

Informative Notes On Roman Catholicism

The New Testament is replete with serious warnings of departures from God's inspired word, and the essential things it teaches with regard to man's greatest blessing possible, eternal salvation. To fail to heed those warnings is to put our souls in jeopardy and lose God's greatest gift.

By far the greatest event to ever happen in behalf of the human family, was when God's "only begotten" Son purchased his church by the shedding of his blood on Calvary's cross. This brought to fruition God's plan of salvation for man, "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph. 3:11). This "eternal purpose was made "known by the church," thereby revealing "the manifold wisdom of God" (Eph. 3:10). The first mention of God's "eternal purpose" is made in Genesis 3:15. From that point onward the theme of God's revelation is the salvation of man through Christ.

Since man was created with a free will, or the power to choose, and since Satan was an adversary of God and his plan of for redeeming man, God knew that his plan would have its enemies, as demonstrated by the actions of Adam and Eve.

From early on in the Christian dispensation divine warnings are given with regard to the enemies of truth. Consider the warning of John, an apostle: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I Jno. 4:1). Note the past tense concerning the false prophets. Enemies of the truth were already working in the first century. Paul said to the Philippians: "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ" (Phil. 3:18). Just as Paul was so concerned that he wept, so should we be deeply concerned.

Paul warned of enemies of God's truth which would come in the future. To Timothy he wrote: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them that believe and know the truth" (I Tim. 4:1-3). In Paul's second letter to Timothy he again warns: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

Peter sounds a warning when he said: "BUT there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon them swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (2 Pet. 2:1-2).

Our Lord said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:15).

In view of all the warnings concerning enemies of the truth, it should be no surprise that we have such man-made religions as the **Roman Catholic Church**. Whether or not the warnings have specific reference to the Catholic Church makes little difference. What is important is that it is included in principle. Some of the warnings certainly fit a number of things we have seen in the Catholic Church,

and still see today.

Inasmuch as the RCC (We shall use this abbreviation to save space) has received so much national attention during the past couple of years, we thought it would be timely to discuss some important things about it. Many people know very little about the RCC, other than that they know it is a religion. There are, however, some hearsay things about it, some of which may be based on facts and others may not be. It is our intention to deal with factual things, some of which are from their own writings, and others from reliable historical sources. Our discussion will of necessity be very limited, since volumes could be and have been written on the subject. It is not easy to filter out the most timely things when there is so much information. We think a good place to start would be:

THE BEGINNING OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Since the beginning of the RCC is nowhere recorded in God's inspired word, it is necessary to look to historical sources. We have already noted that apostasy in the Lord's church had already begun in the first century, as stated by New Testament writers. That growing apostasy would continue in the years and centuries ahead.

No specific date can be given for the beginning of the RCC due to the fact that it happened so gradually, that it must have been imperceptible to many. It is a matter of reliable historical accounts, however, that a change in church government materialized. From the New Testament pattern of elders or bishops in the autonomous congregations, there came to be a "chief elder" in each congregation. Then followed the councils composed of these chief elders. These councils assumed authority to make rules or laws to be followed by the congregations they represented. It then came to be in this growing apostasy that certain ones of the chief elders or bishops would represent a certain geographical area. With the passing of time there came to be one bishop which was over all the congregations. He was referred to as the "Universal Bishop," or "Pope." Today they have: Cardinals, Bishops, Archbishops, and over all is the Pope.

An important date in the above development was the Council of Nicea which convened in 325 A.D. The "Nicene Creed" was formulated. Persistent efforts to force people to submit to this creed would continue for centuries. The Council was called by Constantine, the Emperor of Rome. Constantine became a nominal Christian, and as such he became the protector of so-called Christianity, as a state religion. With power of the state religion the pagans were persecuted. As a result many pagans aligned themselves with the state religion. Along with them they brought their pagan beliefs. To accommodate the pagans many of their beliefs were incorporated into the religion which was to become the RCC. This helps to account for a number of things which are seen in Catholicism of today, which are strange and without example in God's word. Remember, Catholics are to believe whatever they are told, and that without question.

At the point of the Council of Nicea, many of the things which characterized the church as established by Christ had been cast aside and replaced by the ideas of men. Apostasy was nearing completion.

THE FIRST POPE

Although Catholicism had developed to a great extent, it was 606 A.D. before one claimed the title of "Universal Bishop," or "Pope." Boniface III accepted that title. "Pope" is from a Latin word which means "pappa."

Catholics teach that the apostle Peter was the first Pope. This teaching is based upon "tradition" and there is not one whit of evidence from God's word that this was true. To the contrary, biblical evidence stands against Peter as a Pope. Peter had a wife (Matt. 8:14). Paul "withstood" Peter to his face, "be-

cause he was to be blamed” (Gal. 2:11). Cornelius “fell down” at Peter’s feet and worshipped him. “But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up, I myself am also a man” (Ac. 10:25-26). If Peter had been a Pope, he would have gladly had Cornelius to fall down before him, and kiss his ring, his slipper, toe, or whatever. There is much other evidence in God’s word that Peter never was a Pope.

