

To Be Read by Protestants and Catholics

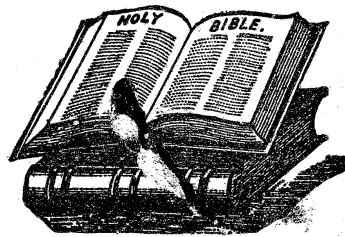
Is Romanism In the Bible ?

or

One Hundred Questions

which Roman Catholics cannot answer

By REV. STEPHEN L. TESTA



"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."

Genesis 1:3

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Jesus in John 8:32

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23rd Edition

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SCRIPTURE TRUTH SOCIETY

Rev. Stephen L. Testa, Director

5166 Ruthelen St., Los Angeles 62, California

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**In The Lord's Work of Winning Catholics
and Non-Catholics to Christ and His Church**



REV. STEFANO L. TESTA

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2. **THE MESSENGERS OF CHRIST:** A league of volunteer workers who devote some time each week to the distribution of Scripture portions and our tracts in the homes of their neighborhoods. We have many of these "Messengers," or "Letter Carriers of Christ," who are very definitely personal workers and soul winners. To many of them we supply our tracts free as the Lord provides the means.

5166 Ruthelen St., Los Angeles 62, California



IS ROMANISM IN THE BIBLE?

A challenge to Roman Catholics to
find their religion in the Bible

**ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS
(\$1000) IN PRIZES**

The above amount will be given to the first
Roman Catholic priest or layman who
will prove that the following one
hundred Roman Catholic doc-
trines and practices are
taught in the Bible

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**AN APPEAL TO PROTESTANTS
AND CATHOLICS**

* * *

Copyrighted and Published by
Rev. STEPHEN L. TESTA

Director and Secretary

The Scripture Truth Society

Christian Churches Missionary Society, Inc.

Messengers of Christ League

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Ask for Catalog

FOREWORD

The author thinks that this "Challenge" is very timely in this critical stage in the history of America, and prays for a large circulation of this booklet among the people, for it will excite interest in religious matters, encourage Bible study and result in much good.

Every Protestant should read it and circulate it.

Every Roman Catholic should read it.

Every lover of truth should send a copy to his Catholic friend.

Every pastor and Christian worker should have copies for distribution.

Every Protestant church should have this book and our other tracts on its book rack. Catholic churches have their publications on sale in their vestibules.

PREFACE TO THE SIXTH EDITION

Because of my talks over the radio this booklet has been requested by interested listeners from all parts of the country and Canada: so the fifth edition was printed and now the sixth, for the demand is still strong. It was translated and published in Italian, and it is being translated in Spanish, French and Scandinavian. Other booklets on the same general subject have been published (see announcement on the back cover) and we ask our friends to help the distribution and circulation of the entire series.

PREFACE TO THE SEVENTH EDITION

Pastors all over the country are ordering quantities of this booklet to give to interested inquirers. Also a radio station in St. Louis, WHAP in New York and WMBI in Chicago are sending it to their listeners who request it. The book is also being distributed in Italy and is doing much good. So the seventh edition goes forth under the blessing of God.

PREFACE TO THE EIGHTH EDITION

This booklet has been translated in five languages including a language in India and printed in Calcutta to stem the R. C. propaganda in that country. It is going strong in America and many missionaries in Italy are requesting it. We pray for God's blessing on this eighth English edition.

SAMPLE LETTER RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Testa:—

Send me at once 150 copies of "Is Romanism in the Bible?" Your tracts are the best I have ever seen on the subject, and should be on the tract table of every Protestant Church.

Rev. C. F., D.D. Sacramento, Calif.

ROMAN CATHOLIC DOCTRINES PUT TO THE TEST

I.

THE CHALLENGE

By Rev. Stephen L. Testa

The Rev. Lorenzo Palmieri, a converted Catholic priest of the Province of Avellino, Italy, in his desire to bring his fellow countrymen to the knowledge of the truth, published some years ago a challenge to the priests of Rome to prove that the distinctively Roman Catholic doctrines and practices can be found in the Bible.

Rev. Palmieri selected a list of about 100 questions concerning these doctrines, and to any Roman Catholic, priest or layman, who could answer these questions with pertinent verses from the Scriptures he promised: first, a prize for each answer, the aggregate total amounting to 25,000 Italian lires for the 100 questions; and, secondly, that if he were shown by Holy Scriptures to be wrong in his Protestant faith he would return with all his converts to the Roman Catholic Church.

Though this offer was sent to every parish priest in Italy, and the booklet ran into three editions, not one Roman Catholic priest or layman has as yet come to Rev. Palmieri to claim any of the prizes, or to demand that he return to Romanism. What is the reason? Because the Roman Catholic doctrines and practices cannot be found in the Bible, but are rather severely condemned by the Word of God.

The Bible, being the Word of God and the depository of truth concerning the Christian faith, the conclusion is inevitable that any church not founded upon the Bible is not the true Church of Christ, no matter how powerful, wealthy or numerous it may be. Let this serve as an eye-opener to sincere Roman Catholics who will depend upon those doctrines and practices for their soul's eternal salvation.

