

**Study for the Month of December 2016**

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**The 'Man of Sin' of Bible Prophecy and his activities and career – Part XX**

**THE THREE BABYLONS NO. VII**

***'Pope extends power to forgive abortion to all Roman Catholic priests'***

First, this is the actual headline of a news report by Reuters written by Philip Pullella dateline: Vatican City (Reuters) dated 11/22/ 16. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/pope-extends-power-forgive-abortion-priests-110457448.html>.

Shocked? I don't blame you if you are a (1) Bible-believing Christian who is (2) Berean-like ( ) (3) judiciously unprejudiced (4) not prone or attracted to fanatical ideas or any form of religious extremism such as are proliferating today in conspiracy theories (Alex Jones, etc.), (4) understands the difference between a literal and spiritual application underlying the type-antitype principle (particularly in prophetic language and symbology) (5) hears and/or reads any presentation of alleged Bible truth with an open mind, consciously ridding himself of any preconceived ideas and (6) disciplined oneself to "try the spirits," that is, examine all assertions or claims made by even the most honored and accomplished theologian, pastor, minister, priest, or Bible scholar.

The overarching guideline and watchword is: "To the law and testimony; if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah. 8: 20. They constantly earnestly plead for the guidance and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit and the ministry and protection of the angels, and rest their faith and understanding on a plain "Thus saith the Lord" or "It is written," not on "Have the Pharisees believed on Him?" They have no self-confidence but wholly trust in God's enabling grace and Christ's merits.

Not all of us, indeed, few among those who loudly *profess* to be Christians (Christ-like, or followers of Christ) actually *possess* vital godliness which Christ was the perfect model of in His incarnated human nature. We display "the form of godliness but deny its power thereof" (2 Tim. 3: 5), that power being to completely transform our moral characters through the all-powerful, enabling grace of Christ imparted by the Holy Spirit to save all who so desire, from sinning, as proved by the unmistakable evidence of the steady replacement of "the works of the flesh" with the "fruits of the spirit." Gal. 5: 19-26. Fewer still know their Bible personally and increasingly, thus, have stopped growing into "measure of the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 4: 13), have "left their first love" (Rev. 2: 4, 5)—love for Christ and burden for souls, as much as for your own soul. Definitely not "once-saved-always-saved!" We are never beyond temptation as long as Satan and his devils are alive and we are still in this sin-cursed, rapidly deteriorating earth and we are still in our "earthen vessels"--- mortal, corruptible flesh!

Many have slipped off the spiritual highway, that zone of a daily, step-by-step, one-rung-at-a time (2 Pet. 1: 1-12), advancing personal *knowledge* of Christ's character and will for us in a branch-to-vine (John 15: 1-8) abiding, living, working, growing *relationship* with Him, as all Christians particularly professed members of the remnant church of prophecy should, at this late, late hour of mankind's probation time! Apostle Paul emphasized to the early Christians but much more so for those living in

these last days:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be *conformed* to the world, but be *transformed by the renewing of your mind*, that you may *prove* what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Rom. 12: 1, 2, N.K.J.V.

“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in licentiousness and lewdness, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lust.” Rom. 13: 11-14, N.K.J.V.

If we hope not to be deceived by Satan’s unnumbered schemes and temptations that deluge our senses now masterfully crafted over six thousand years to appeal to our individual weaknesses and propensities that come to us during their most vulnerable times, and yield, progressively eroding our spiritual discernment until we consider “evil good and good evil,” a hardening of our hearts take place. Finally, our consciences become permanently seared. The Holy Spirit withdraws, and the angels fold their wings and leave us to be legitimate sport of the evil spirits. Complete darkness, impenetrable to light as sackcloth, settles in the soul. “Lost forever” is written in the books of heaven and his epitaph on earth. How sad!!

