

The Discerner

the voice of... Religion Analysis Service

A QUARTERLY EXPOSING
UNBIBLICAL TEACHING & MOVEMENTS

Volume 27, Number 3

July • August • September 2007

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*"Hereby know we the spirit of truth
and the spirit of error" 1 John 4:6*

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1313 5th St. SE, Suite 126E,
Minneapolis, MN 55414-4504
612-331-3342 / 1-800-562-9153
FAX 612-331-3342

Editorial Committee

Rev. Laurence J. Sutherland
Dr. William A. BeVier

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IN MEMORIAM

Chaplain Ervin D. Ingebretson, who retired two years ago from the position of Vice-President of the Religion Analysis Service, is now with his Lord and Savior. He passed away on September 12. The Lord had given him 85 years, 53 with his surviving wife Carol, 24 years as Chaplain with the United States Navy, and a good dozen years helping us at RAS. He was always ready to write a book review for *The Discerner* and to share in office activities.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Carol, their two children, two grandchildren and nieces and nephews, and their many friends around the world.

Chaplain Ingebretson's favorite verse was Proverbs 3:5,6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths."

DEAR READER

Years ago, while I was teaching at a Bible college in W. Germany, I was privileged to do some post-graduate work at the University of Tuebingen in southern Germany. One of my courses was titled Ecumenical Theology that examined the theological spectrum of the World Council of Churches. Since the WCC headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, it was easy for delegates from the WCC to come and lecture to us. One of the lecturers, a Roman Catholic observer, amazed us with a bold assertion that if the Roman Catholic Church would ever join the WCC, the Roman Catholic Church would no doubt control it. He went on to say that Rome would not have it any other way.

The Vatican Council in 1962 opened up a friendly dialogue between Roman Catholic and Protestant and Orthodox theologians. Roman Catholic sources would speak of Protestants and the Orthodox churches as “other” or “estranged” brethren. This conciliatory approach continued through the eras of Pope John and Pope John Paul. Things changed, however, in 2004 with the election of Cardinal Ratzinger from southern Germany as Pope Benedict. Pope Benedict’s proclivity to Roman Catholic tradition and ecclesiastical authority has recently strained relationships with other professing Christian churches. His “denunciation of true churches” (see article by Richard Bennett in this issue) alarms the Christian world.

In our teaching days in W. Germany, we would often go to Worms with students and visitors to see the Luther Monument and the various historical steps of the Protestant Reformation. Luther’s stand, before the ecclesiastical and political authorities of his day on the authority of the Bible and the value of a good conscience, inspires us even today: “Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen!”

Let us not forsake our Protestant heritage of “sola biblia” (the Bible alone), “sole fide” (by faith alone), “sola gratia” (by grace alone), and to God’s glory alone (soli deo gloria)!

Sincerely,

Laurence J. Sutherland

WITH THIS ISSUE

As indicated above, Pope Benedict's decree on July 10, 2007 relating to the "Christian Communities born out of the sixteenth century" has alarmed the whole Christian world. This appears to be a surprise development that is not consonant with the last four decades of relative pacific relationships among the various Christian confessions. What are and what might be the ramifications of Pope Benedict's decree? We call upon Richard Bennett, a converted Roman Catholic priest, to give us some definitive answers.

Another science issue is beclouding the political and economic arenas, and even dividing evangelical believers - what about global warming? In political/economic circles this issue seems to be a litmus test between conservatives and moderates. Might this be the case among evangelical believers too? In any case, we are glad to hear from an expert, Professor Edward Blick (as excerpted by Bill Overn), who does not weary in giving us the "facts". These facts appear to be diametrically opposed to what 90 % of the science world avers, and even the UN purports. Maybe the story of Galileo could teach us a lesson again.

Every Christian confronts the "miracles" question along the way. Dr. Ron Knuteson, who is familiar to *The Discerner* readers, gives us perceptive biblical answers that can help us confront unbelief, discouragement and disillusionment. Must miracles happen to verify our Christian faith?

The quiz on the Roman Catholic Church should not be too hard - maybe, maybe not!

Laurence J. Sutherland

POPE BENEDICT'S DENUNCIATION OF TRUE CHURCHES EXPOSES HIS OWN SYSTEM

By Richard Bennett and Michael de Semlyen

On July 10, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI released a new decree.¹ In it the Pope has restated his conviction that the Roman Catholic Church is the one Church founded by Jesus Christ and that other churches are either defective or not true Churches at all. What is new in this document is the authoritative statement that “Christian Communities **born out of the Reformation of the sixteenth century**” cannot be “called ‘Churches’ in the proper sense.”²

Prior to this, in September 2000, when Benedict was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Guardian of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith³, he had stunned the ecumenical movement by launching an assault on all other Churches with the Vatican decree, “Dominus Iesus,” prepared by his office. As an arch-conservative, true to the pre-Vatican II doctrinal rigidity that viewed Bible Christians as heretics rather than “separated brethren,” Pope Benedict has long sought to correct what he describes as erroneous interpretations of Vatican Council II’s ecumenical intent.

Thus the 2007 document is formulated as five questions and answers to set the record straight on the real intentions of the Second Vatican Council. Benedict’s mission is to rescue its teaching and conclusions from Catholics who in their association with Christians are drifting away from the old hard-line Catholic dogma. In the context of this catechetical decree, the last of the five questions is of specific importance:

“Why do the texts of the Council and those of the Magisterium since the Council not use the title of ‘Church’ with regard to those Christian Communities born out of the Reformation of the sixteenth century?”

The response, which closes the decree, states,

“According to Catholic doctrine, these Communities do not enjoy apostolic succession in the sacrament of Orders, and are, therefore, deprived of a constitutive element of

the Church. These ecclesial Communities which, specifically because of the absence of the sacramental priesthood, have not preserved the genuine and integral substance of the Eucharistic Mystery cannot, according to Catholic doctrine, be called ‘Churches’ in the proper sense.”