I earnestly believe that this challenge and offer should be made to Roman Catholics in America and that the same opportunity be extended to them to prove their religion. Their salvation may be at stake. It does not pay to be uncertain about the truth. I have translated and re-written the questions in English and have undertaken to represent Rev. Palmieri in America. I make hereby in his name the same two promises Rev. Palmieri made in Italy, that is: First—One Thousand Dollars for the one hundred questions answered, or Ten Dollars (\$10) for each question answered, with a pertinent verse from the Bible (even

the Catholic Douay version) which clearly teaches or inculcates that particular Roman Catholic doctrine or practice to Christians. The prizes will be given in cash to the first Roman Catholic who brings those proofs, or the money will be paid to any charitable institution designated by him.

Secondly—That if any Roman Catholic priest or layman convinces me by the Bible that I am wrong in my Protestant faith, shows me that Jesus Christ founded the Roman Catholic Church, and that the Virgin Mary, the Apostles and primitive Saints and Martyrs were Roman Catholics, I promise to return to the Roman Catholic Church. This is a fair proposition, and is made in good faith. I leave it to his sense of justice and fair play that he should do the same, i.e., he should be converted to the Evangelical faith when it is clearly shown to him that the truth is on our side, that ours is the Church which was founded by Christ, and that the Roman Church is a later innovation.

II.

THE ONE HUNDRED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CHURCH

Whoever Proves By the Bible:—

1. That Jesus Christ founded the Roman Catholic Church, instead of His Church. (Read Matt. 16:18.)
2. That the teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church of today are the same as those of the primitive Apostolic church which was the Evangelical Christian church.
3. That the Church of Rome is the Church which Jesus Christ founded, that is, (a) the ONE identical with the Church of Christ; (b) HOLY, i.e., made up of saints set apart from the world and working for the spiritual redemption of humanity; (c) APOSTOLIC, i.e., in having been faithful to the faith, preaching and practice of the Apostles; (d) CATHOLIC, in that her present dogmas were at all times universally held by all Christians; (e) EVANGELICAL, in that she has adhered strictly to the teachings of the New Testament.
4. That unrepentant sinners, such as thieves, assassins, adulterers, backbiters, deceivers, blasphemers, idolaters, etc., can also belong to the Church of God (Read Eph. 5:5; Apoc. 22:15.)

5. That there is no salvation outside of the church of Rome. (Read Acts 4:12.)

Will receive \$10.00 for each question answered.

NOTE ON THE CHURCH—The Lord Jesus Christ founded His Church (Matt. 16:18), which was Evangelical Christian. He was to be the Head, the Holy Spirit the Guide and the Bible its only rule of faith and practice. It was made up of his followers who were born again and pledged to continue His work of redemption in the world. It was CATHOLIC in that it was designed for all the people of the earth. The Church remained pure and faithful to the Gospel for about 300 years, which was the golden age of martyrs and saints, who were persecuted by pagan Rome. After the so-called conversion of Emperor Constantine (310 A.D.) when Christianity was declared the state religion, multitudes of pagans were admitted to the Church by baptism alone, without conversion. They brought with them their pagan rites, ceremonies and practices which they gradually introduced into the Church with Christian names, all of which corrupted the primitive faith and the Church became Romanized and paganized. What makes a Church truly Catholic is its adherence to the Gospel of Christ and the Apostles Creed. The Roman Church has added Popery and so many other pagan doctrines and practices that many people think it is no longer either Christian or Catholic. The Reformers saw that the Church had become the Biblical "Babylon" or the "Apostate Church" clearly foretold in the Bible and ultimately to be punished and destroyed (2 Thess. 2:3-12; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; Rev. 17: and 18:), and from which God calls his people to come out, saying, "*Come out of her, my people and be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues*" (Rev. 18:4). The Reformation of the 16th century was a protest against those pagan doctrines, a wholesale withdrawal from the official Church and a return to the primitive Catholic Christianity of the New Testament. The Roman Church today can become again a truly Catholic Church by renouncing Popery and those dogmas and practices which are contrary to the Word of God and holding fast to the primitive foundation, on which basis the reunion of all Christian Churches could be realized. The name Catholic, when applied to the Roman Church exclusively, is a misnomer, for it befits those Protestant Churches which hold fast to the Bible and the Apostles Creed without any addition whatsoever (Rev. 22:18-19).

The true Church of Christ is invisible, made up of truly converted people who are to be found in all the visible churches and whose names are written in heaven, and the visible churches exist to train saints for the kingdom of Christ (Luke 10:20; Apoc. 21:27).

ABOUT ST. PETER

Whoever Proves by The Bible:—

6. That St. Peter was Pope.

7. That he exercised the office of pope in Rome for 25 years as they claim.

8. That he was the visible head of the Christian church. (Read Matt. 20:26-28, and I Peter 5:1.)

9. That he received from the Lord the primacy of jurisdiction over the entire Christian church.

10. That these prerogatives were then transmitted by Peter to the Bishops of Rome as his successors down to the present day.

11. That St. Peter ever asked or accepted gifts of money "to gather unto himself a treasury of silver and gold" to be called "The Treasury of St. Peter," or "Peter's Pence." (Read Acts 3:6; 8:20.)

