

## Chapter Eighteen

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# Concluding Thoughts on Catholicism

As I previously stated, I recognize and appreciate any truth that the Roman Catholic church teaches that accords with the written Word of God such as the inspiration of the Bible, the triune nature of God, the virgin birth, deity, and the bodily resurrection of Messiah, etc.

The Roman Catholic church may, indeed, teach the inspiration of Scripture but, much like the Pharisees we previously read about in Mark 7, they nullify the written Word by their traditions. Their added body of human traditions of men has much the same authority as the written Word and is frequently at odds with it.

The Roman Catholic church may, indeed, teach the deity of Messiah and His accomplishments on the cross that resulted in the forgiveness of sins, however, they put Mary, saints, and priests as intercessors and mediators between God and man. It interposes a complex system of works-righteousness and a

sacrificing priesthood thus nullifying the once for all sacrifice of Yeshua. It supplants the authority of Messiah as “Head of the Church” with a man as an infallible pope with absolute power to whom obedience is mandated on pain of excommunication and loss of the hope of eternal life.

Cardinal Newman, in his book, “The Development of the Christian Religion,”<sup>1</sup> admits that ... “Temples, incense, oil lamps, votive offerings, holy water, holidays and season of devotions, processions, blessing of fields, sacerdotal vestments, the tonsure (of priests and monks and nuns), images ... **are all of pagan origin...**”

When one studies the history of the Catholic church and especially the lives and conduct of the popes, it becomes apparent that we are certainly dealing with fallible men who made mistakes, changed their positions, were on either side of many issues, including scientific<sup>2</sup> ones, and often led lives that do not reflect any recognizable level of humility, piety or sanctification.

Is it any wonder that when the Catholic church ruled the world, it was called the “Dark Ages”?

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1. An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine by Cardinal John Henry Newman, 1845.

2. Galileo was condemned for heresy by both Pope Paul V (1605-1621) and Pope Urban VIII (1623-1644) for holding a true scientific theory supporting Copernican heliocentrism, the idea that the earth revolves the sun. This teaching was in contrast to official church teaching!