Biblical Truth Lays Bare the Papal Decree

In declaring the universal primacy of the Church of Rome and denying the faith of the Reformation, the Pope denounced all those Churches and Christians whose lives are committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and to His everlasting Gospel.⁴ Benedict is unable to see that these whom he is denouncing are the true Church founded upon the Rock, who is Christ Jesus Himself “*the Son of the living God.*” They are His people, His bride, the true Church; believers who adhere to God only and His Written Word; who are saved before the all-Holy God by grace alone through faith alone, and in Christ alone and all glory and praise is to God alone. This is the Bride of Christ, the temple of the Living God, and His dwelling place forever. This is the Church, which Christ Jesus loved, and these are His disciples for whom He gave Himself that they might be washed in His own blood. It is the Church sanctified and cleansed by His Word “*that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church.*”⁵ It is the “*general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven.*” As a Roman Catholic, Benedict must reject the Gospel rediscovered by the Reformation out of the darkness of the Papacy. Ironically, in seeking to reestablish hard-line Catholic dogma, he has in fact revealed his own church as biblically counterfeit and apostate.

The basis for Benedict’s denunciation is given in his answer to the second question posed in the document:

“Christ ‘established here on earth’ only one Church and instituted it as a ‘visible and spiritual community’ that from its beginning and throughout the centuries has always existed and will always exist, and in which alone are found all the elements that Christ himself instituted....This Church, constituted and organised in this world as a society, subsists in the Catholic Church, governed by the successor of Peter and the Bishops in communion with him.”

The presumption here is that the Apostle Peter went to Rome, and that each Pope is the successor of Peter. This conjecture is groundless. The Scripture makes mention neither of Peter ever being at Rome nor of successors to Peter or to any other Apostle. The criteria for apostleship are given in Scripture.⁶ The position of the Apostles was unique to them and to Paul—all directly chosen by Christ Jesus with no hint of succession. In the New Testament, the Apostles appointed elders⁷ and deacons rather than other Apostles. Yet the biblically unsubstantiated claim of “apostolic succession” is the very foundation of the Papacy. Papal primacy and authority are based on it. The Lord God never entrusted His truth to a personal succession of any body of men. Such a concept is hopelessly flawed. If one link failed, the whole sequence after it would be invalid. Yet, Benedict has again hitched his star to the notion of apostolic succession. The Papacy as usual rules by fiat, this time it is via Benedict’s dogmatic statement.

The True Legacy of the Apostle Peter

“Apostolic Succession” is the defining dogma for the Pope’s universal primacy and his reason for denouncing other Churches. It is important, therefore, to review the legacy of the Apostle Peter. Peter did not proclaim an institution, a system, or an organization but rather only the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. *He made known the fact that “Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”*⁸ The meritorious cause of Christ Jesus’ suffering was the sins of men. He offered Himself as the once and for all sacrifice to atone for the sins of His people. The Just suffered for the unjust. He substituted Himself in place of true believers and bore their iniquities in order to propitiate the just wrath of the all-holy God. He that knew no sin suffered in place of those that knew no righteousness. The blessed design of Christ Jesus’ sufferings was to bring us to God, to reconcile us to God, to give us access to the Father, to credit us with His righteousness, and finally to bring us to eternal glory. This is the bequest of Peter that he called “*precious faith*” as he began his second epistle, “*Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ.*”⁹

The teaching of Peter refutes the hierarchical organization as well as the “Holy Tradition” of the Papacy. Peter believed that all born-again Christians are “*a chosen generation, a royal priesthood,*”¹⁰ rather than a top-heavy hierarchical system, from layperson to Priest, from Priest to Bishop, from Bishop to Cardinal and from Cardinal to Pope. He taught salvation and redemption by the blood of Christ, “*forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*”¹¹

Pope Benedict, in contrast, insists that physical sacraments are necessary for salvation.¹² Peter endorsed the writings of the Apostle Paul who condemned the traditions of men. Peter warned of false teachers who would secretly introduce heresies¹³ into the Church—which is precisely what Roman Catholicism has done. The basis for the Gospel truth proclaimed by Peter to those who are “*born again*” is the Word of the Lord. Thus he writes of “*being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*”¹⁴ The Pope’s foundation is not the word of God alone. He decrees, “Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.”¹⁵ Peter’s teachings totally demolish the foundational doctrines of Benedict and his worldly system.

A Radical Change of Policy

For more than forty years a spurious ecumenical strategy contrived at the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) has been carried out by the Papacy. It is often said that “Vatican Council II changed everything,” but in this decree Pope Benedict has stated unequivocally, “The Second Vatican Council neither changed nor intended to change this doctrine [No. 28, *Lumen gentium* on the ecclesial doctrine of the Catholic Church].” Further, he cites John XXIII, the reigning Pope at the opening of the Second Vatican Council, who also clearly stated that while Catholic dogma on the church was to remain the same, the Papacy’s “manner” needed to change as “required by our times.”¹⁶ Hence that Council

moved from a position of condemnation of, and separation from, other religions to a new program of false ecumenism. It was a public relations exercise on an allinclusive and global scale. The new warmth and acceptance was to be applied not just to the other major religions of the world, but also to Bible believers who were “welcomed back into the fold.” “Separated brethren” had replaced “heretics” in the Mother Church’s vocabulary. “Separated brethren” was the term to be used especially for those who before had always been considered heretics, while the major pagan religions of Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism now were to be regarded by the Papacy as “acceptable ways to God.”¹⁷ With this new strategy, the Church of Rome set out to win the world back to herself. This was necessary after the controversial reign of Pius XII and the uncompromisingly severe image that his pontificate had presented to the world. The popular Pope who followed him, John XXIII, was said to have prayed for “a new Pentecost” on his deathbed as his church set out purposefully to adopt the fledgling “Charismatic Renewal.” The backing of this movement with its blurring of doctrinal differences together with its emphasis on tolerance and unity was to prove to be a successful way forward for the Church of Rome in the 1960s and ‘70s. There were other important strands of the new policy. Another main approach was by dialogue. In 1970, the Catholic Church carefully spelled out the goals and rules of dialogue. The method of incremental advances into Bible believing churches was to be by means of “dialogue,” the purpose of which is clearly stated by the Catholic Church:

