



Why The Catholic Church WILL Elect A New Pope

Last week I had an article in the bulletin entitled, "Why the Catholic Church Ought Not Select A New Pope." Biblical reasons were given as to why the papacy is an unscriptural arrangement in the New Testament model of organized church leadership. But as I mentioned, I'm not so naïve as to think that the Catholic Church will all of a sudden do a 180 and reject the papacy (it would be good if they would, but I'm not holding my breath). There are reasons why they behave the way they do and so this week we will look at why the Catholic Church WILL elect a new pope.

First, the Catholic Church will elect a new pope because they love the traditions of men more than God's word. The Bible holds no authority for the elevation of one man, except Jesus himself, into an authoritative leadership role over the church as a whole. One might then wonder from where the Catholic Church gets its justification for such. The answer can only come from centuries of tradition. The concept of a single "bishop" over a local congregation began in the 2nd century A.D. From this concept then sprang the concept that such a one would be the authority over the church for an entire city, then region, then country, and finally the world; that's how things evolved. Catholicism,

however, is proud of their tradition. They believe that tradition is equally authoritative as scripture. The Catholic Encyclopedia states, "Catholics, on the other hand, hold that there may be, that there is in fact, and that there must of necessity be certain revealed truths apart from those contained in the Bible..." (Tradition and Living Magisterium). The Bible, however, teaches otherwise. In rebuking the Pharisees, Jesus said, "Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:9). Jesus then said that they made "the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye" (Mark 7:13). The point of such passages is this: tradition is not on an equal footing with scripture; those who so proclaim reject Jesus' words. Nonetheless, because Catholics value tradition higher than scripture, they will select a new pope.

Second, the Catholic Church will elect a new pope because they desire an earthly, not a spiritual kingdom. When one surveys the physical wealth and property that the Catholic Church possesses, takes note that the Vatican is its own country in and of itself with its own diplomatic corps, and watches as world leaders prostrate themselves before a vessel of flesh and blood, it doesn't

take one long to conclude what kind of power the Catholic church desires to have over the affairs of men. And it hasn't been too many centuries since the Catholic Church actually dictated policy to nation-states. Do any doubt that the Catholic Church would so do if given the opportunity today? All of this evidence points to the fact that the Catholic Church really is more concerned about an earthly kingdom than a heavenly one. Jesus, however, taught that the church would not be such an organization to possess physical wealth, property, and power and to wield such strong political influence in the world. Jesus himself was a pauper, yet the man who would be pope would have billions of dollars in assets at his disposal. What kind of kingdom did Jesus desire? Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence" (John 18:36). On one occasion, the Pharisees demanded of Jesus to tell them when His kingdom would come, Jesus reply was, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20,21). God's kingdom is a spiritual kingdom composed of people

Why the Catholic Church ... (cont.)



who have a spiritual purpose.

Third, the Catholic church will elect a new pope because they believe God speaks to the church through the pope. The Catholic Church states regarding the pope's "ex cathedra" pronouncements:

"We teach and define that it is a dogma Divinely revealed that the Roman pontiff when he speaks ex cathedra, that is when in discharge of the office of pastor and doctor of all Christians, by virtue of his supreme Apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine regarding faith or morals to be held by the universal Church, by the Divine assistance promised to him in Blessed Peter, is possessed of that infallibility with which the Divine Redeemer willed that his Church should be endowed in defining doctrine regarding faith or morals...." (Vatican IV, Constitution of Christ's Church, c. iv.)

"There is not one good work that man may do what is not set forth for us in the scriptures themselves first."

Without a pope, Catholics proclaim that they cannot know what God's will would continue to be for them in the world today. The Bible, however, teaches that we have everything that we need in order to be pleasing to God through the teaching of the scriptures. Paul wrote to Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." There is not one good work that man may do what is not set forth for us in the scriptures themselves first. Hence, there is no need for a pope to tell the church how to do things as Jesus has, through the Holy Spirit, inspired the scriptures to accomplish that very purpose.

We could enumerate many more "reasons" why the Catholic Church will select a new pope, all of which reasons would be unscriptural, unbiblical, unsound, and

anti-Christological.

