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Internet Debate with Roman Catholic Priest



Of late, a priest from Dublin, "Father" John Ryan has been on our site and signed our guest book, leaving a comment which initiated a debate between himself and the Editor, Rev. Ivan Foster. Since quite a few of our readers may not have access to the internet, I though we would print the exchange of comments in the guest book and so make them available to them. Here is the compilation which appear in the printed edition of "The Burning Bush." Further comments have been added since the publishing of the May edition of "The Burning Bush."

3/23/2001 5:51:28 AM

Name: Rev. John Ryan C.C. City: Dublin Country: Ireland

Comment:

Dear Sir, As a Catholic may I say how well the "ministers" of your Church look in their Roman Collars on the photographs at the ecumincal protests.

Editor's reply. You are not a 'Catholic', rather you are a 'Roman Catholic.' There is a world of difference. As for the 'Roman Collars,' they are not the common garb of a priest in a Roman Catholic country. Priests only wear their peculiar version of the clerical collar in countries where Protestant churches have a presence and that in order to pass themselves off as ministers. In truth, the collar has but evolved from the old Geneva gown and tapes attire of the Protestant ministers of the 17th century.

Thanks for visiting the site. What you read will have demonstrated that we are not in the least inclined to the deceptions of popery and therefore not likely to don its 'collar.' We in this part of the world have seen first hand what spiritual slavery it imposes upon its people. The Editor.

Date: 4/4/2001 7:59:43 AM

Name: Rev. John Ryan C.C. City: Dublin Country: Ireland

Comment:

Censorship on board this guestbook or just a typical cowardice???

Editor's reply. Only a priest of Rome can have his say on a Protestant site and then complain of censorship! Our readers should note that Rome, like Islam, cries discrimination when they feel they are being curtailed in their efforts to destroy those they are being curtailed by. One has only to think of the reaction to open criticism of their system in a country where they hold power to get an understanding of life under popery. One final point. We do not allow foul language, false accusations or blasphemy on this site. That is basically the only content removed. Sorry, yer reverence!!!! Readers should have a look at the article on our main page from the latest edition of "The Burning Bush" on the recent revelations concerning the Vatican's acknowledgement of immorality amongst priests to see



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what has stuck in his craw!!!!

4/5/2001 2:10:08 PM

Name: Rev. John Ryan C.C. City: Dublin Country: Ireland

Comment:

Remeber that it says in the Book of Revelation Foster that Liars shall not enter heaven. I never used bad language to you, your just a coward like your Church leader! What are the fruits of your religion Foster The myth of the homosexual Queen Billy! And that! Your quick to point out the faults of the Pope. Paisley would not be fit to weep his feet! Protestantism is bastard ideology just look at all the sects. What about all they different sects in Presbyterianism. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Reformed Presbyterian, The Evangelical Presbyterian and your own little sect founded in 1950. Plus the Unitarian brand of it non-subscribing Presbyterianism. Your just a huge mass of confusion. Then again your King James Bible is called after a sodomite also. Lets face your religion is bastard religion and you lot are bastard race of lowland Scots who even the English detested. What are you going to do Foster when your soon minority in the six counties run off with Paisley to Canada? Yours for a United Catholic Europe from the Urals to the Atlantic!!!