12. That St. Peter ever accepted worldly honors, such as to be borne about on the shoulders of men on the "sedia gestatoria," the kissing of his feet and many other honors used by pagans. (Read Acts 10:25-26.)

*Will receive \$10 for a Scriptural answer to each
of above questions.*

NOTE ON ST. PETER.—St. Peter was never Pope; nor a priest, not even a Roman Catholic. He was a Jewish fisherman in Palestine and a married man. His brother Andrew brought him to Christ the first time and he became a convert, a disciple, and later was made an apostle. He made the first confession that "Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God" and Jesus made this declaration the foundation of His Church. He was a very impulsive but sincere man. He made many mistakes and once he was called "Satan" by Jesus. Later he denied Jesus thrice, but he repented confessing his sin to Jesus directly (Matt. 4:18-20; 16:18-23; 26:69-75). At Pentecost he converted 3,000 Jews by his preaching, and after that he continued to be a plain open air preacher and an Elder. He protested against the Jewish priests who wanted to forbid him to preach the Gospel in Jerusalem. By this protest he was the first Protestant of Christianity (Acts 4:17-20, 5:27-30). He preached mostly to the Jews. The Bible does not mention his ever having been at Rome. He preached the Gospel of Christ fearlessly, saying that Jesus Christ alone is the head of the Church and the only Name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. He also urged and recommended the reading of the Scriptures (Acts 4:12; I Peter 1:23, 2:2 and 5:1).

ABOUT THE POPE

Whoever Proves by The Bible:—

13. That the word "Pope" is in the Bible, except its synonym as the anti-Christ. (Read II Thes. 2:3-12: Rev. 17:1-10.)

14. That the Pope of Rome is the successor of St. Peter.

15. That the Pope is the Vice-gerent of God upon earth and the Vicar of Jesus Christ. (Read II Thess. 2:3-12.)

16. That the Pope is infallible. (Rom. 3:9, 10, 23.)

17. That the Pope ought to be called "Holy Father." (Read Matt. 23:9 and John 17:11.)

18. That the Pope can canonize saints, i.e., make saints out of persons long since dead, some of whom were criminals. (Read II Cor. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; and Col. 1:2.)

19. That the Pope ought to have temporal power, with soldiers and armed guards, and have political sway over all the nations of the earth. (Read John 18:36)

20. That the pope can excommunicate churches and individuals, release entire peoples from being subject to kings and republics, and place whole nations under ban.

21. That the Pope can oppose the unity, liberty and independence of nations, as he did in Italy, with his pretensions on Rome, the capital of United Italy.

22. That the Pope can grant or sell indulgences, plenary or partial, for good works done. (Read Mark 2:5-10.)

23. That the Pope can proclaim a Holy Year every twenty-five years with the promise of special indulgences and remission of sins to those who go to Rome to visit certain churches there. (Isa. 1:12-17.)

Will receive \$10 for each question answered.

NOTE ON THE POPE.—The word "Pope" is not found in the New Testament. This title of Pope was refused by many holy Bishops in the early centuries of the church who thought it was the sign of the anti-Christ, and was first given to the Bishop of Rome in 610 by the wicked emperor Phocas. All the pretensions of the Pope are blasphemous according to the spirit and letter of the New Testament. St. Paul and St. John wrote of anti-Christ who was to appear in the world. The Pope fits that description in many ways, tho he is only a type of the future anti-Christ. (Read II Thess. 2:3-12; Rev. 13:1-18).

ABOUT PRIESTS

Whoever Proves by the New Testament:—

24. That Jesus instituted a hierarchy of priests for His Church as a special class, separate from the people, except Apostles who were to preach the Gospel. (Read Matt. 10:1-8; 23:5-12.)

25. That the Apostles instituted and ordained any

other than Bishops (Pastors), Elders (Presbyters), Deacons, and Evangelists.

26. That bishops, deacons and priests cannot marry, (Read I Tim. 3:2, 4, 11; 4:3), and that a priest though unmarried, should be called "Father." (Read Matt. 23:9.)

27. That the priest is a very powerful person; "more powerful than the angels, more than the saints, more than the Virgin Mary; even more than Jesus Christ himself, for He has to obey the priest's bidding; and is second only to Almighty God." (Read II Thess. 2:4; Rom. 1:22.)

28. That bishops and presbyters ought to say Mass and hear the confessions of the people, and that the people should go to the priests to confess their sins at least once a year. (Read Psalm 51:1; 32:5.)

29. That Jesus ever instituted cardinals or any order of monks, nuns, monsignors, abbots, etc.

30. Where does Jesus or His apostles recommend that people separate themselves from society to do penance and become monks, or that women be cloistered in convents and be forbidden to speak with or even to see their own parents? (Read Luke 10:1-12; Matt. 5:13-16.)

Will receive \$10 for each question answered.

NOTE ON PRIESTS.—Priests, as Bishops, Pastors and Elders, are allowed in the New Testament, but not as "sacerdotes" or sacrificers at the altar. Christ is the only High Priest who lives forever and whose priesthood is not passed to another, nor can His sacrifice be repeated (Heb. 7:21-28; 10:23). They are simply preachers and servants of the people, and not their masters. According to St. Paul, they should be married men and have children, otherwise they could not rule the Church of God. Let it not be forgotten that priests were the ones who condemned Christ to death. Let the Roman Catholic priest be real ministers of God, to preach the Gospel and educate the people, and they will receive the praise of God and men. (Read I Tim. 3:1-3; Acts 20:17-36).