Those who are close to this point but not yet quite, have made themselves ready to yield to the final global deception and test of “receiving the mark of the beast in our foreheads (mind) or in our hands” (which we use for work) when **the counterfeit sabbath, Sunday**, is finally enacted and enforced as the law of the land, starting in the United States of America. It is called the “mark of the beast” because the beast of prophecy, the antichrist, the man of sin and son of perdition, the Papacy, the Church of Rome, “Babylon the Great the Mother of harlots, is the one who proudly and publicly proclaims to have “transferred the sanctity of the Sabbath to Sunday” as **the mark of her authority**—i.e., the usurped authority of God.

Obedience is the highest form of worship. The whole world will be finally divided to only two classes people living at that time: those who worship the beast and him image and receive the mark, name, or number in their foreheads and their hands, or, those who receive **the seal of the living God in their foreheads—the seventh-day Sabbath** defined as the FOURTH COMMANDMENT in the unaltered Ten Commandments as written by God’s own finger on two tables of stone and given to Moses to give to ancient Israel for them to obey and give to the world as the chosen people, that is, chosen and entrusted to preserve the knowledge and law of God containing the only memorial of God’s creative power and power of redemption in justification and sanctification. The seventh-day Sabbath of creation is the only day of the seven-day-week upon which God Creator *rested, blessed, and sanctified* or hallowed, and gave it a proper name right after creating the world in six days,—the SABBATH. The rest of the six days of the week are days for legitimate work only. Every single individual will be forced to rest and worship in the churches on Sunday.

The most *precious inalienable right to worship God according to the dictates of conscience*, the most *fundamental* law on which all other freedoms and liberties are founded upon in the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution, will be done away with nevermore to be restored. This is the world’s final religious test that seals every nation, kindred, tongue, and people’s final destiny. This is the antitype of the enforced worship of the golden image built by Nebuchadnezzar and erected in the plain of Dura of ancient

Babylon. The rest of the nations of the world quickly follow America's lead, and the universal enforcement by the nations of the world soon takes place. The final events after America unalterably transforms from "a beast with lamb-like horns" to one "speaking like a dragon," imaging the leopard-like, composite beast described at the opening of thirteenth chapter of Revelation--the resurgent Papal Roman Church, will be rapid ones. It is in once Protestant America that the "image of the beast" is formed *before* the close of earth's of probation for it is the great test by which God's Sabbath-keeping people are finally sifted while the "mark of the beast," the Papal sabbath, is the world's final religious test that also seals their final destiny of either receiving the reward of eternal life or eternal death--the rewards that Jesus brings with Him at His glorious second advent.

In the final chapter of last book of the Bible, Revelation, where all the sixty-six books of the Bible meet and end, John the beloved relays to the churches and the world the final promises and warnings of Jesus who says: "Behold, I come and bring My reward with me according as every man's work shall be." Rev. 22: 14.

Numberless, including members of the remnant church--which is numerically outnumbered by a wide margin the monotheistic and polytheistic religions of the world, are still fearfully content in their condition, still blissfully unaware until told so, that they are, in the sight of God "wretched, miserable, poor, and naked" spiritually. They hardly know the difference between being "religious" and "spiritual." They mistake one for the other. They believe their duty to God is accomplished by being "faithful churchgoers," attending church services once a week, particularly Sunday, and partaking of the abomination of the mass, performing prescribed religious ceremonies and participating in church-sponsored activities, and their duty is done, their salvation assured.

Worse, countless others haven't gotten past or even reverted back to the doctrine of the Dark Ages of righteousness by works! Christ is crucified repeatedly by sinners emboldened in their sins having been assured of forgiveness, pardon, or absolution by performing certain rites specified by their priest confessors and then paying for the privilege. This is called simony. This evil was exposed in Luther's 95 thesis nailed to the door of the church castle in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517 sparking the Protestant Reformation throughout Europe, yea, throughout the Catholic world.