“Dialogue is not an end in itself...it is not just an academic discussion.”¹⁸ Rather, “...it serves to transform modes of thought and behavior and the daily life of those communities [non-Catholic churches]. In this way, it aims at preparing the way for their unity of faith in the bosom of a Church one and visible: thus ‘little by little, as the obstacles to perfect ecclesial communion are overcome, all Christians will be gathered, in a common celebration of the Eucharist, into the unity of the one and only Church which Christ bestowed on his Church from the beginning. This unity, we believe, dwells in the Catholic Church as something she can never lose....”¹⁹

For the duration of more than four decades and four pon-

tificates the ecumenical mood music from the Vatican has been soothing, reassuring, tolerant and conciliatory. Although the Second Vatican Council documents were published in 1975, only once before, in all these years since that Council, was the mask slipped. Pope Benedict in his less exalted identity as Cardinal Ratzinger, issued the decree “Dominus Iesus”²⁰ stating then what he has now chosen to state again, “...the ecclesial communities which have not preserved the valid Episcopate and the genuine and integral substance of the Eucharistic mystery, are not Churches in the proper sense.”²¹

The Pontiff Again Shows His True Colors

It is one thing to declare that Christian Churches “are not Churches in a proper sense” as a Cardinal, but it is entirely another matter for a Pope to make the same statement and designate more particularly the Churches he has in mind. While he is most capable of continuing to woo Christian Churches to dialogue with the Vatican, it now seems evident that he is determined to uphold an older, traditional, aggressive stance that produced such evil fruit in the horrendous years of the Inquisition from 1203 to 1808. His present mindset was indeed already seen in his 2000 decree. In that decree he actually referred to the arrogant claim of the infamous Mediaeval Pope, Boniface VIII. In 1302, in the Papal Bull, “Unam Sanctam”, Boniface stated, “Furthermore we declare, say, define, and proclaim to every human creature that they, by necessity for salvation, are entirely subject to the Roman Pontiff.”²²

This presumed Primacy is the arrogant mindset of the Vatican hard-liners, those who oversee the strategy and wield the power, among whom is Pope Benedict, and those who elected him to pre-eminence. His dominant presupposition for Papal Rome is that the Lord has established a totalitarian hierarchy of Pope, Cardinals, Patriarchs, major Archbishops, Archbishops, Metropolitans, coadjutor Archbishops, diocesan Bishops, coadjutor Bishops, etc. This is the spirit of Diotrephes, “*who loves to have the pre-eminence*” ad absurdum. The biblical organizational structure of the bride of Christ is utterly different. In the true body of Christ, those ordained as elders and deacons are still only brothers within the same body and the one Master is Jesus Christ the Lord, “*for one is your master even Christ and ye are all brethren.*”²³

Damning Doctrine Resurfaces

Pope Benedict of the year 2007 now demonstrates that his nicknames were well chosen when as a Cardinal the media dubbed him as “the enforcer”, “the panzer” and “God’s rottweiler”. He has countless diktats of old to justify his present strategy. Besides the blasphemous imposition of subjection to the Pope as necessary for salvation contained in “Unum Sanctam”, another example of the damning Papal decree is that of The General Council of Florence in 1442. This official verdict of the fifteenth century is still published in present day papal documents. It announces:

“The Holy Roman Church...firmly believes, professes and preaches that ‘no one remaining outside the Catholic Church, not only pagans’, but also Jews, heretics or schismatics, can become partakers of eternal life; but they will go to the ‘eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels’ (Mt. 25:41), unless before the end of their life they are received into it [the Catholic Church]. For union with the body of the Church is of so great importance that the sacraments of the Church are helpful to salvation only for those remaining in it...and no one can be saved, no matter how much alms he has given, even if he sheds his blood for the name of Christ, unless he remains in the bosom and unity of the Catholic Church.”²⁴

The force and substance of this 1442 decree reappear in the 2007 ruling of Pope Benedict XVI. As we have seen, responding to Question Five, as the document ends, the Pontiff determines: “ ... These ecclesial Communities which, specifically because of the absence of the sacramental priesthood, have not preserved the genuine and integral substance of the Eucharistic Mystery cannot, according to Catholic doctrine, be called ‘Churches’ in the proper sense.”

This hard-line policy does in fact perfectly fit with much of present day official teaching. The Roman Catholic Church officially states, “There is no offense, however serious, that the Church cannot forgive. ‘There is no one, however wicked and guilty, who may not confidently hope for forgiveness, provided his repentance is honest.’”²⁵ Papal Rome broadcasts the focal point of its hope: “Priests have received from God a power that he has given neither to angels nor to archangels....God above confirms what priests do here below.