Editor's reply. Dear Priest of Rome, (Are you really a graduate of Maynooth? Your grammar does little to enhance its academic reputation.) Yes, I remember what Rev 21:8 says about liars. You are mistaken to suggest that I accused you of using bad language. I merely listed the main reasons why we refuse to print some comments. The fruit of Bible Protestantism is the deliverance it has brought for those once held under the heel of Romanism and the cesspit of immorality it breeds. The Vatican's forced acknowledgement of the immorality of priests in many countries validates the criticism made by the Reformers and us their descendants. The reaction of Israel to the Saviour when He came amongst them illustrates how a people possessing the Word of God and professing obedience to God may utterly depart from God. The divisions in professing Protestantism are the result of past apostasies. As Christ called His twelve apostles out of disobedient Israel and a remnant ready to heed His Word, even so over the centuries God has maintained a remnant testimony of those determined to remain faithful to Christ and His Word. Your comments about "confusion" is rich coming from a member of a system supposedly opposing abortion, but which is forced to acknowledge that nuns made pregnant by priests were forced by those same priests to have abortions. The Bible translation which I uphold is not called after King James I. Rather, it is merely identified by some by the use of his name since he was on the throne at the time of the translation. The language you employ to describe Bible Protestantism and my ancestors, underscores the unchanging hatred of Rome for the truth of God. The Pope and his acolytes may speak of "separated brethren" and spout ecumenical love, but you show the true heart of the old harlot of Rome. Leave Ulster for Canada? Not likely! There is a need for preachers in Ulster to witness to the increasing number of Roman Catholics disillusioned with their "church" since the escapades of "Bishop" Casey and the evil activities of the innumerable sexually deviant priests of Rome whose activities have been exposed through the courts of the Irish Republic and in many other countries throughout the world. For you to lift your head, never mind your voice in defence of Rome and in criticism of any one, testifies to the exceedingly hard alloy your neck is made from! Your references to censorship are puzzling. Perhaps you mistake the delay in the mounting



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of entries to my guest book as censorship. That commonly used device is only to avoid foul language appearing on our site. You are free to write what you will as long as it does not breach the rules I have already referred to. Indeed I welcome your contributions. They do more than any words of mine could do to demonstrate just how evil and two-faced popery is. The Editor.

Date: 4/6/2001 4:27:15 PM

Name: Rev. John Ryan C.C. City: Dublin Country: Ireland

Comment:

Dear Sir, I am not a graduate of Maynooth, although many a fine Priest came from there. With regards to my grammar I have only recently in my 77th year started to learn to use one of these machines, so my eye sight is not what it use to be. I know all about Bible-Christianity I served in the American Bible belt as a Priest. I'm very familiar with All those Sothern preachers and their hatred of the Church. You can accuse Priests in the Catholic Church of all sorts of sexual sins but you know as well as I do these Preachers in the deep South are noted for sexual sins. We Catholics admit were a Church of sinners. Remember that one of Christ's own disciples betrayed him. Lucifer rebelled against God. Just like the Protestants reject the Apostolic Faith which was handed down. I notice you never attack the Eastern Church they believe everything we in the Western Church belive with regards to the Sacraments, the Mass etc. Why not I wonder is it because the reject the supreme authority of the Pope as Christ's visible head of the Church on Earth? When the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster is long forgotten the Catholic Church will still be proclaiming the Truth of Christ. Our Blessed LOrd establishe one Church on this earth not thousands. John Henry Newman stared out on his great search once to disprove the Catholic Church and through his great search he ended up joining the Church, true we have many people who bring shame but that can never take away from the truth the the Church which goes back to the Apostles is the one Holy Catholic an Apostolic Church. I challenge and of your readers to prove otherwise. Remember that Both you and Paisley have Catholic ancestors, even though you hate the fact, are they in hell now because they never heard your brand of the gospel? I notice some fellow from New York City wrote about King William the III. Ask him what did William die from?? During my ministry in Florida, I baptised several former Fundamentalist in to the Catholic Church including a former Independent Baptist, who thought like you he knew what the Catholic Church teaches.

Editor's reply. Dear Mr. Ryan, If you really are 77 years of age and just beginning on the computer, you are doing well. You have made a very good start by visiting "The Burning Bush" site. I will quickly respond to some of your remarks. Sadly, you know nothing of "Bible Christianity" despite the time you have spent in the southern states of the USA. That is made obvious by your defence of the Roman Catholic Church and your adherence to its teachings. It is true that there have been those Protestants who have disgraced the name of the gospel and dishonoured the Lord by their sin. However, they have been the exception. Rome's record is one of consistent and continual breaches of decency and morality. The decadence of so many of the popes and their entourage is a matter of public record. I am not referring to Protestant writers but to Roman Catholic writers whose positions within the organisation have made their witness most impressive and authoritative. I am actually in Canada at present and therefore away from my study otherwise I would take the great-



