather* from a biblical perspective, the real starting point and reasons for the Pope's woes are to be found *elsewhere*.



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Some Basic Reasons for the Pope's Afflictions

A basic reason for the Pope's woes is to be found in his compilation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1994. Under the authority of Pope John Paul II, as Cardinal Ratzinger at the time, Benedict XVI held the office of *Prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*. In that capacity, he was responsible for oversight and publication of the official *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1994). This was the first universal Catholic catechism in nearly five hundred years, and in it is clearly stated following dogma that Catholics must believe,

"... the Roman pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power he can always exercise unhindered."

Thus, the eleventh century claim of Pope Gregory VII that the Pope is Christ's Vicar has been newly expanded in the 1994 *Catechism*. What Ratzinger has *added* is the claim for universal, absolute power for the Pope.

The Lord Jesus Christ entrusted the universal care of redeemed souls into the safekeeping of the Holy Spirit. That Ratzinger should lay claim to the office of *Vicar of Christ* is totally *absurd* and *blasphemous*.

The Holy Spirit *alone* is the Vicar of Christ.

At age 78, Ratzinger was elected Pope. Thus, on April 19, 2005, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger became Pope Benedict XVI. From the position of Supreme Roman Pontiff, he continued to decree dogma, while at the same time upholding the dogmas he had already published in the *Catechism*. One of these key dogmas is his alleged claim that the Catholic Church can forgive absolutely all manner of sins, no matter how serious. The exact words of his decree are, "There is no offense, however serious, that the Church cannot forgive." A most pertinent question must be answered: "Can Ratzinger's sin of *blaspheming* the Holy Spirit be forgiven by his decree that the Catholic Church can forgive all sins? (Mat. 12,32)

Read more: <http://www.bereanbeacon.org>

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February 2013

Previous chapter:
Mary saves souls
in Purgatory.

- PAPAL INDULGENCIES ÉN MASSE -

At a Synod of Bishops in Rome

October 2012

According to the following article:

RC "Year of Faith" Unfaithful to Christ and His Gospel

By Richard Bennett and Timothy F. Kauffman

Read the article here, page 52f:

http://www.thespiritofprophecypublications.dk/Publ/The_Everlasting_Gospel.pdf



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March 10, 2013

THE CATHOLIC BIBLE HAS THE ANSWER

By Oswald J. Smith, DD.

Edinburgh, Scotland.

A Solemn Statement by Benedict XV *

This book that I hold in my hand is a Roman Catholic Bible. Have you read it? -If not, you should.

Pope Benedict XV, had this to say about it:

"The responsibility of our Apostolic Office impels us to promote the study of Holy Scripture in accordance with the teaching of our predecessors, Leo XII ** and Pius X. We shall never desist from urging the faithful to read the Gospels, the Acts, and the Epistles, so as to gather thence food for their souls. Ignorance of the Bible means ignorance of Christ."

Pope Pius X said this: "The more we read the Gospel, the stronger our faith becomes." //

So then, Catholics are urged to study the Word of God.***

In Acts 17: 11, it was the common people and not the priests who searched the Scriptures, for it is not man's interpretation that is authoritative, it is what the Bible itself says. (Isa.8:20)

Let us now ask the following questions of paramount importance to both Catholics and Protestants, and turn to this Catholic Bible for the answer:

* Benedict XV, 1914 - 22;

** Leo XII, 1878 - 1903; Pius X, 1903 - 14.

*** The Luther Year 1517 - **1917** : The 400 th Anniversary.

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DID JESUS SAY HE WOULD BUILD HIS CHURCH ON PETER ?

Jesus did say, and I quote from this Catholic Bible.

"Thou art Peter, and upon this rock
I will build My Church."

Mat.16:18.

But He did *not* say He would build His Church *o n* Peter.

In John 1:42, He said:

"Thou art Simon, the son of Jona:
thou shalt be called Cé-phás,"

- which is by interpretation, **A stone**, (petros)

The Greek word for Peter is "*petros*",
meaning "a little stone".