Were there no forgiveness of sins in the [Roman Catholic] Church, there would be no hope of life to come or eternal liberation. Let us thank God who has given his Church such a gift.”²⁶

In Scripture, in complete contrast, salvation is mediated through Jesus Christ alone, the only mediator between God and man.²⁷ The instrument of salvation is not a Church but rather individual faith and a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The foundation of salvation is outlined by the Apostle Paul, “*being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*”²⁸ showing that God’s grace is the efficient cause, and the payment is made “*through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*” To attempt to bring the Papal church into the nature of the saving work of the Godhead, indeed to make her the centre of that work is grossest blasphemy. In Scripture, salvation is in Christ Jesus alone, “*to the praise of the glory of his grace.*”²⁹

Past and Present Hard-line Papal Policy

There is a distinct parallel between the hard-line policy during centuries of Papal Inquisition and the new policy of the present Pope. During the six hundred and five years of the Inquisition, Bible believers stood remarkably strong in faith and practice. In 2007, trusting in the same Lord Jesus Christ who is the same yesterday, today and for ever, we must stand firm as they did. Bible believers of old confronted by ridicule, indifference and a deluded populace, still in no uncertain terms denounced the Pope along with his dictates and daily lived out the Gospel of grace.³⁰ We must do likewise. The Lord’s Glory, His Gospel, and His promise are at stake! “*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.*”³¹ Christ Jesus prepared believers of old as He does today for condemnations and false charges. He promised, “*Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad...for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*”³² Those who are falsely denounced are to rejoice, showing forth His truth and His Gospel of grace because the Lord reigns. We, facing up to the hard-line policy of Pope Benedict, the continuing obdurate lies, the error and blasphemies of the present day, must preserve

awaiting the power and might of the Righteous Lord God to respond. Benedict expects to achieve greater control through his hard-hitting decree. What he fails to realize is that such decrees of Papal monarchy let it be seen that he rules an enslaved people. The Pope's arrogant pretensions reveal that by means of papal dictatorial rule, a lying system of works is ruthlessly imposed upon Catholic people for their entire lives.

The Absolute Response to the Decree

The conclusive response to the Pope's decree is the everlasting good news of the Lord God. The Lord Jesus Christ died in place of the true believer. His life and perfect unrepeatable sacrifice alone are the ransom payment for the believer's soul. *"The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."*³³ This was the price demanded by the All Holy God in order that His justice might be satisfied in the forgiveness of sins. As a result of this payment, the true believer who trusts in Christ Jesus alone is set free from sin, from the wiles of the devil and from the clutches of a counterfeit Church. *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*³⁴ On the authority of the Bible alone, sinners turn by the conviction of the Holy Spirit to God in faith alone for the salvation that He alone gives, based solely on Christ's death and resurrection for His own. As they believe on Him alone, they realize the greatness of the Father's grace, *"being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."*³⁵ God's sovereign grace and forgiveness enables us to respond in faith and place our trust in the one who died in our place. No Church can save, no ecclesiology saves. We are made right with the All Holy God solely by His graciousness in Jesus Christ our Lord alone.

¹ "Responses to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine on the Church." www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20070629_responsaquaestiones_en.html 8/10/2007

² Emphasis not in original.

³ Formerly known as the Office of the Inquisition, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is still housed in the same building in Rome as its predecessor had been during more than six terrible centuries of tor-

ture and death during which the Office made sure the inquisitorial papal decrees were carried out.

⁴ Matthew 16:16

⁵ Ephesians 5:25-27

⁶ Acts 1:21-22

⁷ The terms overseer and elder/pastor are used interchangeably (Acts 20:17, 28; I Peter 5:1-4).

⁸ I Peter 3:18

⁹ II Peter 1:1

¹⁰ I Peter 2:9

¹¹ I Peter 1:18-19

¹² *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1994), Para 1129

¹³ II Peter 2:1

¹⁴ I Peter 1:23, 25

¹⁵ *Catechism*, Para 82

¹⁶ John XXIII, *Address*, 11 October 1962, in Footnote 1 of Benedict's *Responses*, "...The Council...wishes to transmit Catholic doctrine, whole and entire, without alteration or deviation...it is necessary that the very same doctrine be understood more widely...The deposit of faith itself and the truths contained in our venerable doctrine are one thing, **but the manner in which they are annunciated is another**, provided that the same fundamental sense and meaning is maintained."¹⁶ (Emphasis not in original.)

¹⁷ Vatican Council II Document No. 56, *Nostra Aetate*, 28 October 1965 in *Documents of Vatican II: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents*, Austin P. Flannery, Ed., New Revised Edition (1975, 1984) p. 739. All Vatican II Conciliar and Post Conciliar documents are taken from this volume.

¹⁸ Post Vatican Council II Document No. 42, "Reflections and Suggestions Concerning Ecumenical Dialogue", 15 August 1970, Sect. VI, Part 3, p. 549

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, Sect. II "Nature and Aim of Ecumenical Dialogue", p. 541

²⁰ http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000806_dominusiesus_en.html 8/13/2007

²¹ "Dominus Iesus", Sect. 17

²² Bull, "Unam Sanctam", November 18, 1302 in *The Sources of Catholic Dogma* Tr. by Roy J. Deferrari from the Thirtieth Ed. of Henry Denzinger's *Enchiridion Symbolorum*, tr. revised by Karl Rahner, S. J., 1954 (St. Louis, MO: B. Herder Book Co., 1957) #469.

²³ Matthew 23:8

²⁴ *The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church*, J. Neuner, SJ, and J. Dupuis, SJ, Eds. (New York: Alba House, 1982) #1005.

²⁵ *Catechism*, Para. 982

²⁶ *Ibid*, Para. 983

²⁷ John 14:6; Acts 4:12; I Timothy 2:5

²⁸ Romans 3: 24

²⁹ Ephesians 1:6

³⁰ Watch our *Inquisition* video on 'Youtube' at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rx8PdvoELvY>

³¹ Hebrews 12:28-29.

³² Matthew 5:11-12

³³ Mark 10:45

³⁴ Romans 6:23

³⁵ Romans 3:24.

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THE RELIGION OF GLOBAL WARMING II

By Edward Blick 6/17/2007

EXCERPTED by Bill Overn

Dr. Edward F Blick

Prof. of Engineering, Univ. Of Oklahoma, 1959-2007

He has also been Adjunct Prof. Of Medicine

and Adjunct Prof. of Meteorology at the same institution.