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est of pleasure in giving you a list of authors and their books to substantiate what I have said. However, I have no fear that what I have stated can be gainsaid. As for our not attacking the Eastern Orthodox church, there is little point in criticising that which has little relevance to the lives of those to whom I witness. However, be assured that it is a matter of public record that the F P Church is opposed to the errors of "Orthodoxy" to the same degree as it opposes the errors of Rome. It is quite true that Dr. Paisley and I have Roman Catholic ancestors. It is also true that all of our ancestors who were not born again by the grace and power of God did not go to heaven, be they Roman Catholic or Protestant. You are very much mistaken if you think that either of us hates Roman Catholics. We both hate the doctrines of Rome, believing them to be a devilish delusion that will damn all who trust in the false hope that Rome presents. But we are prepared to endure reproach in order to warn all men of the errors of Rome and ecumenical Protestantism. I wish to come to your challenge. The teachings of the Roman Catholic Church are as far removed from the message Christ taught as heaven is from hell. I say that carefully and advisedly. Let me briefly state that Romanism cannot be the religion of Christ because . . .

It forbade its people access to the Bible and the words of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rome's Index of Prohibited Books).

It denies salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Instead it teaches a system of salvation by works. This is contrary to the gospel. Eph 2:8-9.

Furthermore, it denies the all-sufficiency of Christ's death on the cross. Hebs 10:12. The central teaching of the Mass is that it is a repetition of Calvary and the partaking of the bread, which is supposedly changed into the actual body and blood of Christ through the priest's words of consecration, is necessary for the salvation of those attending the Mass. Wherever Romanism has gone it has bred superstition, ignorance and darkness. In its hey-day, it introduced the nations of Europe to the "dark ages." The contrast between North and South America can be explained only by the differing religions that have held sway in the two regions. Protestantism, despite its latter day apostasies and departures, has introduced life and liberty in its wake. The history of Europe and North America demonstrates this. A leading Irish Roman Catholic lawyer by the name of McCarthy wrote a number of books including "Ireland, its people and priests" in which he contrasted the poverty and misery of the Roman Catholic people of southern Ireland with the greater prosperity of the Protestant people of Northern Ireland and the resultant benefits for their Roman Catholics neighbours. His words, though written nearly a century ago, are as relevant today as they were back when the twentieth century began. The Editor.

4/9/2001 2:16:54 PM

Name: Rev John Ryan C.C. City: Dublin Country: Ireland

Comment: *Tell me Foster could you show me in the New Testament where it clearly states we are justified by "Faith Alone"? Could you further tell me who decide that the certain books were but into the New Testament and certain ones where left out? Perhaps you could check what Martin Luther said on this? The Catholic Church teaches that Salvation is Christ and has always taught this great truth and the Church presents the Biblical teaching of Justication by Faith, perhaps you should read any early Catholic Father on this in con-*



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text. Unlike those Fundamentalist liars in the South I came across and took pieces of his works totally out of context alot like the websites of you "church" those in presenting the teaching of the Catholic Church, you know as well as I do there is only one Church founded by Christ and it was not founded on the 17th of March 1951 in the six counmties. The fact that you try to use the comparision in materialist terms between Catholics and Protesants show you have no concept of Spirituality. Christianity started of among the slaves and the poor of the Roman Empire. I am well aware of Protestant Capitalism in the Bible belt also there is alot of poverty among these people, hve you ever seen he poverty of the Appliagian people many of them are Fundamentalist Christians, then again you lot do not have any concept of social justice do you? you should read the minor prophets in the Old Testament to see what they have to say bout social justice. Or perhaps even better read up on the so- cial teaching of the Catholic Church on Social justice. Tell me Foster those you Church do any work with the poor in the work or just get them saved a let the Lord look after them perhaps you shuold read James chapter

2. To that Emery felllow would you ever go get and education for yourself Willliam was a Sodomite face facts! Just like the fact that the Catholic Church is the only Church which goes back to Apostolic times just read history. The fact hat you lot are fanatical anti- catholic proves my point. Rev John Ryan.

