

# The Stanly Baptist.

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## THE TEACHINGS OF ROME.

(By REV. L. R. PRUETT.)

The Roman Catholic Church is both religious and political. In this paper we are concerned about the religious teaching of the church. She is made the source of all power and the Pope is the chief executive. She is the fountain head which makes laws for millions of people, claims to be holy and infallible, and declares that only through her is salvation secured. Outside of the Catholic Church there is no salvation. All Protestants are "heretics" and are doomed to the bottomless pit.

Rome calls herself "The Church, the True Church, the Only Church." And yet the history of those countries in which she has had full sway for hundreds of years does not sustain such and arrogant boast. Anyone familiar with history knows that the Catholic Church has failed in Mexico, South America, Spain, and Italy. She has been a curse and not a blessing in these countries. Every intelligent person knows that the Church of Rome has introduced "image worship" wherever she has existed. In order to favor such worship of images she has taken the second commandment from the Decalogue, and in the Church of Rome not one in a thousand knows that the church has taken away that commandment, and hence Catholics believe that it is heresy not to bow before images. Enter some great cathedral in Italy or in America, as to that, and you will see as genuine image worship as could be found in India or China. For instance, the image of the Virgin Mary is venerated in Catholic Churches. The devout Catholic enters the church and approaches the image with the prayer on the lips, "Most loving Virgin, refuge of sinners, you are the hope of all in trouble, the loving object of all hearts. No one, O Blessed Virgin Mary, can hope for salvation except through your aid. It is a sign of salvation to have your name. O Mary, continuous-

## A License to Steal Horses.

I hereby make application for a special license to steal horses. I am willing to pay liberally for the privilege. I am emboldened to make this application for reason of other special privileges petitioned for about this time of the year by other citizens of "good moral character." The business for which they are asking license produced at least three-fourths of all the crime committed in the country last year. It has filled our borough lock-ups and the county jail. It has made our criminal court the most expensive in the history of the country.

The business for which I ask license I deem less injurious to the community than the business of selling intoxicating liquors at either wholesale or retail.

1. I pledge myself not to take away the senses of any man, nor rob his purse.

2. I obligate myself not to cause men to beat their wives, damn their children into the world, or commit murder. I only want to steal horses.

3. And if a man has a soul which most men consent to, I promise to do nothing to destroy this germ of immortality, but leave it to its own moral

course. I only want to steal horses.

4. I furthermore solemnly promise that if the license is granted I will not steal horses on Sunday, nor on election day, nor on legal holidays, nor after 10 o'clock at night. I also solemnly promise not to steal colts, nor horses that have no sense, nor old broken-down plugs.

5. Your honor will see the license I pray for will result in less harm to the community than a license to sell intoxicating liquors. Of course I may damage the property of a few well-to-do people, but their bodies, their minds, their reputations and characters I am above impairing. I only want to steal horses.

6. I would further enforce my application by reminding the court that "you can't run the country without the license fee;" that "I don't steal horses somebody else will;" that "all attempts to prohibit horse stealing only result in producing sneaks and liars;" that "I am a liberal contributor to the political jackpot," and that "I control more votes than most of the other applicants for license." —Exchange.

replied, "Yes, pure and simple. Perhaps the more intelligent make the distinction between image and that represented by it, but thousands fix their thoughts on the image alone, and actually pay their devotions to the piece of wood or stone which is before them."

All through the history of the papal system idolatry has been the most marked characteristic. Romanism and paganism are not very far apart. Along with the spread of Romanism in America we expect the reign of paganism among Catholics. It is the old Roman paganism revived under a Christian name only. Catholics claim to be followers of Christ, but Christ has very little room in a Catholic church. The Pope, the Virgin Mary, Saints and the relics have not place for Christ.

The Roman Catholic church teaches that grace is given to the soul by an outward ordinance or "sacrament." In II Peter 1:2 we read: "Grace to you and peace be accomplished in the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord." To know God in Christ is to be a partaker of grace without an external ordinance. According to Catholic teaching a man cannot be saved without baptism and partaking, in preparation for death, of the Lord's Supper.

Not even an infant can be saved without baptism (sprinkling). The Christ of Papacy is represented by the Pope. The claim of Papal infallibility and vicegerency makes it impossible for the soul to hear the voice of Christ only as he speaks through the Pope. Christ is only what the Pope represents Him to be. When the Papal Bull bellows it is accepted by the Catholics as the voice of God. The Christ of Salvation is a living Christ; the Christ of Papacy is dead. The death of Christ is one thing, the dead Christ is quite another. By the death of Christ we are reconciled to God, but there is no hope or help in the dead Christ and the Roman Catholic church is the sepulcher in which this dead Christ is buried and guarded by Popes, bishops, cardinals, and priests. The Christ of our salvation is an all-sufficient Savior and Mediator. The Christ of Papacy must be supplemented by the merits and mediation of Mary and the saints. The angel said to Mary, the mother of Jesus, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save his people from their sins." There is no Saviour in the Catholic church. The Catholics in mass are yet in their sins. They depend on the church and the priest for salvation.

It is sad but true that Roman

Catholics, with a few exceptions both in Catholic countries and in America, know nothing about salvation by faith in Christ. An Italian lady lay on her death bed; she said her hands and feet were touching Purgatory. The priest came with his Latin, but he could not give her comfort or help. She said: "I am dying and falling, and I burn as I fall." The Pope pardoned her sins; but when the pardon was carried to her, he had failed. She still burned. In spite of priestly interference some one entered the room knowing the living Christ and read to her, "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth from all sin." "Read it again," she said. "Is that in the Bible?" Again it was read, "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth from all sin." "Oh," she said, "that's it. The fires are out now and I am saved by the Christ."

## REVIVAL AT SMYRNA.

The most gracious revival Smyrna church has enjoyed since its organization closed last Friday noon.

Rev. E. M. Brooks, of Norwood, aided the pastor and while his sermons were plain and practical they were also deep and inspiring.

Interest was manifest from the first yet there was no great excitement and display, even though the presence of the Holy Spirit was manifest. No great results were seen, only four additions, but doubtless much good will result.

On Thursday the audience was delighted by a most excellent sermon by Rev. C. C. Burris. This was his first effort and he chose for his theme, "The Love of God," as found in John 3:16. An older and more experienced minister could not have handled his subject with greater familiarity and ease.

Mr. Burris had not fully decided as to his vocation until a few days ago and on making this known, the ministers, knowing his ability, pressed him into service at once and also liberated him to exercise his talent whenever and wherever he desired.

He graduated with high honors last term from Wingate and will leave soon for Wake Forest to fit and prepare himself for the work to which he is called. Aware of his capabilities his friends are delighted with his late decision and stand ready to help by their sympathy and prayers. M. S.

Rev. A. Marsh, the pastor, closed a meeting at Benton's Cross Roads church last Friday. Nineteen were added to the membership of the church.—Monroe Enquirer.