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Catholic Church 'an empire of misogyny' - Mary McAleese

So read the headline on the BBC Northern Ireland news site.



Mary McAleese, former President of the Republic of Ireland

We mounted the [link to the news item](#) on our site and, as is our practice, we added a comment or two.

The comment read: "Mary, I think we would need to add a few more adjectives, such as 'blasphemous', 'vainly inventive', 'repugnant to the Word of God' and 'dangerously deceitful' (see Traditional 39 Articles of the Church of Ireland) to adequately describe Popery!"

The demand for brevity required me to expand no further but on pondering the subject further I thought that there was a need for a larger comment in the form of an article.

We must further say to Mrs McAleese: If, as you claim, the Roman Catholic Church is 'an empire of misogyny' then it cannot be the Church of Jesus Christ! If that is the case then why does she and

tens of thousands intelligent people continue to revere it and submit to its dogmas and trust its teachings for the bringing of them safely to heaven??

We will not quarrel with Mrs McAleese's definition of the Roman Catholic Church. What we would wish to stress is that her description does not in the least depict the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Liberty

We have often said that the greatest liberator of men and women is the gospel of Christ. The Saviour said: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free," John 8:32. And again: "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed," John 8:36.

Paul said that "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus," Galatians 3:28. Albert Barnes comments on this verse as follows. "There is neither Jew nor Greek. All are on a level; all are saved in the same way; all are entitled to the same privileges. There is no favouritism on account of birth, beauty, or blood. All confess that they are sinners; all are saved by the merits of the same Saviour; all are admitted to the same privileges as children of God. The word "Greek" here is used to denote the Gentiles generally; since the whole world was divided by the Jews into "Jews and Greeks"-- the Greeks being the foreign nation best known to them. The Syriac renders it here "Aramean," using the word to denote the Gentiles generally. The meaning is, that whatever was the birth, or rank, or nation, or colour, or complexion, all under the gospel were on a level. They were admitted to the same privileges, and endowed with the same hopes of eternal life. This does not mean that all the civil distinctions among men are to be disregarded; it does not mean that no respect is to be shown to those in office, or to men in elevated rank; it does not mean that all are on a level in regard to talents, comforts, or wealth; but it means only that all men are on a level in regard to religion. This is the sole point under discussion; and the interpretation should be limited to this. It is not a fact that men are on a level in all things, nor is it a fact that the gospel designs to break down all the distinctions of society. Paul means to teach that no man has any preference or advantage in the kingdom of God because he is a rich man, or because he is of elevated rank; no one is under any disadvantage because he is poor, or because he is ignorant, or a slave. All at the foot of the cross are sinners; all at the communion table are saved by the same grace; all who enter into heaven, will enter clothed in the same robes of salvation, and arranged, not as princes and nobles, and rich men and poor men, in separate orders and ranks, but mingling together as redeemed by the same blood, and arranged in ranks according to their eminence in holiness."

The truth thus set forth is easily seen in the records of the Bible.



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What godliness is recorded of women in the Scriptures.

The record of Hannah, her patience under trial and taunting, her faith as expressed in her praying, her yielding of her son Samuel to the work and cause of God, all serve to make this woman a heroine to Bible readers and a pattern for all, men and women, to follow.

Then the story of Ruth is likewise inspiring. This Gentile woman, brought up in spiritual darkness in Moab, attained by God's grace to wonderful faith. This is splendidly set forth in her words to her mother-in-law, Naomi. "And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept. And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people. And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons; would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me. And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her. And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me," Ruth 1:8-17. This was a display of faith most admirable! She, like Hannah, has been an inspiration to countless millions throughout the ages.

The New Testament record

We come to the New Testament and the record there of the godly women who faithfully served the Lord.

There was Mary, the Saviour's mother. She has been greatly betrayed by the false teaching about her propagated by Rome. How cunning the devil is to destroy a testimony by heaping false praise upon a person! Mary was not what Rome says of her. But what the Bible says of her clearly indicates that she was a godly woman. The opening words of her joyous response to the words of Elisabeth clearly indicate Mary's deep spirituality and Biblical knowledge. "And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour (please note that here Mary acknowledges herself to be a sinner in need of God's salvation). For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed," Luke 1:46-48. In truth, she was a woman blessed of the Lord indeed. She was as Elisabeth called her: "the mother of my Lord," Luke 1:43. Her being chosen of God for such a task surely indicates godliness. What an honour was bestowed upon her!

I mention only some of the women referred to in Matthew's gospel. The woman with the issue of blood, Matthew 9:20; the woman of Canaan, Matthew 15:22; the woman with the alabaster box of very precious ointment, Matthew 26:7. All of these woman and many, many more, are set forth to be examples of grace and holiness and obedience and love for all the people of God to admire in all ages.