The word for rock is "*petra*", meaning "The Rock". What
Jesus said was, "I will build My Church on the Rock".

The LORD, Our God and Father, said:

"Hearken to Me, ye that follow after
righteousness, ye that seek the LORD:

- look unto the **rock** whence ye are hewn..."

Isaiah.51:1.

Jesus never said He would build His Church on Peter,
"*a little stone*." That would be too faulty a foundation.

In the *same* chapter, Jesus said to Peter :

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”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.”

Would Jesus build His Church on Satan ?

BUT WHO IS THE ROCK ?

A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD:

Psalm 18: 2, 31 :

The LORD is my R o c k, my fortress ...

For who is GOD save the LORD

Or who is a R o c k save our GOD ?

To build on Peter would be too faulty a foundation.

But he was:

” The stone, *hewn* of the rock ”

- *and:*

UPON – THIS ROCK - I WILL

BUILD MY CHURCH

Mat. 16:18.

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THE CATHOLIC BIBLE HAS THE ANSWER

By Oswald J. Smith, DD.

Edinburgh, Scotland

Next Question:

DO WE GO TO PURGATORY WHEN WE DIE ?

We would read the Catholic Bible through from the first word to the last and we would *not* read *one single verse* about purgatory, for purgatory is nowhere even mentioned in the entire Book.

There is no purgatory in the Bible.

Then it must have been invented by men,
for God does not speak of it.

On the other hand, this Catholic Bible tells us that if we are God's children, we go straight to be with Christ ...
- *when we die.*

Let me read it to you in Philippians 1:21-23 :

"For to me *to live* is Christ, and *to die* is gain.

to depart, and to be with Christ, - is far better..."

You see, when we depart this life we do not go to purgatory, for Christ is not here. We go directly into His immediate presence. We go to be with Him where He is. It would *not* be "far better" to *suffer* in purgatory.

And we read in 2 Corinthians 5:8:

"Exiled from the body...at home with the Lord."

The moment we leave the body we are in the presence of our Lord. That is the plain, unmistakable teaching
- of this Catholic Bible.

Hence, - there can be no such place as purgatory.

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THE CATHOLIC BIBLE HAS THE ANSWER

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IS SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST

- OR THE CHURCH ?

Many people think it is the Church that saves, and that there is no salvation outside the Roman Catholic Church. They confuse the Church with Christ. But what says the Scriptures ? How does the Catholic Bible answer

- this all- important question ?

” But to as many as received Him he gave the power (right) of becoming sons of God”.

John 1:12.

What does it say? How do we become God’s children? By receiving Him, Jesus Christ, as our Saviour. It does not say a word about the Church, does it?

”Those who believe in Him may not perish but may have life everlasting” John 3:15.

How? By belonging to the Church ? No. By believing in Him, by putting their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

”For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that those who believe in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting”.

John 3:16.

Again, - not a word about the Church.

Once more it is Christ. All who trust Him have everlasting life. ” He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; he who is unbelieving towards the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him” (John 3:36).

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SALVATION !

It depends entirely on your relationship, not to the Church, but to Christ. It is Christ Who saves.

The Church is not mentioned.

"I am the way... No one comes to the Father
- but through Me." John 14:6.

It was Jesus who said that. Note, if you will, He did not say "The Church is the way! No one comes to the Father but through the Church."

No, my friend, He said "I am the way".

Jesus Christ is the one and only Way to God.

"He who has the Son has the life; he who has not the Son has not the life". 1 John 5:12.

The same answer again, this time from the inspired lips of the Apostle John. Not the Church but Christ.
"He who has the Son."

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Acts 4:12.

That is from the lips of Peter and it is the authoritative word of the great apostle himself. What does he say? He tells us that salvation is in Christ and in no other.

"No other name", he says. No minister, no priest, no pope, neither the Virgin Mary nor any saint.

"For there is *one* - GOD - and *one* mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave Himself a ransom for all ..."

1 Tim. 2:5. Amen !