NOTE ON CONFESSION.—Confession of sins is recommended all through the Bible, but always to God and never to man. Judas Iscariot is the only example in the Bible who confessed his sins to the priests and then hanged himself (Matt. 27:1-5). All good Christians confess their sins to God as soon as committed, and never let a day pass without confession of sins at the evening prayer. Public confession was practiced in the early Church and it is still practiced in testimony meetings in Protestant Churches and Missions. Secret or auricular confession is also practiced, but to obtain comfort and direction; never for the purpose of obtaining forgiveness from man, for God only forgives sins. (Psalm 51; Mark 2:5-11; Matt. 11:28; I John 1:8-9).

ABOUT THE MASS

Whoever Proves by The Bible:—

31. That the Mass was instituted by Christ.
32. That Jesus or the Apostles said Mass.
33. That Mass is a sacrifice and a daily repetition of the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. (Read Heb. 10: 10-18.)
34. That the Mass is identical with the Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper. (Read I Cor. 11:23-27.)
35. That it is a mortal sin not to go to Mass on Sunday and other feast days.
36. That the Mass and other church services should be recited in Latin or any language which the people do not understand. (Read I Cor. 14:9-19.)
37. That the Mass can be said for money at various stipulated prices. (Read Matt. 10:8.)
38. That the Mass can be said for the benefit of the living who pay for having it said, in order that they may receive divine favors, have their sins forgiven and an easier access into heaven when they die.
39. That the Mass gives repose to the souls of dead people who are supposed to be burning in Purgatory. (Read Luke 23:43.)

Will receive \$10 for each question answered.

NOTE ON THE MASS.—There is no valid objection to the words and prayers used in the Mass, but there is great objection to the doctrine of the Mass as the Council of Constance (1414) and the Council of Trent (1545) teach. This service in the primitive church consisted in prayer, singing of hymns, the reading of the Bible, preaching of the gospel and celebration of the holy communion. Claims for the "Mass" that it is a repetition of the sacrifice of Calvary, wherein Christ is daily called down from heaven into the host, crucified anew and then eaten up alive by the Priest is repugnant to reason, against the Bible and the only mystery is that there are still many intelligent people who believe it. I wonder if this is not "the mystery of iniquity" St. Paul foretold in II Thess. 2:7.

ABOUT THE HOST

Who Can Find In The New Testament:—

40. That the wafer, and not bread and wine, was used by Jesus when He instituted the Lord's Supper. (Read Matt. 26:26-28.)

41. That the wafer in the hands of the priest is changed into the real body, blood, soul and divinity of our Lord. (Read I Cor. 11:26.)

42. That the living Christ said to be in the host can be eaten, locked up in the tabernacle or carried about by the priest anywhere he pleases.

43. That the consecrated host of wafer, even if broken up into a thousand pieces, each such particle contains the entire body of Jesus Christ alive.

44. That in the Holy Communion the wafer alone should be used, and not both elements, bread and wine, as they were used by Christ and His Apostles. (Read I Cor. 11:23-28.)

45. That the priest alone is to partake of the consecrated wine at the communion, but the same is to be denied to the people who receive only the wafer. (Read Matt. 26:27.)

46. That the Mass should be said and the Holy Communion be given only in the forenoon and that this should be preceded by a fast. (Read Matt. 26:26-28; I Cor. 11:34.)

Will receive \$10 for each question answered.

NOTE ON THE HOST.—The institution of the Lord's Supper is very clear and plain (I Cor. 11:23-29). Jesus used bread and wine to represent His body and blood. Every communicant was to receive communion in both elements. The institution was a memorial of His death and in remembrance of Him. For centuries the communion was given in both species—even in the Roman Catholic Church. It is still so given in the Greek Orthodox and Protestant Evangelical Churches to this day. Upon the Roman Catholic Church rests the sacrilege of having altered this holy sacrament and for denying to the people the cup since 1414.

ABOUT THE VIRGIN MARY

Whoever Proves by The Bible:—

47. That the Virgin Mary was conceived without sin. (Read Rom. 3:10-23; Luke 1:46-47.)

48. That the name of her mother was Anna, and that "St. Anne" is the protectress of women at child birth.

49. That Mary is to be called the Mother of God.

50. That Mary is the door of heaven, the dispenser of divine grace, the morning star, the co-redeemer with our Lord, etc. (Read John 10:9; 14:6; Isa. 43:11.)

51. That Mary in her lifetime ever claimed or accepted such divine titles for herself, except "blessed" and "handmaid of the Lord." (Read Luke 1:38, 48.)

52. That Mary ever promised people to pray for them or to be protectoress of any individual or nation.

53. That Mary ever asked and obtained from God any favor for anyone of her devotees.

54. That Mary ever asked anyone to be her devotee, to pray to her, to worship her and build shrines and churches in her honor. (Read John 2:5.)