But those of the former class know the following basic truths of the everlasting gospel, (1) the nature of the great controversy between Christ and Satan: ((2) the only Biblical definition of sin is "the transgression of God's law." 1 John 3: 4. (3) only God in Christ can forgive or pardon any and every sin, even those sins classified by arrogant and yes, hypocritical, double-standard ecclesiastics (the antitypical scribes and Pharisees of Christ's time) as "heresy," "abomination," or "cardinal sin." However, according to the gospel writers, quoting Jesus clearly and unequivocally stating to the Pharisees---the religious leaders and guardians of the Jewish nation at the time of Christ---that there is only one kind of sin that God's mercy and pardoning grace cannot forgive once the line is crossed after a protracted refusal to accept Heaven's invitation to repent and turn around,---No, it isn't abortion, as defined by the Roman Church which condemned to the most barbaric torture and death "heretics." It is called the unpardonable sin, which is "the sin against the Holy Spirit." \_\_\_\_\_.

### **The Fearful Result of the Catholic Church's Claim to Forgive Sin**

First and foremost, the claim to forgive or pardon sin--the transgression of God's law of

Ten Commandments (1 John 3: 4, K.J.V.)--by any person who claims to be “Christ’s vicegerent” or “verily God on earth” or church institution, both claims officially claimed by the Papacy, the Church of Rome, is plain blasphemy, according to the Bible–God’s Word. It is absolutely an Antichristian doctrine, a man-made law that “adds and takes away” from God’s prophecy, law, and word---which is the very last warning with the direst consequences of the mysterious yet merciful and just divine “wrath of God and the Lamb” in the seven last plagues. Rev. 6: 16, 17; 14: 10, 19; 15: 1, 7; 16: 1, 19; 19: 15.

“For I testify to everyone who hears *the words of the prophecy of this book*: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from *the words of the book of this prophecy*, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book [of this prophecy].” Rev. 22: 18, 19, N.K.J.V.

“The [Roman Catholic] church’s claim to the right to pardon, leads the Romanist to feel at liberty to sin; and the ordinance of confession, without which her pardon is not granted, tends also to give license to evil. He who kneels before fallen man, and opens in confession the secret thoughts and imaginations of his heart, is debasing his manhood, and degrading every noble instinct of his soul. In unfolding his life to the priest,---an erring sinful mortal, and too often corrupted with wine [both literal and the spiritual “wine of Babylon”---the false doctrines of the Roman Church] and licentiousness,---his standard of character is lowered, and he is defiled in consequence. His thought of God is degraded to the likeness of fallen humanity; for the priest stands as a representative of God. *This degrading confession of man to man is the secret spring from which has flowed much of the evil that is defiling the world, and fitting it for the final destruction.*

“Yet to him who loves self-indulgence, it is more pleasing to confess to a fellow-mortal than to open the soul to God. It is more palatable to human nature to do penance than to renounce sin; it is easier to mortify the flesh by sackcloth and nettles and galling chains than to crucify fleshly lusts (Gal. 5: 24, K.J.V). [But] heavy is the yoke which the carnal heart is willing to bear rather than bow to the yoke of Christ [Matt. 11: 28-30].”- Ellen G. White, “Great Controversy,” “Aims of the Papacy,” ch. 35, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911 edition, pp. 567, 568.

### **Righteousness by works—not by faith--clearly illustrated by counterfeit Doctrines and Practice of the Apostate Church and Her Daughters**

When an angel falls he becomes a fiend. The fallen angels are the demons, evil spirits or malevolent-spirits prowling the earth since the fall, who, under the command of Satan and *in desperate confederacy with wicked men and apostate churches* conspire to deceive, harass, accuse, tempt, haunt, persecute, and destroy man and the earth. Angels were created as ministering *spirits*, before man was. Unlike man, who was created from the dust of the ground and the only creature created in the image and likeness of the Creator, angels have not flesh and blood or literal bodies and organs, are sexless, thus have no powers to procreate and multiply, yet have the ability to take on the form of man or beast. The unknown number of angels created by God as ministering spirits in the beginning remains the same only that one third fell and became demons on earth while the rest, thank God, the majority of three fourths remained faithful. They are the guarding the earth, belting the globe lest evil angels and evil men destroy it prematurely, and are the guardian angels of God’s people from the beginning till the close of earthly time. They are also the recording angels of each individual born on earth. They can read minds as does the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead, for they record the most

secret thoughts and motives of the heart, which are included in the perfect judgment of God through Jesus Christ, the merciful and righteous Judge of all the earth.