He was formerly a U.S. Air Force Weatherman.

Intro: I have had personal contact with Ed Blick since encountering him in 1974 at the National Conference of Engineering Educators, where he gave a paper in the “Thermodynamics” section showing why the Second Law of Thermodynamics precludes all forms of perpetual motion or biological evolution. I know him to be a careful scientist, with strong credentials and reputation in thermodynamics, that branch of theoretical mechanical engineering, which is the basis for weather and climate.

His long discourse on the religion, politics, and economics of the “global-warming” movement reflects his Christian worldview and revulsion at the use of scientific quackery for political purposes.

These excerpts are my attempt to extract the scientific content, for private distribution, only. I recommend the entire article. It is not a scientific paper, containing complete references, but I, for one, will vouch for its scientific content, as the facts he presents are easily found in the available sources. —Bill Overn

EXCERPTS

Global Warming is hatred against humanity. Man is the problem! America must be transformed into a natural environment like the Indians had in the 1400s. One million human beings could survive. Sorry fellows, 299 million Americans will have to go! They want to eliminate our use of oil, coal, and natural gas. But you can’t run our transportation system, steel mills, chemical plants, etc. on solar panels and windmills. If you accept for the sake of argument, that

humans can only survive by CO2 free energy -that leaves only nuclear energy. But these same environmentalists wack-
os destroyed nuclear power energy in America 30 years ago.

Is there any solid evidence the earth is warming due to man's use of fossil fuels transferring excessive amounts of CO2 in our atmosphere? The answer is NO! Even a 1995 U.N. chart showed earth temperature during the past several decades were not as warm as the medieval warm period of 1000 A.D. to 1400 A.D. During that period, grapes were grown in England (today it is too cool), the Vikings had farms in Greenland, and the Andes had no glaciers.

NASA scientist Jay Zwally used satellite data to measure the changes in polar ice caps and their effect on sea level changes. They found that from 1992 to 2002 Greenland gained 11 billion tons of ice per year, while Antarctica lost 31 billion tons per year. The net change in sea level was 0.05 mm per year, which is half the thickness of a sheet of typing paper. At that rate it would take 1000 years to rise two inches. Al Gore predicted a rise of 20 feet by 2100 A.D.!

The northern and southern hemisphere atmospheres have about the same amount of CO2 since the 1970s, but the southern hemisphere has experienced no warming compared to the northern. If CO2 were the cause of warming they should both warm the same.

There is a dearth of record high temperatures this past 50 years. In fact North Dakota is the only U.S. state to experience its record high since 1996. There were 25 states that had their record high temperature in the 1930s.

Hurricanes are not more common during these last 45 years. Not a single hurricane hit the U.S. in 2006. Polar bears are not dying off in Canada. Eleven of 13 regions in Canada show an increase in population. There is good evidence that we've had almost no warming of the earth since the late 1800s. Scientists went back and checked on the thermometers used in the 1800s and found they gave slightly lower reading. There is a "heat island" effect in large cities, due to concrete, asphalt, brick, and heat sources. They absorb and hold more heat than rural areas with grass and trees. Hence cities have higher temperatures than the surrounding rural areas. When satellites started measuring the earth temperature about 40 years ago, many nations felt

they no longer needed their small town and rural weather stations, so they were closed. They left the record keeping to the larger city weather stations with their heat island effect. At the time of the collapse of the Soviet Union (around 1990), they could not afford their weather stations in Siberia, so they were closed. Hence, with the loss of the cooler temperature data from Siberia and rural stations in other countries, coupled with the heat island effects of the large city stations, and errors in thermometers of the 1800's, any increase in the average earth temperature in the past may be an illusion. Our satellite temperature measurements of earth started 40 years ago and the readings have not varied over +/- 0.4 degrees C.

The amount of CO₂ that man puts into the atmosphere each year is about 3 billion tons per year. But this is insignificant compared to the 39,000 billion tons in our oceans, 2,200 billion tons in our vegetation and soils, and 750 billion tons in our atmosphere. Much of the CO₂ generated by man is consumed by vegetation. Carbon dioxide is transported into the atmosphere by bubbling out of the ocean during warm periods (like a bottle of pop when it is opened and taken from a refrigerator). But atmospheric CO₂ increase lags the temperature increase. It does not produce a temperature increase on the earth; it is caused by a temperature increase in the oceans. Various researchers have shown that in the past the amount of CO₂ in our atmosphere was as high as 400-600 ppm. This is much higher than today (360 ppm).

How does God control our warming and cooling? Scientists have discovered it is the Sun! Amazing, even grade school children know this. The Sun's warming or cooling the earth varies with sunspot and Solar flairs. Astronomer William Hershel discovered this relation in 1801. He found when sunspot activity was high the price of wheat fell. When sunspot activity was low, the price of wheat rose. High sunspot activity increases earth's temperature with a higher yield of wheat, which depresses its price and vice versa. Scientists have done a detailed study of the earth's temperature and sunspots going back 400 hundreds years. They discovered an extremely close correlation between sunspot activity and the earth's temperature. For example, during the Little Ice Age period from about 1700 A.D. to 1900 A.D.,

sunspot activity was very low and the earth was much cooler. Europe was cold and the English were ice-skating on the river Thames. During the past century we've had an increase in sunspots and an increase in temperature. It is interesting that some of the experts on sunspots are predicting that starting this year, 2007 A.D., we will be having a rather substantial decrease in sunspot activity and a drop in earth's temperature.

In 1997, brilliant research by Danish meteorologists, Svensmark and Fris-Christiansen discovered the science of cloud formation. Cosmic particles enter our atmosphere, collide with nitrogen molecules and kick off ions and provide the nuclei for water vapor to condense around and form clouds, which cools the earth. In periods of strong sunspot activity the Sun's stronger magnetic field weakens the cosmic rays and fewer clouds are formed, which allows the Sun's thermal radiation to warm up the earth.