55. That Mary did not instead, say to the attendants, "Do whatsoever Jesus says unto you," (John 2:5), the same as Protestants say today.

56. That Mary was ever a Roman Catholic herself.

57. That Mary was not a convert from the religion in which she was born and raised. (Read Luke 1:38, 11:27-28.)

58. That Mary was taken up into heaven body and soul. (Read John 3:13.)

59. That from heaven Mary can hear the prayers of those who invoke her upon earth.

60. That "hyper-dulia" worship should be given to Mary. (Read Matt. 4:10.)

NOTE ON THE VIRGIN MARY.—The Virgin Mary is the most holy woman found in the Bible. She is duly respected and truly honored by all Evangelical Christians. Her example and experience ought to be followed by all Roman Catholics. This is how she was saved: She was familiar with the Bible. She believed the Word of God and accepted the message from God through the angel Gabriel at the annunciation. She was a convert to the new religion and left, therefore, the religion in which she was born and reared. She decided upon this change for herself without consulting the Jewish priests, nor her relatives or friends. She traveled miles and miles to visit Elizabeth who had the same religious experiences as herself. She gave her grateful testimony to God in the beautiful hymn, the Magnificat. She advised the servants to do whatsoever Jesus said unto them. She took part in prayer meetings with the disciples, received the Holy Ghost with them on Pentecost and took part in the open-air meeting that day when 3,000 persons were converted and baptized. She lived and died a model Christian. In her lifetime the Virgin Mary never once acted like a Roman Catholic would, but always spoke and acted like a Protestant Christian of our time (Read Luke 1:26-56; John 2:5; Acts 1:14). Praying to her and celebrating pagan festivals in her honor, under many names and titles, is an insult to her and she would be the first to protest against such practices.

61. That Mary is to be called by so many different names and titles—at least 57 different titles in Southern Italy alone, so that the common people think there are as many different madonnas competing with each other.

62. That statues and pictures should be made of Mary, and shrines and churches should be dedicated to her. (Read Exodus 20:4; Lev. 26:1; Deut. 27:15.)

63. That it is permitted to carry Mary's supposed images and statues publicly in the streets to be worshipped by the people who burn candles to her and pin dollar bills to her dress at such processions.

Will receive \$10 for each question answered.

ABOUT SAINTS

Whoever Proves by the New Testament:—

64. That saints are only those in heaven who have been canonized by the Popes, and that all true believers in Christ upon earth are not yet saints till years after death. (Read II Cor. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2.)

65. That saints in heaven can hear the voice of those who pray to them upon earth.

66. The saints in heaven are advocates and mediators between God and man. (Read I John 2:1; I Tim. 2:5.)

67. That "dulia" worship should be paid to saints and feast days be celebrated in their honor. (Read Rev. 19:10.)

68. That it is allowed to make statues of the Madonna and of saints to remind us of them. (Read Isa. 44:15-19; Lev. 16:22.)

69. That it is lawful to carry these images in public streets, to have people bow down to them, light candles and shoot bombs and fireworks in their honor. (Read Ex. 20:4; Isa. 44:15-19.)

70. That such *DULIA* and *HYPER-DULIA* worship of the saints and Mary is not idolatry which is expressly forbidden in the Bible. (Read Matt. 4:10; Lev. 26:1; Exodus 20:4-5.)

71. Where do you find in the Bible that dead bones and other relics of supposed saints are invested with miraculous powers and should be carried around, be prayed to, kissed and worshipped by the people. That is fetichism, not Christianity.

72. Did any true saint while on earth ever request

or recommend that he or she be prayed to, worshipped and thus honored? Did they ever do this to other saints?

73. Did not St. Peter and St. Paul expressly refuse such idolatrous honors and forbid them? (Read Acts 10:25-26; 14:8-18.)

74. Were any of the true saints, such as the apostles, evangelists and the early Christian martyrs Roman Catholics?

75. Were not nearly all the saints converts from the religion in which they were born, and were they not Protestants in the real sense of the term? (Read Matt. 4:17-22; Acts 4:18-19, 9:1-20.)

Will receive \$10 for each question answered.

NOTE ON THE SAINTS.—In the New Testament all believers in Christ on earth are called saints, though not necessarily perfect. They become saints by their conversion to Christ and their obedience to Him. God makes them saints. Their names are written in heaven and they need not be canonized by the Pope. None of these saints ever attracted people to themselves, but always directed them to Jesus, the Saviour of the world. They would be the first to reject the idolatrous worship which Roman Catholics pay to them, thinking to honor them. There are many more saints in heaven than the Pope recognizes, and many of those which the Pope has canonized are not saints at all. If anyone can prove the contrary, he is welcome to the prizes offered.

ABOUT PURGATORY

Whoever Proves by the New Testament:—

76. That there is such a place as purgatory of fire. (Read Matt. 25:46.)

77. That the fire of purgatory is equal in temperature to the fire of hell, as priests say.

78. That even very good Roman Catholics cannot expect to go straight to heaven after death, but must burn in those flames of purgatory for an indefinite time in order to be purified from their sins. (Read I John 1:7; Luke 23:43; John 14:3.)