Aware they are eternally lost and already condemned by God's judgment to die the eternal death at their appointed time after the Biblical millennium (Jude 6), the singular and all-consuming desire and goal of Satan and his demon-angels, borne out of their unchanging hatred for God's law of love, Christ the Creator and Redeemer, all His faithful followers on earth, and all truth *as it is in Jesus*, is to totally efface the remaining moral image and physical likeness of God in fallen man, attributing all their evil traits and deeds to God Himself.

Misery loves company. Satan and his angels want to bring as many as they can, if possible, all of mankind with them to perdition. However, it is for all rational beings (upon whom probation has not yet closed) to be like Joshua, to exercise his God-given choice to choose to serve either Christ or Satan, between righteousness and unrighteousness, between willing obedience and intentional disobedience, and thus between eternal life or eternal death. Joshua, a type of Yeshua, or the Greek Jesus, declared: "Choose ye today whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

All who do not love the truth, do not study God's word, ridicule, reject, and even persecute God's chosen messengers and agencies sent to save them, have been and will be deceived into believing these lies and every other. Sadly and fearfully, all deceived become deceivers themselves. Unless they speedily repent while probation is still open to them (death closes individual probation also), *thoroughly confess all their sins to God and Him alone*, brought to their attention by the silent work of the Holy Spirit upon their conscience (if not yet completely seared by persistent obstinacy and willful rebellion that hardens the heart and mind) and as revealed in the law and the Word, they will not inherit the kingdom of God even if they are "faithful church-goers."

Only those that "overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil" by faithfully appropriating God's enabling grace imparted through the Holy Spirit in His word of truth, and their willing partnership and obedience as "co-laborers with God" (1 Cor. 3: 9) by the "adoption as sons and daughters of God" (Gal. 4: 5; Rom. 8: 15; 2 Cor. 6: 14-18; 7: 1), will "inherit all things." Rev. 2: 7, 11, 17, 26; 3: 5, 12, 21; 21: 7, 8.

Satan, once Lucifer the covering cherub, is the smartest, longest-lived yet mortal master deceiver, liar, and murderer from the beginning. He is the **antichristian mastermind** of fallen mankind, apostate religions, churches, and denominations. His human alter-ego is the Antichrist of prophecy. He has been at it since the mysterious first (and last) rebellion and war that took place in *heaven* (Revelation chapter 12), followed by the (first and last) deception and temptation in the Garden of Eden (Genesis chapters 1, 2), after he and one-third of the angels that joined him were eternally cast out of heaven and sadly succeeded in causing the fall of mankind's first parents, Adam and Eve, in Eden. But the plan of redemption, the everlasting Gospel, is God's all-powerful solution to the problem of sin.

This genuine Gospel or plan of redemption/salvation defined and explained in great detail in the sanctuary doctrine and throughout the Bible, is succinctly summarized by God's servant, as follows:

"The Gospel is a system of practical truths destined to work great changes in human character. If it does not work the transformation in life, in habits, and practice, it is no truth to those who claim to believe it. Man must be sanctified to the truth. And said Jesus, 'Thy word is truth' (John 17: 17). Unless the truth of God shall lift up man out of his depravity, his intemperate and profligate habits, and make him reflect

the image of God, he is lost.” - *Ellen G. White, Letter 14, March 13, 1885/ This Day With God (devotional), p. 81.*

A practical and always relevant counsel and warning is here given, even to those who already understand and are undertaking the work of God on earth. Note:

“There is *danger* of our religious activity losing in *depth* as it gains in *surface*. There is danger of our workers depending on human agents, upon facilities, and great preparations for work, and losing their firm faith in God, in making every *outward* show of prosperity. Philanthropy, however widespread, cannot take the place of personal piety. *Danger is on every hand*, and we need to be constantly depending upon God, that His Holy Spirit may make our hearts pure, unselfish, and quick to hear the orders from above. There is nothing insignificant in the work of God, and the *faithfulness* with which the work is done rather than the *amount* decides the reward of each. The work of the one who has but one talent is as valuable in the sight of God as the one who has five talents.” – *Ibid, Manuscript 25, March 12, 1899/ Ibid, p. 60.*