The following are some of the errors in Gore's film, "An Inconvenient Truth", or as called by some, "A Convenient Lie".

1. He ignored the middle age warming period and showed the false 1,000-year "hockey stick" chart.
2. He showed photos of New Orleans floods and linked hurricane frequency to global warming.
3. He asserted today's Arctic is undergoing record warming, while ignoring temperatures were as high or higher in the 1930's and 1940's.
4. He failed to show that Arctic temperatures more closely correlate with sunspots than CO2.
5. He failed to explain that the Sun has been hotter (due to sunspots) in the last 50 years than for thousands of years in the past.
6. Gore said that the Antarctic is warming and losing ice, but failed to state that this is only true for a small region. The vast bulk is cooling and gaining ice.
7. The "Larsen B Ice Shelf" is breaking up, but experts believe it has been breaking up since the Little Ice Age 300 years ago.
8. Greenland's ice is melting, but NASA's Jay Zwally's

satellite data showed it gained 11 billion tons of ice per year from 1992-2002!

9. Global warming caused icecap melting of Mt. Kilimanjaro, but it was due to local deforestation and the drying of its atmosphere.
10. A 20-foot rise in sea levels by 2100 will swamp coastal cities. But the latest UN estimate is 8-17 inches.
11. Peruvian glacier's retreat is due to global warming. But the region has been warming since the 1930's and other Andes glaciers are advancing.
12. Gore blamed global warming for water in Africa's Lake Chad. NASA concluded that it was excessive water use and over-grazing.
13. Polar bears are drowning due to global warming melting the ice. But the population has more than doubled in 11 of 13 regions of Canada since 1940!
14. A review of 928 scientific papers has shown none against the global warming consensus. In fact, only 13 were pro-consensus.
15. Temperature changes followed CO2 changes for thousands of years. In fact CO2 follows temperature.

Dr. Reid Bryson, a climate icon with scores of honors in atmospheric science does not believe the debate is over. When asked about computer models used to forecast long-range climate, he answered with, "Do you believe in five day weather forecasts?" Bryson stated "CO2 always lags temperature changes". (Attention, Al Gore!) He also pointed out that Greenland was once green from the 10th-13th century. Old Viking farmlands are covered with ice. "80% of the heat radiated back from the earth's surface is absorbed in the first 30 feet by water vapor. 0.08 of one percent is absorbed by CO2, which is 1/1000 as important as water vapor. "You can go outside and spit and have the same effect as doubling carbon dioxide". Yet our brilliant Supreme Court (who have morphed into climatologists) has ruled "There is a "Consensus that Global Warming is a reality"!

Christopher Monckton is the former science advisor to British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. In an article entitled "Climate Chaos? Don't Believe It" (Sunday Telegraph, 5/11/06), he stated that "Scores of scientific

papers show a medieval warm period of up to 3 C above normal existed from 1050-1300 AD. It wasn't CO2 that caused the warming, it was the Sun. The Antarctic, which holds 90% of the world's ice and most of the 160,000 glaciers, has cooled and gained ice mass. The snows of Kilimanjaro are vanishing not because the summit temperature is rising, it isn't, but because post-colonial deforestation has dried the air. The U.N.'s computer models are full of purposeful errors that result in climate chaos!"

MIT Professor, Richard S. Lindzen may be the top climatologist in the world. He was elected to the National Academy of Science (NAS) at the age of 37. He wrote an opinion editorial for the Wall Street Journal, where he stated that he and members of the National Academy of Science did not agree with the notion that the U.N.'s IPCC "Summary for Policy Makers" was based on true science. They concluded it represents a consensus of U.N. politicians (many of whom are also their nations Kyoto representatives.) He stated, "As a scientist, I can find no substantive basis for the warming scenarios. CO2 and methane are minor greenhouse gases, with water vapor accounting for 98% of the greenhouse effect. The earth is cooled primarily by air currents, which carry the heat upward, and poleward. Present models have large errors on the order of 50%. These models are unable to calculate correctly the average earth temperature or variations from equator to poles. Fudge factors are added to get the answers they want! The most alarming long range predictions rely on these untrustworthy models, which cannot even accurately forecast the weather a week from now!"

Lindzen stated that "cloud cover in these models is poorly treated and inaccurately predicted. The models have neither the physics nor the numerical accuracy to deal with water vapor at all atmospheric levels. The models not only exaggerate the warming due to CO2 increase, but they greatly overestimated the past century's warming. The past century had an average increase of 0.45 C, but the models predict about 2 C (an error of 300%). Present models cannot predict the real world climate! The global cooling trend in the 1950's-60's led to a global cooling hysteria in the 1970's. Dr. Lindzen stated that many people hyping global warming are environmentalists and scientists without any special knowledge of climatology. Of the 700 scientists who signed a peti-

tion promoting global warming, only 3 or 4 had any involvement in climatology. 1.7 trillion dollars have been spent on the environmental religion in the last decade!”

The U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been the leader in disseminating the lies on global warming. The four basic lies of IPCC are:

1. CO₂, the most important anthropogenic greenhouse gas, increased markedly by human activity, and by far exceeded the natural CO₂ range for the last 650,000 years.
2. Since 1750, human activities warmed the climate.
3. The warmth of the last century is the highest in the past 1300 years, and very likely caused by anthropogenic greenhouse gases.
4. Anthropogenic warming will continue for centuries and by the end of this century the average global temperature will increase by 1.1 to 6.4 C.