There can be no biblical basis for such an earthly position, which Catholicism states is the "Supreme Head" of the church, and the "Vicar of Christ," which, says the Catholic Encyclopedia, is "a title of the pope implying his supreme and universal primacy, both of honour and of jurisdiction, over the Church of Christ." Can such be anything but blasphemy? These three reasons that we have here explored, however, are enough for us to conclude that the Catholic Church really isn't interested in what the scriptures teach, but in doing their own apostate will. Yes, the Catholics will appoint a new pope and he will occupy the seat in Rome and continue to further Catholic dogma in the world today. It is clear, however, from reading the scriptures, that their dogma is not a product of God, but of man and man's desire to glorify himself instead of Christ.

Kevin Cauley



Bible Studies for the week of April 17th, 2005

AM Sermon..... Preacher: The Work
 Scripture Reading..... 2 Timothy 4:1-5
 PM Sermon..... Eternality of Hell
 Scripture Reading.....Matthew 25:41-46
 Sunday Class The Book of Hebrews
 Wednesday Class..... The Book of Job

Kevin's Korner—The Culture Wars

This past November, the citizens of the state of Arkansas correctly voted not to authorize homosexual marriage in our state. At the same time, several other states adopted this law as well. Not too many days ago, the state of Kansas did the same thing. Some progress is being made to uphold the correct standards of decency in our country. Last week, Oregon's Supreme Court invalidated thousands of homosexual marriage licenses handed out in one particular county last year.

But the battle still continues on this issue. A prominent homosexual leader has gone on record as stating that the U.S. Supreme Court isn't going to care what the states say when this issue comes before them. This is why we need to continue to press our federal government for an amendment to the constitution that defines marriage as being between one man and one woman. This

will ensure that liberal activist judges won't be able to force their agendas upon the American people on this issue.

In a related story, two of the largest cable companies in our country, Comcast and Cox will start offering homosexual channels as part of their cable channel line-ups. If you have Cox cable, you may want to let them know that you're not interested in paying for such.

The American Family Association reported this week that they would stop their boycott of Proctor and Gamble because a company executive that was pushing the homosexual agenda is no longer with the company. AFA reported that P&G has withdrawn sponsorship of certain homosexual television programs and Internet sites.

Do you remember the Equal Rights Amendment? Many thought that it was dead as con-

gress placed a time limit upon its ratification. This, however, hasn't dissuaded its proponents. They have resurfaced and are now beginning to push passage of the amendment in several key states. Recently, Arkansas held a vote on the amendment. It was defeated, but it will likely be brought up again. Why ought we oppose this amendment? One reason is the issue of abortion. A similar amendment, adopted by the state of New Mexico, was, in 1998, used by the New Mexico supreme court to rule that the state could not limit tax-payer funding of abortion. Sounds like a stretch, I know, but that's what this is really all about, namely, the removal of all state legislation related to abortion. We ought to be opposed to such a nefarious effort.

Righteousness has won several battles, but the war goes on. Let's press the fight.



“Righteousness has won several battles, but the war goes on. Let’s press the fight.”

Records for the week of April 10th, 2005

Sunday Bible Class	68
Sunday AM Worship.....	80
Sunday PM Worship.....	62
Wednesday Night Study.....	56
Contribution.....	\$1976.46
Budget.....	\$1662.00



Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Catherine Davis, Donna Henderson, Raymond Kimes.
- Drop in our our shut-ins this week: Curtis and Opal Hull, Edith Mischler.
- This past Sunday evening, the Michael Morrell family expressed their desire to work and worship under the oversight of our eldership. We welcome them to our family and look forward to working with them here.
- Family and Friends day is now only about one month away. We still have flyers in the lobby! Please take two or three and hand them out to your friends and family this week!
- Our monthly potluck is today! All are invited to stay and enjoy a wonderful time of food and fellowship with us.
- Our Bible study at the nursing home on Thursday afternoon at 2:00 resumes this week with the book of Mark. All are invited to come.
- Our pantry item is: Canned Spinach.



Welcome!

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	April 17th, 2005	April 24th, 2005
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Bill Fort	Brent Stevens
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Scripture Reading:	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Bill Fort
(assist)	Ken Smith	Rusty Windle
	Jerry Roller	Bob Moore
	Jack Gentry	Ervin Hand
Closing Prayer	George Eddings	Glenn Quigley
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Glenn Williams
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	Dan Hand
Lord's Table	Raymond Kimes	Leon Duncan
	Brandon Foster	Clay Bozarth
Closing Prayer	Ervin Hand	Bill Fort
Wednesday		
Songs:	Glenn Quigley	Bruce Foster
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Bill Fort	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Kevin Cauley	Dan Hand

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.