### **The Similarity of the Church of Rome and the Jewish Church**

Ellen G. White wrote in the *Great Controversy*, the one book I personally consider as the indispensable handbook for the last days. pp. 568- 569, “Aims of the Papacy,” ch. 35:

“There is a striking similarity between the Church of Rome and the Jewish Church at the time of Christ’s first advent. While the Jews *secretly* trampled upon every principle of the law of God, they were *outwardly rigorous* in the observance of its precepts, loading it down with exactions and traditions that made obedience painful and burdensome.

“Papists place crosses upon their churches, upon their altars, and upon their garments. Everywhere is seen the insignia of the cross. Everywhere it is outwardly honored and exalted. But the teachings of Christ are buried beneath a mass of senseless traditions, false interpretations, and rigorous exactions. The Savior’s words regarding the bigoted Jews, apply with still greater force to the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church: ‘They bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulder; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.’ Matt. 23: 4. Conscientious souls are kept in constant terror, fearing the wrath of an offended God, while many of the dignitaries of the church are living in luxury and sensual pleasure.

“The worship of images and relics, the invocation of saints, and the exaltation of the pope, are devices of Satan to attract the minds of the people from God and His Son. To accomplish their ruin, he endeavors to turn their attention from Him [God in Christ] through whom alone they can find salvation. He will direct them to *any object that can be substituted* for the One who said, ‘Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.’ Matt. 11: 28.

“It is Satan’s constant effort to [accomplish three things] (1) misrepresent the character of God, (2) the nature of sin, and (3) the real issues at stake in the great controversy. His sophistry lessens the obligation of the divine law, and gives men license to sin [Doctrine of Indulgences, etc.] At the same time he causes them to cherish false conceptions of God, so that they regard Him with fear and hate, rather than with love. The cruelty inherent in his own character is attributed to the Creator; it is embodied in systems of religion, and expressed in modes of worship.

“Thus the minds of men are blinded, and Satan secures them as his agents to war against God. By *perverted* conceptions of the divine attributes, heathen nations were led to believe human sacrifices necessary to secure the favor of Deity; and horrible cruelties have been perpetrated under the various forms of idolatry.

“*The Roman Catholic Church, uniting the forms of paganism and Christianity*, and, like paganism, misrepresenting the character of God, has resorted to practices no less

cruel and revolting. In the days of Rome's supremacy, there were *instruments of torture* to compel assent to her doctrines. There was the stake for those who would not concede to her claims. There were massacres on a scale that will never be known until revealed in the judgment. Dignitaries of the church studied, *under Satan their master*, to invent means to cause the greatest possible torture, and not end the life of their victim. In many cases the infernal process was repeated to the utmost limit of human endurance, until nature gave up the struggle, and the sufferer hailed death as a sweet release.

"Such was the fate of Rome's opponents. For *her adherents* she had the discipline of the scourge, of famishing hunger, of bodily austerities in every conceivable, heart-sickening form. To secure the favor of Heaven, penitents violated the laws of God by violating the laws of nature. They were taught to sunder the ties which He has formed to bless and gladden man's earthly sojourn. The church-yard contains millions of victims, who spent their lives in vain endeavors to subdue their natural affections, to repress and offense to God, every thought and feeling of sympathy with their fellow-creatures.

**The mammoth system of deception.** - "If we desire to understand the determined cruelty of Satan, manifested for hundreds of years, not among those who have never heard of God, *but in the very heart and throughout the extent of Christendom, we have only to look at the history of Romanism. Through this mammoth system of deception* the prince of evil achieves his purpose of bringing dishonor to God and wretchedness to man. And as we see how he succeeds in disguising himself, and accomplishing his work through the leaders of the church [the papal hierarchy], we may better understand why he has so *great antipathy to the Bible*. If that book is read, the mercy and love of God will be revealed; it will be seen that he lays upon men none of these heavy burdens. All that He asks is a broken and contrite heart, a humble, obedient spirit.