Bad politics was followed by bad science when IPCC issued a 21 page “Summary for Policy Makers” in Paris on February 2, 2007. It was a mantra of catastrophe presented in grandiose style designed to induce a tsunami of worldwide hysteria. The Eiffel Tower was blacked out to show that electricity is bad! Three months later the 1600-page scientific report was released. True science works the other way; a report is written first, and then a summary of the report is written! IPCC stated, “The delay is needed for “adjustments (fudging!) of the main text...to insure consistency with the Summary”! This is not science, but politics! “This is a strange and unusual method of producing a scientific report”, according to Dr. Zbigniew Jaworowski. (“CO₂: The Greatest Scientific Scandal of Our Tim”, (submitted April, 2007 to U.S. Senate Committee Hearings)

Dr. Jaworowski is one of the world’s top glaciologists. His degrees include an M.D., Ph.D. and D. Sc. He has conducted scientific studies of dust, pollution, and CO₂ ice cores from glaciers all over the world including, Tatra mountains in Poland, in the Arctic, Antarctic, Alaska, Norway, the Alps,, the Himalayas, the Andes and others. His scientific analysis of the U.N.’s CO₂ data indicates deliberate manipulation and falsification of their charts to indicate a constant 280 parts

per million (ppm) of atmospheric CO₂ prior to the industrial age. German researcher Dr. Ernst-George Beck in his paper reached a similar conclusion, "180 Years of Atmospheric CO₂ Gas Analysis by Chemical Methods. (Energy and Environment, Vol. 18, No. 2, 2007). Both Dr. Jaworowski and Dr. Beck have shown the method used by U.N. to measure the CO₂ in ice cores was completely erroneous. Instead of the U.N's fairy tale that ancient CO₂ values were a constant 280-ppm, from creation to 1750 A.D., some of the values shown by Beck and Jaworowski have been as high as 400-600 ppm.

CO₂ is not poison and it is not our enemy. CO₂ and oxygen are the twin gases of life. Humans and animals breathe in oxygen exhale CO₂. Plants breathe in CO₂, make carbohydrates, and breathe out oxygen. We feed the plants and they feed us. God knew what he was doing! Researchers have run plant experiments doubling CO₂ from 280 ppm to 600 ppm. The increase in wheat, oranges and pine trees ranged from 41% to 265%. If Al Gore's misguided efforts to decrease our available CO₂ are successful, expect to see a drop in our food production and starvation! We need all of the CO₂ we can get.

WHERE ARE ALL THE MIRACLES TODAY?

By Dr. Roy E. Knuteson

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Where are all the miracles today? That's what Gideon wanted to know. Four thousand years ago he asked: "Where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about?" (Judges 6:13). Many Christians are asking the same question today: "Why aren't we seeing the same kind of miracles that we read about in the Bible?" "Why aren't people being raised from the dead and the hungry being supernaturally fed?"

Some Christians think that miracles should always continue and the only reason they haven't is because of unbelief. Romanism, for example, claims a perpetuation of the miraculous through relics and shrines, all of which are cruel hoaxes. The Charismatics preach a restoration of apostolic miracles with an emphasis on certain kinds of healings and other phenomena such as prophesying and tongues-speaking.

No one, however, is actually duplicating the miracles of Scripture. No funeral processions are being cancelled and none are fulfilling Mark 16:18, which promises: "They shall pick up serpents and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them. . ." Interestingly, almost every age has generated those who have tried to reproduce some phase of the supernatural. But the plain truth is: Bible-style miracles have ceased! Let's search the Scriptures and discover why.

At the beginning of Israel's national history, she witnessed the supernatural in phenomenal portions: a walled-up Red Sea, angels' food, perpetual clothing, and a host of other miracles. Yet the Old Testament reveals that there were some great gaps of time in the sequence of these and other miraculous manifestations. Miracles appear clustered around the ministries of certain men, namely Moses, Joshua, Elijah, and Elisha. Here and there something supernatural appeared and then miracles ceased altogether. When Malachi laid down his prophetic pen, a strange silence enveloped the world as Israel entered the intertestamental

period of sacred history. There were no direct communications from God. Angels no longer appeared and no miracles are recorded for about four centuries, Why? There is one dominant reason why the supernatural ceased and that is because God had completed His revelation to Israel. He expected His people to believe Him and wait patiently until He saw fit to reveal Himself again.

Then suddenly, the long silence was broken. An aged priest, standing before the altar of God in Jerusalem, saw a shining angel materialize before his eyes to announce: "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I have been sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news" (Luke 1:19). With these words Gabriel announced the birth of the greatest of all the prophets, John the Baptist. Six months later, Gabriel appeared with another message, this time to the Virgin Mary of Nazareth: "Behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus" (Luke 1:31). Then the miracle occurred: God was made flesh, and with His appearance thousands of angels simultaneously became visible. These were glorious days of heavenly manifestations.

Thirty years later our Lord began to perform unheard of miracles: funeral processions were cancelled; rough sea waters became a walkway; a small lunch fed thousands and a grave released a decaying body. One eyewitness exclaimed: "No one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him" (John 3:2). Finally, Jesus was crucified. But He arose from the dead, and after forty days He ascended bodily into heaven. There was no absence of the miraculous now as God continued to reveal Himself by signs, wonders and supernatural manifestations!

More startling things are recorded in the book of Acts. People spoke in languages they had never learned. Cripples were healed on the streets. Two disobedient Christians were killed instantly. When the apostles were imprisoned, angels opened the jail cell and earthquakes freed their shackled bodies. Demons fled on command and people were healed by the passing shadow of an apostle.

Stephen actually saw heaven opened and beheld Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. Saul heard the thundering voice of the Almighty en route to Damascus.

Peter was released from jail and marveled as the city gates swung open automatically. Philip experienced supernatural space travel, and a king was slain by an angel from heaven.