79. That the souls in purgatory can be refreshed and their term of suffering shortened by prayers said for them, memorial services, Misereres, De Profundis. litanies, almsgiving, indulgences, and especially by Masses said for money paid to the priests. (Ps. 49:6-8.)

80. That Christians can work out their liberation from purgatory by doing certain works during their lifetime, and that if these works are not sufficient then their friends and relatives can do such works for them or have Masses said for the repose of their souls.

81. That those souls, while burning in atrocious torment in purgatory, can hear and answer the prayers of their friends upon earth who invoke them, and help them.

82. That the souls in purgatory can pray to God and obtain favors for others, but not for themselves.

83. That those souls are visited every Saturday by the Virgin Mary. (Luke 16:26.)

Will receive \$10 for each question answered.

NOTE ON PURGATORY.—Purgatory is an invention of the Roman hierarchy, pure and simple. Not one iota of it is found in the New Testament. Such doctrine would be a contradiction of the words of Christ, who says that his believers go straight to heaven when they die. (Luke 23:43; John 14:3). Its a libel on the efficacy of the blood of Christ which "cleanseth us from all sin." It would make God unjust to allow only those souls to get out of purgatory more quickly who can afford to pay for Masses said for them, either by leaving the money for that purpose before they die or by having their relatives and friends furnish the money when they are dead. Because of this doctrine, the poor Catholic has no comfort or consolation at death, because he sees nothing but flames and suffering before him. So different from the Protestant view: the Christian dies happy for he expects to be with Jesus in heaven. (Acts 7:55-60.)

ABOUT GOOD WORKS

Whoever Proves by The Bible:—

84. That salvation can be earned by meritorious works or works of supererogation; or secured by means of the priests, the sacraments, or the intercession of the Virgin Mary and the saints. (Read Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-10.)

85. That such meritorious works are those prescribed by the church, such as having Masses said, attending Mass, reciting certain prayers, such as the rosary, litanies and novenas, fasting, abstaining from eating meats other than fish on Fridays and other prescribed days, making pilgrimages to shrines and wiping the floor of such places with the tongue, etc. (Read Isa. 1:12-18.)

86. That a person can perform works of supererogation which are merits over and above those needed by such a person for salvation.

87. That such extra merits or works of supererogation are bequeathed to the treasury of merits of the Roman Catholic church to be dispensed by the Pope in the form of indulgences to those who need more merits than they have earned by such works.

88. That one must abstain from eating meat on Friday or other prescribed days under pain of eternal dam-

nation. (Read I Cor. 10:25; I Tim. 4:15; Matt. 15:11.)

89. That by paying money to a priest for a dispensation you are free to eat meat any day; and that by paying money for a dispensation marriage can be performed even among relatives. (Read Acts 8:20.)

90. That making the sign of the cross is a means of grace and drives away the devil. (Read Matt. 4:10-11.)

91. That by wearing scapulars and medals on the body the wearer is protected from drowning and other bodily injuries.

Will receive \$10 for each question answered.

NOTE ON GOOD WORKS.—It is only by the grace of God, through faith in Christ, and not one's good works ("lest any man boast") that salvation comes. Good works are the result of saving faith and the necessary evidence of faith, but they are never meritorious nor are there any works of supererogation. The only merits God recognizes are the infinite merits of the perfect work of Christ who suffered and died for us and "by whose stripes we are healed." Our good works cannot merit salvation, for they are as "filthy rags" before God. Those who try to be saved by their good works have fallen from the grace of God and have no part in the salvation wrought by Christ. (Read Gal. 2:16; 5:4.)

ABOUT PRAYER

Whoever Proves by The Bible:—

92. That prayers may be offered to others besides the Triune God. (Read Matt. 6:6; John 16:23-24.)

93. That prayers can be repeated mechanically, and that the same prayer should be repeated many times, such as the rosary. (Read Matt. 6:7; Isa. 1:15.)

94. That the Lord's prayer, which is addressed to God the Father, may also be addressed to the Virgin Mary and to the saints. (Read Matt. 6:6-13.)

95. That prayers in a prescribed number can be recited for penance or expiation for sins committed.

Will receive \$10 for each question answered.

ABOUT BAPTISM

Whoever Proves by The Bible:—

96. That baptism by mere sprinkling of water on the head of a babe or adult person makes him a Christian, washes away original sin and saves the soul. (Read Mark 10:13-16.)

97. That children should be baptized soon after birth, for if they die without baptism their souls go to "Limbo."

98. That in baptism, besides the water, the priest has to use consecrated oil, salt and his own saliva to anoint the child.

Will receive \$10 for each question answered.

ABOUT THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Whoever Proves by The Bible:—

99. That it is not lawful for laymen to read the Bible without the permission of his parish priest. (Read John 5:39; Matt. 23:13.)

100. That tradition has the same authority as the Holy Scriptures. (Read Mark 7:7-13; Col. 2:8; Rev. 22:18.)

Will receive \$10 for each question answered.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

of Some Roman Catholic Inventions and Heresies

NOTE—These dates are in many cases approximate. Many of these heresies had been current in the Church years before, but only when they were officially adopted by a Church Council and proclaimed by the Pope as dogma of faith did they become binding on Catholics.

At the Reformation in the 16th Century these heresies were repudiated as having no part in the Christianity as taught in the New Testament.