"Christ gives no example in His life for men and women to shut themselves up in *monasteries* in order to become fitted for heaven. [It is the work of sanctification on earth while still alive that fits us for heaven and eternal life!] He has never taught love and sympathy must be repressed. The Savior's heart overflowed with love. The nearer man approaches to moral perfection, the keener are his sensibilities, the more acute is his perception of sin, and the deeper his sympathy for the afflicted. The Pope claims to be the vicar of Christ; but how does his character bear comparison with that of our Savior? Was Christ ever known to consign men to prison or the rack because they did not pay Him homage as the King of heaven? Was His voice heard condemning to death those who did not accept Him? When He was slighted by the people of a Samaritan village, the apostle John was filled with indignation, and inquired, 'Lord, wilt Thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias [Elijah] did?' Jesus looked with pity upon His disciple, and rebuked his harsh spirit, saying, 'The Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.' Luke 9: 54, 56. How different from the spirit manifested by Christ is that of His professed vicar!" – Ellen G. White *Great Controversy*, pp 567-571.

The article below from Foxnews.com is more than just interesting that's why I am reprinting it. You should read the article for yourself. Here's why: while it readily appears the writer is zealously calling for the resignation of Francis, the first Jesuit pope, for his inconsistencies, he is actually confirming the Church's main teachings, which are great errors, such as the Eucharist, the authority of the earthly priesthood that blatantly makes of no effect the High Priestly work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary since His victorious resurrection and ascension, etc. If only such gifted writers studied

the Bible as led by the Holy Spirit, particularly the main prophetic books of Daniel and the Revelation, and the Great Controversy, how differently they would wield their pens “which are mightier than the sword.”! Let’s pray for them. Send them a copy of the Great Controversy as your personal ministry. We’ve done that and will continue doing it while the inalienable right of religious liberty and freedom to worship God according to conscience still holds!

### **“Enough is Enough, Pope Francis Should Resign”**

By Adam Shaw published June 17, 2016. Opinion/ Fox News [www.foxnews.com/opinion/2016/06/enough-is-enough-pope-francis-should-resign.html](http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2016/06/enough-is-enough-pope-francis-should-resign.html)

“Pope Francis’s three-year old papacy, marred by controversy from the beginning, has hit a new low. After Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected to succeed Pope Benedict XVI in 2013, he quickly justified his reputation as an *unconventional character who put himself on both sides of an argument with vaguely worded pronouncements*. [italics mine].

“From his ‘Who am I to judge’ statement on gay people that seemed to offer a hint at a change in church teaching, to his fumbles on contraception, to his recent claim that Donald Trump is not Christian, *his off-the-cuff remarks cause headlines across the globe*, often followed by some sort of ‘clarification’ from the Holy See Press Office.

“His papacy has been a litany of *confusing* statements for the faithful on the most sensitive and delicate topics. [NOTE: The root of word of Babylon is “babel” or confusion]. While clear on political topics dear to his heart, but where Catholics can legitimately fold differing opinions, such as immigration, economics, and climate change, on matters of doctrine, Francis muddled the waters to an extent that many well-meaning Catholics feel they no longer know where the Church stands on issues of faith.

“Most recently, in his latest off-the-cuff-ramble on Thursday, he was asked about marriage. He said: ‘Its provisional, and because of this the great majority of our sacramental marriages are null. Because they say ‘Yes, for the rest of my life,’ but they don’t know what they are saying. Because they have a different culture. They say it, they have good will but they don’t know.’

“To say that ‘the great majority’ of Catholic marriage are null, or invalid, is a statement that is neither true, wise, nor fair. Vatican has since then toned down his remarks [they should consult the Bible—not the opinions of any man, institution, or church!] in a written transcript to say ‘a part of our sacramental marriages are null, an apparent recognition of the damage Francis’s statement might cause.

“For a ‘pope of the people’ he certainly doesn’t give Catholics much credit. For a Catholic marriage to be valid all that is needed is the freedom to marry, consent for both parties, and the intention to marry for life and be open to children. That’s it.