Gradually the miracles began to disappear. By the time the New Testament was reaching the final stages of completion, the signs lessened and the remarkable visible ministry of God's angels ceased. The book of Acts closes with the greatest apostle a political prisoner in Rome. No angels visited the Mamertine prison, nor prevented Paul's execution. John experienced no miraculous deliverance from Patmos, and angels did not close the mouths of lions as in the days of old. Thousands of Christians died on crosses and in Roman arenas without divine intervention.

Why are there so many evidences at the beginning of the apostolic era and a near total absence at its close? For the first clue, we need to remember that apostolic preaching was "to the Jew first" (Rom. 1:16). Jesus commanded His apostles saying: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles and do not enter any city of the Samaritans. But rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 10:5-6). Therefore, the first eight years of post-resurrection ministry were exclusively to that nation. Not until Acts 10 did a Gentile hear the gospel, and then only to one man and his family. It wasn't until Acts 13, some twelve years after Pentecost, that the first organized mission venture was made into Gentile territory. However, the vast majority of miracles occur in the first ten chapters. Why?

The obvious and scriptural answer is that supernatural signs were for the Jews. Jesus said to His own countrymen: "Unless you see signs and wonders you simply will not believe" (John 4:48). That generation of Israelites received signs, wonders, and miracles for at least three reasons: First, *this was God's historic ways in dealing with this particular race of people*. Israel's history is, as we have already recounted, the story of intermittent miracles. It was therefore somewhat normal for Israel to experience signs, wonders, and miracles.

Second, *this was one of God's historic means of authenticating His Messiah and His messengers to the nation of Israel*. One of the biblical words for "miracles" means literally "signs" or "signals". Jesus, we are told, was "a man attested to you by God with signs which God performed through

Him in your midst. . .”(Acts 2:22). These supernatural works were God’s chosen means of authenticating His workers.

Today, miracles are irrelevant as a sign of divine approval. Witness the fact that Satan’s marvel, the coming Antichrist, will be accepted by the world because of his miracle-working power (see Rev. 13:13-14). In addition, many “miracle workers” will be rejected at the final judgment by the Lord Himself according to Matthew 7:22. In fact, Jesus warned believers that “false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders as to mislead, if possible, even the elect” (Matt. 24:24). Authentic Christian ministers therefore do not need miracles today to prove they are sent by God.

Third, *this was the means God chose to reveal Himself to that people until the Bible was completed*. When the Old Testament was finished, heaven was silent for 400 long years. The same thing occurred with the completion of the New Testament. The canon of scripture was sealed and there is no need for additional revelation through supernatural means.

The Bible reveals that miracles were designed for the *first* generation of Christian believers, and were not promised to be perpetuated throughout this age. “After it was first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed by us to those who heard, God also *bearing witness with them*, both by signs, wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will” (Heb. 2:3-4 emphasis mine).

Even though God has withdrawn the supernatural manifestations of the New Testament era, He still hears and answers prayer. Miracles do occur! People are being healed physically. God’s servants have been spared and delivered in response to believers’ prayers. But God sometimes sovereignly chooses not to reveal Himself through supernatural means. This is true in regard to some unanswered prayers and also true in reference to the withholding of New Testament sign miracles today.

When Jesus was seized and arrested in Gethsemene, He was not powerless. He said: “Do you think that I cannot appeal to my heavenly Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? *How then shall*

the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen this way?" (Matt. 26:53-54, emphasis mine). That is the key question! Jesus could have been miraculously delivered by an angelic host, but the Scriptures needed to be fulfilled. Therefore the supernatural was withheld in the sovereign purpose of God. The withholding of Bible-styled miracles today, we believe, is for the same purpose: that the Scriptures might be fulfilled and God's will be completed.

This is the age of faith. God is awaiting, as He did in Old Testament times, to see if we will believe the revelation He has already given. Jesus said to the Twelve: "because you have seen me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed" (John 20:29). We do not need the sign miracles of Scripture, nor are they promised to us. But we are promised that He will answer prayer that is "according to His will" (1 John 5:14), and He has promised that He will return "in power and great glory" (Matt.24:30). Then the supernatural phenomena will again be in abundance. In the meantime God is with holding these miraculous manifestations, and He is waiting . . . waiting to see if we will respond to the revelation He has already given in His Word.

Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible.

QUIZ on Roman Catholicism

1. The word “catholic” means
 a. original
 b. universal
 c. sacramental
 d. supernatural
2. Which man was not a pope?
 a. Constantine
 b. Pius
 c. John Paul
 d. Hildebrand
3. The number of sacraments in the Roman Catholic Church?
 a. two
 b. four
 c. six
 d. seven
4. Which practice or doctrine is not Roman Catholic?
 a. veneration of Mary
 b. consubstantiation view of communion
 c. absolution of sin by a priest
 d. purgatory and penance
5. Which countries have the most Roman Catholics by percent of population?
 a. Poland and Ireland
 b. France and Belgium
 c. Germany and Spain
 d. Denmark and Sweden...
6. Which is not a Roman Catholic order?
 a. Dominicans
 b. Franciscans
 c. Augustinians
 d. Paulicians
7. Martin Luther was trained to be a monk in what German city?
 a. Berlin
 b. Erfurt
 c. Wittenberg
 d. Worms

8. The present pope hails from
___ a. Poland
___ b. Austria
___ c. Ireland
___ d. Germany
9. Which council sought to combat the Protestant Reformation?
___ a. Trent (1545-1560)
___ b. Vatican (1869-70)
___ c. Constance (1414-18)
___ d. Lateran V (1512-1517)
10. Which is a Roman Catholic charitable and fraternal organization?
___ a. Gideons
___ b. Knights of Columbus
___ c. Shriners
___ d. Rotarians

Answers: 1. (b); 2. (a); 3. (d); 4. (b); 5. (a); 6. (d); 7. (b); 8. (d); 9. (a); 10. (b).

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