Prayers for the dead	in the year, A.D.	300
Making the sign of the cross		300
Worship in Latin language		600
Worship of Mary and saints		788
Worship of the cross, images and relics		788
Baptism of Bells		965
Fasting on Fridays and in Lent		998
Fabrication of holy water		1000
Marriage of priests forbidden		1079
Rosary beads invented		1090
Sacrifice of the Mass	Eleventh Century	
Sale of Indulgences		1190
Transubstantiation of wafer		1215
Adoration of the wafer		1220
Auricular Confession of sins to the priest		1215
Cup forbidden to people at Communion		1414
Purgatory proclaimed		1438
Apocryphal books added to the Bible		1546
Immaculate conception of Mary		1864
Infallibility of the Pope		1870
Assumption of the Virgin Mary		1950

(This latest Dogma was proclaimed during the Holy Year 1950.)

What next? And still the Roman Church claims never to have changed!

III.

CONCLUSION

1. AN APPEAL TO PROTESTANTS

Brethren: Do not think that the Roman Catholic Church is all wrong. It has much truth in it. It has the fundamental doctrines of the Bible, such as belief in the Triune God, the universality of sin, the incarnation, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord; that Christ died for sinners, and that the Bible as the inspired Word of God, the Virgin birth of Christ, death of Christ is an atonement for sin; the return of Christ; and future judgment. In fact, it teaches belief in all the articles of the Apostles Creed. These fundamental doctrines of the Christian religion are common to all churches and are truly CATHOLIC in the sense that they are held by the Roman Catholic, the Greek Orthodox and the Protestant Evangelical Churches.

However, the Roman Catholic Church has added many false doctrines and practices in the course of the centuries which completely hide those fundamental saving truths. There was a time when your forefathers and all Christians of the Western world were Roman Catholics. The Reformation in the sixteenth century was primarily a protest made by sincere Catholics against these false doctrines, innovations and practices, authority for which they could not find in the Bible. Thus they withdrew from the Romanized church, to return to the primitive Apostolic Evangelical church of Christ. It is reasonable to expect that a Catholic should become a Protestant, as it is reasonable and normal for an Elementary School graduate to enter High School; but it is as inconceivable for a Protestant to become a Roman Catholic as for a High School graduate to wish to return to the kindergarten class.

But, please do not hate Roman Catholics, as they do not read the Holy Bible as Protestants are encouraged to do, and so cannot distinguish truth from error. I plead for tolerance and brotherly love. Sympathize with them. Remember that Christ died for them as well as for you. They are "the other sheep" which our Lord Jesus is yearning to bring into his fold (John 10:16). Give them the Gospel and a copy of this booklet which will open their eyes. You will find that many sincere souls, priests as well as laymen, will turn to Jesus Christ alone for their salvation.

2. AN APPEAL TO ROMAN CATHOLICS

Dear Friend: I know just what you believe and how you feel in these matters, for I was formerly a Roman Catholic myself. I can sympathize with you. I wanted to be saved from my sins and was seeking the truth. If I had to have a religion, I

wanted the religion which Christ and His Apostles preached, and which the Virgin Mary and the early saints believed and practiced. God and my conscience told me that the true religion is to be found in the Holy Bible, for that is the only book that tells of the religion which Jesus and His Apostles preached. Upon reading the Bible, especially the New Testament, not only did I not find the distinctively Roman Catholic doctrines and practices therein, but to my utter amazement I found that such doctrines and practices were severely condemned. I found it clearly stated that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only Saviour for sinners and that He is ever willing and able to save me and others, independently of priests or popes or dead saints. The Holy Spirit led me to pray to Jesus in the words of St. Peter, "Lord save me" (Matt. 14:30), and in the words of the publican, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13), and the blessed Lord Jesus saved me, forgave me all my sins and gave peace to my soul. Do you blame me that now I love the Lord Jesus more than I love any other being upon earth or in heaven? Now I can exclaim with the Virgin Mary—"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoiceth in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:46-47).

After my conversion I had occasion to visit a Paulist priest who was conducting a "mission" to non-Catholics in Brooklyn and asked him a few questions. I told him if he proved to me from the Bible (even the Catholic Bible) that the apostles Peter and Paul, the Virgin Mary and the early martyrs and saints were Roman Catholics such as he was, or that the Roman Catholic Church was the same as the early Christian Church, I would return to the Roman Catholic Church then and there. He told me to read a book by a certain French author which would prove that the Roman Catholic Church of today is substantially the same as that of the early centuries. I answered that I wanted proof from the Word of God. He could not prove it from the Bible. Nobody can. But I showed him with the Bible that my Protestant religion was the same as that of the Virgin Mary and the early saints and martyrs, for I believe as they did.

My friend, let me tell you there is no use trying to find verses in the Bible to answer the 100 questions in this booklet, for they are not there. The Roman Catholic Church was truly Christian and Apostolic in the early centuries. Had she remained faithful to the fundamental saving truths of the Gospel and the Apostles' Creed, she would be truly Christian and Catholic today and there would have been no need of the Protestant Reformation. But she altered so many things and added so many pagan doctrines and practices, culminating in the Creed of the Council of Trent (1545) and in the Syllabus of Pope Pius IX (1864), which even condemns civil and religious liberty, and as late as 1870 with her doctrine of papal infallibility, that a lot of people deny to her even

the right to be called a Christian church at all. This is why so many Roman Catholics become Protestants and the Protestant Evangelical Church claims to be older than the Roman Catholic Church just as the Bible and the Apostles' Creed are older than the Vatican Council of 1870 A.D.

