

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, March 9, 2014

Volume 19, Number 10

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

STEALING A CROSS WASN'T THE HALF OF IT!

by Bob Pulliam

“Of whom were you worried and fearful, When you lied, and did not remember Me, Nor give Me a thought? Was I not silent even for a long time So you do not fear Me?” (Isaiah 57:11)

The text above is from a rebuke for idolatry that God cast at Israel. They had been through much by God's punishments, but had learned to put God out of their minds and concentrate on their own ways. They did not give Him “a thought”, nor did they remember Him. They did, however, think long and hard on their idolatry. It consumed their time and thoughts. Although it was the creation of their own hands, they found comfort in it. In fact, *it alone* could stimulate them to worship (v8). The worship of Jehovah was far too “tame” for their sophisticated taste in religion. They needed signs behind the doorpost, and images to look

upon and bow before. They needed something that *seemed* reasonable, because it was so much like the religions around them.

I hope the words that I have chosen are having their effect. Because I am drawing a parallel to religion today. Not just Catholicism, although this was all brought to my mind as I read about the recent “confession” of the Pope. And I will focus on his act, but I do not want you to miss the fact that much of religion today (calling itself “Christianity”) fits the mold of what I described above.

The Pope dropped a bomb this past week. Everyone I can find is calling it a “confession”, but I have yet to find him expressing

regret for committing a *sin*. What I do find is something that looks quite distinctly pagan. Taking a physical object from the dead, and keeping it as a kind of a talisman with magical properties. What else would you call something you can reach for, and in return “feel the grace” that makes you feel better? That the Pope said “Give me half your mercy.” when he took it does not make an act of theft noble! Nothing changes the fact that he took it. And with just “a bit of force” according to his own words. Which of the ten commandments was that? If he had done this a few days later, he would have fit the secondary definition of “ghoul” — a robber of graves. But let's look past the character of the Pope concerning trustworthiness, and concentrate of the character of paganism found in his act. If you are Catholic, please consider carefully the following questions. I ask them with all candor, hoping that you will think beyond the simplistic gloss applied to this story by the

(Stealing, continued on pg 2...)

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press, and the Pope himself.

Do things really have properties given them from the deceased? Evidently the Pope thinks so. He wanted the mercy of the “great confessor” of Buenos Aires. He must believe that a person’s belongings possess the power of their dead “master”. This sounds more like sorcery than anything “Christian”. Why in the world have Catholics ever sent missionaries to China to convert people from their paganism. This sounds very much like Taoism!

Was the Pope praying to a dead priest? Now I know Catholicism allows for praying to others beside deity (e.g. saints — which is not in your Bible). But this

fellow is a long way from being a saint, and yet the Pope is speaking to him, asking him to do something for him, **and evidently getting what he asked for!!!** Didn’t anybody in the media notice that? He is talking to a dead guy, and the dead guy is granting his request! The Pope could write scripts for modern television and movies, ‘cause this is the kind of stuff they seem to have going on too. Are you keeping score? The Pope has given in to Taoism and Harry Potterism (or perhaps he is now one of the “Lord of the Rings”).

Is the Pope unfamiliar with Jesus? God’s word tells us that God’s act of mercy in Jesus, and Jesus’ act of mercy in sacrifice, are to be our supreme example in exhibiting mercy to our fellow man: *“And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”* (Ephesians 4:32 - 5:2) Why couldn’t the Pope put his hand on his New Testament and find the ability to be merciful? I have never seen the Pope with a Bible in his hand. Never! Is there a good reason for that? His religion does not claim to follow the Bible. Did you know that? His religion claims to be an evolution of God’s will upon earth, and that the church was given that power by Jesus Himself. But have you noticed what it was changed into? The idolatry in ancient Israel isn’t far removed from the image worship of Catholicism today. And the Pope’s willingness to steal an

object, and ask a dead priest for something, is a great case in point. God rebuked those who “...continually provoke Me to My face, Offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on bricks; Who sit among graves, and spend the night in secret places ...” (Isa 65:4). Ancient Israel thought the dead had more power than Jehovah, and could give answers to their questions.

So, what have we in the Pope?... Sincerity?... No doubt! But that means little when you consider that those people in Isaiah were just as sincere - but condemned.

If the Bible truly is God’s word, then why would you want to reach beyond it? Does the Catholic Church have the Biblical authority to change religion that it claims to have? Even if you don’t know the Bible on this subject, consider what you can see in Ca-

(Stealing, continued on pg 3...)

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

MATTHEW 19 - 22

March 9 - 11

OLD TESTAMENT READING

GENESIS 35 - 42

March 12 - 15

I TIMOTHY 4:13

Directory Info

Sections have been
removed to preserve
member's privacy

FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Gospel Meeting (Steve Wolfgang) V.B.S. ("We Would See Jesus")
April 13 - 16, 2014 June 23 - 26, 2014

Annual Singing September 6, 2014 **Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier)**
September 7 - 10, 2014

Sick and Shut-Ins

Sections have been removed to preserve member's privacy

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

The Love of Christ
Constrains Us

Tonight:

Such Were Some of You

New Arrivals

(Stealing, *continued from pg 2...*)

tholicism. It formulates doctrines that it later recants (e.g. purgatory); bestows sainthood that it later calls into question (e.g. St. Christopher); fails to rule on crucial matters (*ex cathedra*) that threaten division (e.g. birth control); preys on superstitious tendencies (e.g. selling trinkets and medals, with "healing" images); placing Mary above Jesus in power and authority (which Paul and Peter said is not true — Acts 4:14; Eph 1:20-23); bowing before images of all kinds (which is forbidden throughout Scripture — e.g. Ex 32:4, where an idol is made to represent the God who had led Israel up out of Egypt, but was still an abomination). The problem is not that the Bible is unclear. The problem is that the Bible is not consulted or respected. The Pope simply refuses to reach for a Bible. He needs, instead, something that he has stolen from a dead man's coffin.

Please open God's word. Compare the acts of a thief, who has given no indication of remorse, with what the Bible says (after all, the Pope has the power to put that rosary cross back in the priest's coffin). Remember that he is the representative of something on Earth. He claims that he represents Christ. Can you find it anywhere within the bounds of reason to believe that Jesus would have ever taken anything from anyone under any circumstance?... I didn't think so.



Preaching Abroad...

FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve member's privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

ELDERS:

Ruben Amador
Matthew Heaton
Donnie Mangrum
Steve Voss



DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

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