“Over the years, some clerics have used an interpretation of canon law to suggest ‘emotional immaturity for not understanding the responsibilities of marriage, and therefore as invalid and open to annulment. But marriage is not hard to understand, and the Catholic rite of marriage, as well as the preparation couples go through beforehand, makes clear what marriage involves.

“For Pope Francis to say the great majority of are null implies that the great majority of marriages are null implies that the great majority of Catholics are ignorant fools who cannot understand the responsibilities of a bedrock of society that has existed for thousands of years.

“It also suggests severe doubt in the mercy and grace of God. The rule of thumb when the validity of sacraments, whether it be marriage, the Eucharist or the priesthood, is concerned, is to assume validity unless something clearly contradicts that like a priest doubting his faith as he is ordained is still a priest, a bride with jitters is till validly married---God makes up for our frailties.

“Francis’s words put the devil’s doubt into the hearts and minds of good Catholic couples who may be going through a rough time, and who instead of saying, ‘We’re Catholic, we’re married, this is until death parts us,’ may now say, ‘the Pope says most marriages aren’t valid anyway . . . maybe ours isn’t either’ and give up.

“Francis’s statement demonstrates a lack of faith in the Church and its ability to vet couples seeking marriage, to understand about what marriage is, and to minister the sacraments effectively. If most marriages are invalid because couples don’t understand a life-long commitment, does that mean most priestly ordinations are invalid too? If so, are most masses invalid? Most confessions?

“The Church’s authority rests, in part, on its claim to be able to communicate the sacraments and the teachings of Christ. Francis has cast doubt on the former, has done a poor job on the latter, and by doing so has brought the Church’s legitimacy into question.

“Francis made things worse this year with his vague documents on the family---Amoris Laetitia---in which he buried the hot topic of divorced and remarried Catholics in a footnote, and muddled the waters



some more by saying that such couples could receive sacraments ‘in certain cases.’ When asked to clarify he said, ‘I don’t remember the footnote.’ Wonderful.

“Once upon a time Catholics would have been stuck with a bad pope, but since Pope Emeritus Benedict opened the door for a pope resigning when he can no longer do his job, it is time for the faithful to look at Francis and ask-- is this man able to lead the Holy Catholic Church?”

“At this point, it is clear, Bergoglio has repeatedly proven himself unable to lead, and is doing incalculable damage to the Church that will takes decade to heal [the near fatal wound has long began healing, Mr Shaw!].

“Pope Francis should resign, and Catholics should demand it, so the Church can begin recovering from the havoc his ill-advised and arrogant papacy has wrought.”

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(To be continued next month)

### **What or who is the true church of the Bible?**

There are countless things that are so clear, plain, and simple in the real world that even a child can understand them. In the Old Testament times, and even now, names were given to children and places whose meaning defined the obvious, immediate as well as the prophesied future outstanding characteristics, role, and even character and nature of the person or institution. Examples go way back to the first man created by God, the physical father of all mankind—Adam, whose name means “”ruddy.” His skin color in his unfallen condition was neither white, black, brown, yellow, or sallow but “ruddy” in its perfect sense of health and vigor. Cite other examples from study “What’s in a Name?”

The Roman Catholic Church is properly the Church of Rome or the Romish Church, and while it is “catholic,” meaning “universal,” it was never identified as the *Christian* Catholic Church but as the *Roman* Catholic Church, for its earthly power emanated from the prophesied transition from *pagan Rome* of the cruel emperors to *papal Rome* and underwrote its bloody reign and apostate career during the Dark Ages. The Reformers exposed it in their time as the “beast of prophecy” the “Antichrist,” the “whore of Revelation,” “Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth,” etc. The power of the Papacy was inherited not from Christ but from the cruel Roman emperors of pagan Rome whose national religion was Paganism—the worship of\_\_\_\_\_. It is identified in Rev.\_\_\_\_;\_\_\_\_ as “the dragon” who transferred its power, seat, and authority to the “beast” in the transition from pagan Rome to papal Rome and its claimed position as “the Holy See.”