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GOD'S SURPRISE FOR THE POPE AND ALL LEADERS OF FALSE RELIGIONS

The BBC headlined a report on the Pope's "Thought for Today", broadcast on its Radio 4 programme on December 24th, by using some of the Pope's own words: "God is faithful to his promises but often surprises us by how he fulfils them"

The man rightly described by the Westminster Confession of Faith as " . . . that Antichrist, that man of sin and son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the Church against Christ, and all that is called God" never spoke a truer word though the full meaning of his words will have escaped his attention.

God has said: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God," Psalms 9: 17, KJV. That promise will be fulfilled to the surprise and consternation of multitudes who rest in the Pope's religion and those religions equally false.

The Pope is the leader of a system of religion based upon man's inventions, myths and innumerable distortions of God's Holy Word. It is a system of lies and deceits. It is for that reason that it has long been the fountainhead of wickedness and corruption.

When the Lord Jesus referred to the devil as one who was "a liar and the father of it," John 8:44, He also indicated that because that was his nature and character, he was also "a murderer." Deceit and cruelty walk together.

Rome the deceiver has long been the perpetrator of cruelty. The persecutions of the dark ages and the times of the Reformation in Europe illustrate this to be so. But it is not only the pages of ancient history that provide us with such evidence of the true nature of Rome. No, the pages of today's newspapers and other media outlets tell the same story.

The recent world-wide exposure of Rome's wicked abuse of children in her care and control and the systematic concealment of these crimes by her hierarchy demonstrate her unchanged character. The abuse of children was not the crime of rogue priests but was a crime of the whole system of Roman Catholicism. A recent Christmas statement by the present Pope to his cardinals has caused many to see an acknowledgement that Rome has viewed paedophilia as something "fully in conformity with man and even with children."

The wiliest of wolves dressed as sheep inadvertently allow their guise to slip at times!

It is for this reason we say that the Pope never spoke a truer word when he said on the BBC that "God is faithful to his promises but often surprises us by how he fulfils them"!

All who embrace his false religion will indeed discover this to be so and that from the lips of the Lord Himself. Consider what Christ taught us in Matthew 25:31-46.

- "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then



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shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

Especially note the exchange between those who were on the left hand of Christ at this scene of judgment and the Lord Jesus.

- "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

What a "surprise" for these professed disciples of Christ! It is everlasting fire in company with the devil and his angels for them rather than heaven's bliss and the presence of the Heavenly Father. They thought themselves on the road to heaven but all the time were on the road to hell.

Those here depicted in this Scripture are all around us today, travelling that road to eternal ruin but knowing it not. They are those who reject the message of the gospel in preference to the teaching of their religious leaders. They are those who practise the creed summarised by the words: "I am doing my best and I believe that God will accept that and allow me into heaven."

Such a creed is in direct opposition to what Christ taught men and His true servants have taught mankind throughout the ages.



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Hear the Word of God.

- “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away,” Isaiah 64:6, KJV.
- “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23, KJV.
- “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” Romans 5:12, KJV.
- “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23, KJV.

We are all sinners and must suffer the consequences of our sin which is everlasting damnation UNLESS WE CAN FIND A WAY OF ESCAPE.

Man’s religion, that is, all religions outside of Christ’s, says that acts of a religious nature, good works to the best of our ability, is the means of escaping hell.

BUT GOD’S WORD SAYS OTHERWISE.

- “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV.
- “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:20, KJV.

Our works, no matter how hard and diligently we try, cannot save us. Our best efforts, marred as they are by sin, fall short of God’s holy standards.

That is why Christ came into this world. He came to save sinners by becoming their substitute. He fulfilled the requirements of the holy law for His people and suffered the penalty that their sins merited. This truth lies at the heart of the Old and the New Testaments.

- “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he



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- shall bear their iniquities," Isaiah 53:3-11, KJV.
- "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" Galatians 3:13, KJV.
 - "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed," 1 Peter 2:24, KJV.
 - "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit," 1 Peter 3:18, KJV.

These are but a few of the many examples of this glorious truth set forth in the Bible. Romanism hates this truth and has pronounced a curse against any who teach them. Consequently, we say again—what a dreadful awakening awaits those who trust in the false teachings of Rome and her allies who teach the same notion of "self-redemption" through so-called good works and church rituals.

Those who are resting by faith alone in Christ's work of sacrifice on Calvary may contentedly expect heaven. The Saviour's death for them has most assuredly purchased eternal joy for them. The only surprise for them will be the glorious splendour of the glory to which God's mercy has brought them.

- "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9, KJV.

We appeal to all who may read this article to please give thought to what the Bible has to say on this matter for the sake of their eternal souls.

Ivan Foster.
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