



that it must be forbidden for the common person to read? Paul said, “**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work**” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). I think

anyone that even casually reads the Bible will come to the conclusion that the Bible really is the word of God, containing the whole counsel of God and all of His commandments. However, I do believe those who read the Bible will see something else—they will see that the Bible really is a dangerous book for the common man to read. Yet, the danger does not present itself to the common man, but rather to the Catholic Church for when they read it, they will see that the Catholic Church is NOT the one true Church of God but part of the apostasy the Bible—defined as ungodly and in need of utter and total rejection (cf. 1 Timothy 4:1-3; Acts 20:28-30).

\*Some of the material used in this article was drawn from *Catholicism Against Itself*, Volume I by O. C. Lambert (Star Bible Publication, 1986). I would recommend the work to the reader for a fuller consideration of these issues.



Faithful Sayings Issue 11.18 May 3, 2009

## Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

11.18

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

May 3  
2009

## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM  
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Ken Ford  
Charles Kelley  
Pat Ledbetter

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Pat Goguen  
Neil Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Fred Perez  
Rusty Scott

### Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Curtis Carwile

4700 Andrews Ave.  
Amarillo TX 79106  
806-352-2809  
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“Your Father  
knows that you  
need these  
things”  
Luke 12:30

## Catholicism, Imprimatur, and the Bible by Curtis Carwile

Catholicism claims to be the “one true church” of God. Over its 1600 year history, it has continued to make that claim time and time again. In order to “ensure the validity” of that claim, Catholic Catechism No. 890 teaches that “The Church, given teaching authority by Christ and as the conduit for fullness of Truth on this earth, has the obligation to preserve Her sheep from deviations from the Truth and to guarantee them the objective possibility of professing the true faith without error.” So, whenever opposition arose to that claim, Catholicism tried to stamp it out through various creeds, councils, the Crusades and the Inquisition. Also, Catholicism has attempted to ensure this claim through the doctrine of “imprimatur.”



*Imprimatur* is Latin for “Let it be printed.” According to the Catholic Dictionary by Addis and Arnold (The Catholic Publication Society Company, NY, 1887), “No book treating on religion (*de rebus sacris*) can be published till it has been examined by the bishop’s orders and received his imprimatur.” This means that no book can be printed by Catholic printers or sold by Catholic bookstores or even read by Catholic members with-



Olsen Park church of Christ

out it having imprimatur, Catholicism’s stamp of approval. This approval essentially claims that the book in question is “free of error.” Books that have this “imprimatur” are free for the laity (i.e. the common person) to read and can be found relatively cheaply at just about any bookstore. The laity cannot read any religious book of teaching that doesn’t have the imprimatur which is seen as an attempt to “preserve Her sheep.”

The doctrine of imprimatur is a particularly troublesome one for Catholics, especially when it comes to the issue of the Bible. The Vatican Council has stated that:

All Scripture (both Old and New Testament) is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correcting, for instruction in justice that the man of God may be perfect, equipped for every good work (*Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*, Section 11). Even though this statement is in agreement with passages like 2 Timothy 3:16-17, it is problematic due to what other Catholic sources (that also have imprimatur, i.e. “free of error”) say about the Bible. For example, in the 1913 edition of *Question Box* on page 67, it says this:

The very nature of the Bible ought to prove to any thinking man the impossibility of its being the one safe method to find out what the Saviour taught. \* In fact, on page 66 of the same source, we see that: The Bible does not pretend to be a formulary of belief, as is a creed or a catechism. There is nowhere in the New Testament a clear methodical statement of the teaching of Christ.

This is not an isolated example. We can see also in *Catholic Facts* on page 50 that Catholicism teaches: “The Bible was

not intended to be a textbook of the Christian religion.” In a work entitled *Plain Facts*, we read:

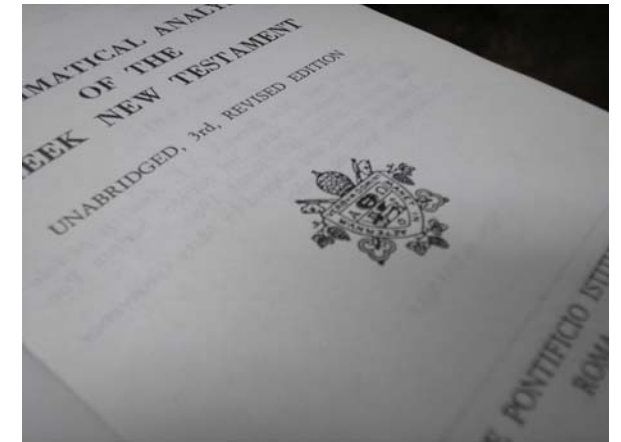
In other books the truths of the Bible are presented more fully, and in a more modern and familiar style, so that we can hardly wonder that they are, as a rule preferred; and that though Catholic families generally have a Bible, it is more venerated than read (33).

Earlier on that same page it teaches that:

It is that of having for a foundation authority in all ages, for a means of deciding all doubtful points, not a book alone, or a book with authorized interpreters but simply authorized interpreters of the faith such as the Apostles were, with a book perhaps to help them, but still not absolutely needing that book for the discharge of their office any more that the Apostles did themselves (*ibid.*). [Note: the “book” that is not needed in this quote is the Bible – CC].

In other Catholic writings, we can see the view that not only is the Bible not needed, but that it is “a dangerous book” and (outside of the Latin Vulgate) actually forbidden to be read (see *Question Box*, 86; *Faith of our Fathers*, 107; Council of Trent Statements #1, 3, 4, 6, & 10).

As any one can clearly see, Catholicism’s view of the Bible is duplicitous at best. On one hand, it says that the Bible is inspired by God and profitable for every



good work while on the other hand, it says it isn’t needed. In fact they go even farther and say that it is so dangerous that laypeople shouldn’t even read it. Any reasonable person has to ask the question how these two diametrically opposing views of the Bible can BOTH be “free of error?” It doesn’t make sense. Either one or both are wrong, but they cannot BOTH be right. So, which is it? Is the Bible the word of God, profitable in equipping us for every good work, or is it so dangerous