Then there are those woman, whose names appear on a number of occasions throughout the gospel records. The mentioning of them invariably sets them forth in a most honourable manner. I speak of the band of woman who were constantly in the Saviour's company with the disciples and apostles. "There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome; (who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem," Mark 15:40-41.

Here they are at the cross, amidst the dangers and reproach that intimidated Peter and the other apostles. All honour to these dear, loving and brave souls! Women were the first at the tomb and the first to declare



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the resurrection of the Saviour to the doubting and fearful apostles.

“And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment. Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: and as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words, and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not,” Luke 23:54-24:11.

These records are given us so that we might see and understand the honour that God bestowed upon those godly women who were prominent in the ranks of the faithful throughout the ages.

That Church over which the Saviour has presided since the dawn of time is one where women, of all ages and stations, were by law, protected, honoured and exalted.

A simple and straightforward conclusion

Therefore, when Mrs Mary McAleese says that the “Catholic Church is an empire of misogyny” she is indicating that the organisation to which she is referring is not the Church of Jesus Christ.

Mrs McAleese is a very intelligent and highly educated woman. Despite her past spiteful and untruthful criticisms of the Protestant people of Northern Ireland, she is a woman of many capabilities. She uttered slanderous statements against the Protestant people of Northern Ireland in January 2005. She said that Protestant children in Northern Ireland were taught to hate Catholics in the same way as the Nazis taught theirs to despise Jews.

Apart from the irony of the outrageous slander — the Irish Republic remained neutral throughout the Second World War and even flew the National flag at half-mast when Hitler’s death was announced — the statement is an unmitigated lie. No community has borne such terror as the Protestant community in Northern Ireland over the last 30 years and yet, to a remarkable degree, it has borne it patiently. Unlike the Roman Catholic community which has given support to IRA terrorism, the Protestant people, apart from a very small minority, eschewed paramilitary retaliation and terror.

Mrs. McAleese made the comments before attending ceremonies marking 60 years since Auschwitz was liberated. She said the anti-semitism that existed for decades had been built upon by the Nazis. “They gave to their children an irrational hatred of Jews in the same way that people in Northern Ireland transmitted to their children an irrational hatred, for example, of Catholics,” she said.

However, Mrs. McAleese later said she regretted her remarks. She said she was “personally absolutely devastated” by the furore, that her critics had been “absolutely right” and acknowledged she had been clumsy and had hurt people.

When it is remembered that Mrs. McAleese is a former Law Professor of Queen’s University, Belfast, it is hard to believe that the statement came about as a result of verbal clumsiness. Mrs. McAleese was but giving vent to her native hatred of all things Protestant, if truth be told.

Mrs. McAleese has held many public positions of high esteem. She graduated in Law from Queen’s University



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Belfast. In 1975, she was appointed Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology at Trinity College, Dublin and in 1987, she returned to her Alma Mater, Queen's, to become Director of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies. In 1994, she became the first female Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University. She worked as a barrister and also worked as a journalist. She was President of the Republic of Ireland (the 26 counties of Ireland which withdrew from the United Kingdom) for two terms.

She is therefore familiar with analytical thought and sensible analysis. That being the case, why does she remain a member of that system she so denigrates? Surely if in her court appearances she proved in cross-examination that a witness was an unmitigated liar, she would not then ask the jury to believe his testimony?

This is a matter which must be addressed not just by her but by those millions of intelligent Roman Catholics throughout the world and, most especially those numerous thousands of Roman Catholics and their families who have been the victims of the unspeakable wickedness of priests and prelates so recently exposed worldwide!

It must be said that God in His mercy has providentially afforded Roman Catholics with undeniable, indisputable evidence that they are within the fold of a system of deceit and lies which can only bring them down to damnation.

The revelations of recent years come of course in the wake of centuries of similar expose's of Rome's depravities. Added to this of course are the testimonies of Holy Scripture of what is the TRUTH and the only way to heaven.

May God in mercy awaken Roman Catholics to the dreadful errors of Rome so that they might not merely direct appropriate criticism toward Rome, as did Mrs Mary McAleese, but do what the Bible requires them to do - EMBRACE THE TRUTH AND FLEE FROM ROMANISM!

Here is the reaction that should follow an awakening to the awful errors of Rome.

"And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver," Acts 19:18-19.

Such conversions were the result of the labours of men who were sent forth to preach the gospel amongst the nations and, as the Saviour said to Paul, "to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me," Acts 26:18.

We earnestly pray that we will live to see it happening in this fair isle!

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtr)

10th March 2018.