Editor's reply Dear Mr. Ryan, I do believe the mask of tolerance is slipping again and the old wolfish visage is showing through! Your answer to Mr. Emery is hardly that of a historian or an academic. Indeed, it lacks common courtesy. It is amazing that anyone coming from the sodomite-ridden Church of Rome dare raise the subject let alone point the finger at others. Such a school-boyish retort will fool no one. Thankfully, the world no longer believes something is true simply because a priest of Rome says it is so. Indeed, we are approaching the happy position that no one believes anything a priest of Rome says! I notice that you have made no response to a number of the points I have made in my last answer. Our readers can draw their own conclusions on your silence. To answer your request about a clear statement from the Bible that justification is by faith alone, here are some verses. *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law,* Rom 3:28. *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified,* Galatians 2:16. *But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith,* Gal 3:11. *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith,* Gal 3:24. We can add Paul's very clear statement to the Ephesians that salvation is not by works. *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. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them,* Ephesians 2:8-10. These words show us the relationship between works and salvation. As James says in his epistle, the proof that a soul has been saved and is justified is the works that spring from the saving grace of God in the soul. Rome would reverse the order and have us believe that holy works result in salvation rather than salvation producing holy works. I certainly believe that there is only one true Church. It is that Church which Christ founded upon Himself, the true Rock. The members of that Church may be known, not by any denominational tag,



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but by their faithful allegiance to the Word of God. It was Christ Who said to those Jews which believed on him, *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed*, John 8:31. Let me just repeat yet again. No Free Presbyterian is "anti-catholic." We are very much opposed to the teachings of Rome because those teachings will bring down to everlasting damnation all who trust in them. That does not show hatred for Roman Catholics but rather the highest concern for their eternal well-being. The Editor.

Date: 4/25/2001 3:53:47 AM

Name: Rev. John Ryan C.C. City: Dublin Country: Ireland

Comment: *Dear Sir, With regards to being rude to you, I think you have a cheek considering the bigotry you have on this website. Furthermore could you tell me what Law Paul is speaking of here in Romans? Do you accept that Martin Luther, when he translated the Book of Romans into German, inserted the word "alone" to explain the word "faith" (e.g., Rom 3:28; 5:1) where in Greek did not call for it? So the inclusion of the word "alone" altered the meaning of the text and Pauls thought. Jean Calvin believed that the Reformation would stand or fall on that verse and the newly devised interpretation. This is clearly a Protestant tradition, Protestants have added to the word of God "Protestant traditions". This "Faith alone" concept is a new concept, one not taught prior to Luther's time. The fact is the only time "faith alone" is used in the New Testament is in (James 2:24). The only place it is used in the New Testament! Now there's a Sermon text for you next Sunday when you not ranting and raving about the Roman Anti-Christ! The Catholic Church teaches: " Believing in Jesus Christ and in the One who sent him for our salvation is necessary for obtaining that salvation. 'Since without faith it is impossible to please (God) and to attain to the fellowship of his sons, therefore without faith no one has ever attained justification, nor will anyone obtain eternal life, " he who endures to the end"(CCC 161). The Catholic teaching is consisted with biblical thought and is the teachin faithfully proclaimed since the first centuries. How does a Protestant know which books belong in the New Testament?*

Editor's reply. Dear Mr. Ryan, You must have gone to the Vatican by bicycle for that answer — it took so long! I suggest that you consider what Paul said in the verses that I quoted rather than what you say Martin Luther, who was after all uninspired in what he said, supposedly wrote. However, is it not clear that in expounding Roman 3:28, it is entirely in keeping with the obvious meaning of Paul to use the word alone? I would remind you what Paul said in Romans 3:28. *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.* If Paul does not mean by faith "alone", just what does he mean? I could add Paul's words to Titus to the list I gave you in my last answer. *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost*, Titus 3:5. I refuse to allow you to distract me or the visitors to this site by your digressions. You asked for verses which showed that salvation was by faith alone and not by works. I gave you a selection. Now stick with them. It was a major mistake on your part to try and defend Rome's theology from the Bible and the friends you spent the last two weeks consulting doubtless told you so. However, it is by the Word of God and not the clever dipsa-doodling of men that our eternal destination will be decided. So said Isaiah. *To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them*, Isaiah 8:20.



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So let us stay with God's Word and by it let our theology stand or fall. I repeat what I said in my last answer: "The proof that a soul has been saved and is justified is the works that spring from the saving grace of God in the soul." It is not faith in Christ "and " works but faith in Christ "alone". The Editor.