But what you desire most of all, aside from all controversies, the salvation of your soul. I assure you that the Lord Jesus Christ wants to save you now just as you are, for He says: "Come unto me, all you that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). Pray to Him with all your heart, even with the three short words that St. Peter used and millions of others have used—"Lord save me" (Matt. 14:30)—and you will hear His sweet voice in your heart—"Son, be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee" (Matt. 9:2). Then your life will be really happy, and you will thank the Lord for your salvation just as the Virgin Mary did when she exclaimed in the Magnificat: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoiceth in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:46-47).

As regards to controversial doctrines, do not bother about them or burden yourself with them. Let theologians discuss them. You hold to the fundamental doctrines of the Christian religion. As they were sufficient for the Apostles and early Christians, they are sufficient for us. Read the Bible every day, pray and obey its divine precepts to the best of your ability and with the help of God.

You should attend some church. As to which church to attend, remember that it is not the Protestant Church or the Roman Catholic Church that saves, but the Lord Jesus Christ. Accept salvation from Him, and then you can attend any church you want. It would be better for you to attend one of the Evangelical churches which you think conforms most to the teaching of the Bible. But you can attend even the Roman Catholic church, if God directs and you find food for your soul there; but you will be different from other Roman Catholics. You will be a **SAVED** Catholic; a **CHRISTIAN** Catholic, a **CONVERTED** Catholic.

If God leads you to join the Evangelical Church, do not hesitate to obey, for it would be a promotion for you. Millions of others have done it before you. Please remember: *it is not a virtue to remain in the religion in which you were born*. It is instead a duty to embrace the religion God shows you to be the true one. Jesus demands conversion, . . . new birth from every one (Isa. 55: 6-7; Mark 1:15; John 3-3). It does not matter whether one is born a Catholic or Protestant, a Jew or Mohammedan. Nearly all the saints and martyrs were converts from the religion in which they were born and you would be in good company. God bless you. Amen.

For further consultation and instruction apply to the pastor of any Bible church, or write to the Rev. S. L. Testa, 5166 Ruthelen St.; Los Angeles 62, Calif., and reading material will be sent which will further enlighten you and guide you in God's way of salvation, peace, joy and heaven.

THE WAY OF SALVATION MADE PLAIN

I. BELIEVE THESE FACTS.

1. *You are a lost sinner and cannot save yourself.*
"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."
"The wages of sin is death." (Rom. 3:10-23)
2. *The Lord Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of sinners.*
"Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners."
(Tim. 1:15)
"I have come to seek and save that which was lost."
(Luke 19:10)
3. *Jesus wants to save you now.*
"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
(Matt. 11:28)
"Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation."
(II Cor. 6:2)

II. THE A, B, C, OF SALVATION.

ACCEPT:—"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become children of God; to them that believe on his name."
(John 1:12)

BELIEVE:—"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."
(Acts 16:31)

CONFESS:—

1. *Your sins to God.*
"O God, be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:13)
2. *Confess Jesus before men:*
"Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven."

III. NOW ACT ON YOUR BELIEF. (Rom. 10:9-17)

MY DECLARATION

Dear friend:

Pray to God to forgive your sins and to bless you. If you are not a church member and wish to enroll as a disciple of Christ, copy the following Declaration, sign it and present it to the pastor of any Evangelical church you wish to join, and you will be received in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have repented of my sins and God has forgiven me. I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; I have received Him as my Saviour, Lord and Master; I wish to join an Evangelical Church and promise with His help to do my duty as a good Christian.

Name

Address

Date

MY MESSAGE IS

"LET US HAVE PEACE"

"The Christ of the Andes"

For many years the people of Chile and Argentina had been at war with each other. They are sister nations, as they are situated one on each side of the mountain range of the Andes. One happy day they said "Let us make peace," and they pledged their word at the foot of a colossal statue of the Redeemer which they erected on the highest peak of the Andes mountains. On that peace monument are inscribed words to this effect: "These mountains will crumble into dust before we break the peace which we have sworn at the feet of the Redeemer." The people of Chile and Argentina have accordingly been at peace ever since.

Catholics and Protestants have been at war with each other since the Reformation. They are really brothers, for they fundamentally have the same religion, and both regard the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Master. The things that unite them are greater than the things which separate them. I would like to be a peace-maker between them. I would wish to take each by the hand and lead them to the feet of the world's Redeemer, our common Saviour and King. In His presence they will lay aside and forget all bitterness and prejudice, they will consider themselves neither Catholics nor Protestants, but simply Christians; they would clasp each other's hands, solemnly pledge to obey Christ's law of love and live in peace ever after and co-operate together with Him for the salvation of humanity.

"LET US HAVE PEACE!"

Stefano L. Testa

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BY STEPHEN L. TESTA

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