THE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF THE POPE

Note what a Catholic source, a booklet put out by the Knights of Columbus, entitled “Why Catholics Believe as they do,” says with regard to Catholic’s belief in the Pope. The following is from page 29, of the booklet published in 1955, which carries the *Imprimatur* of Joseph E. Ritter, *Archbishop of St. Louis*.

“All Catholics everywhere recognize the authority of the Pope, the Vicar of Christ. He is the representative of the Lord, and like the Lord he can tell each individual in the Church what to believe and what to do in religious matters. Catholics do not accept the official pronouncements of the Pope only when they agree with them. They accept them at all times because they recognize his authority.”

From the same source as that above, p. 27, note the following paragraph, with the heading, **Christ’s Vicar:**

“It was at Caesarea Philippi – the same solemn title ‘Simon, son of John,’ the same acknowledgement of Christ’s divinity by Peter, the same conferring of power. The good shepherd was performing the last great act of his public life – handing over the flock to Peter.”

When Catholics are taught, and they believe, that they are to believe everything they are told, it is no wonder that they accept all sorts of things which are totally without evidence from God, which is the only basis for believing.

A Vicar of Christ and God.

It is sad and also frightening, that people will entrust their soul salvation to a mere man on earth, who has no God-given power to legislate or make rules for man to live by. God’s word says, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Col. 3:17). Man will be judged by the word’s of Christ (Jno. 12:48), not by what the Pope says, or any other Catholic authority. Catholics are not willing to accept this. God’s word alone is not sufficient, they are taught. We shall give attention to this later.

The word “Vicar” is defined by *Webster* as “a person who acts in the place of another.” By this definition the Pope is acting in the place of Christ and of God on earth. This is exactly what they claim. This also includes the exercising of authority of Christ and God on earth. The Pope is also setting himself up as God on earth when he assumes the title of “supreme pontiff.” “Pontiff” is defined as “a high priest.” “Supreme” means highest in rank, power, authority, etc. The New Testament teaches that Christ is our high priest, not the Pope! But since the Pope claims to be the “supreme” priest, that puts him above Christ.

Note the following quotes from Catholic sources from the booklet, “Catholicism Against Itself,” by O.C. Lambert:

“...complete submission and obedience of will to the church and to the Roman Pontiff as God himself.” (Great Encyclical Letters, p. 193).

“We hold [Popes] upon this earth the place of God Almighty.” (Ibid. p. 304).

Lest some get the idea that the exaltation of the Pope as God or Christ on earth happened during the “Dark Ages,” we call attention to the account of the crowning of Pope John XIII, by the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Rome on Nov. 4, 1958, as given by the *Pensacola Journal*, Nov. 5, 1958:

“At the chapel of St. Gregory, the pontiff took his place at yet another throne, and the cardinals once again — one by one — came forward and knelt in homage to kiss his ring.”

“The statue of St. Peter, whose toe is worn smooth and thin from the kisses of millions of faithful through the centuries, was decked in glittering pontifical robes.”

“The cardinals, once again approached the throne in an act of homage. Each one touched cheeks with the pontiff and then knelt to kiss his ring and slipper.”

Try as hard as one could, the scriptural authority for such as we have considered cannot be found. It's totally lacking. One can see why the Catholics have to turn to something in addition to the Bible to uphold many of their teachings and practices.

The Infallibility of the Pope. It is easy to see why people would accept the claimed infallibility of the Pope if they swallow the claim that the Pope takes the place of God and Christ on earth. And the Catholics do teach that the Pope is infallible.

In a tract entitled, “This Is The Catholic Church,” by Richard Ginder, with the *Imprimatur* of Francis J. Spellman, D.D., *Archbishop of New York*, the following is said about Infallibility: “We have already spoken of the Church and her setup as a spiritual army. It only remains to say that if God is to be with His Church, as He promised, then she can't make a mistake in her teachings. This is called Infallibility.”

In a paper-back book entitled, “*This Is Our Catholic Faith*,” by Rev. Arthur W. Terminiello, bearing the *Imprimatur* of: Most Rev. T.J. Toolen, D.D., LL.D. *Archbishop of Mobile-Birmingham*, we find some information about Infallibility.

The question is asked, “What do we mean by the infallibility of the church?” The answer, “By infallibility we mean that the Church can not make a mistake when it teaches a doctrine of faith or morals to the universal church.” The next question is, “Who is infallible in the church?” The answer is: “In the church a general Council of all the bishops of the world, presided over by the Pope, is infallible. Likewise the Pope himself enjoys the protection of infallibility.”

It is further stated that for the Pope to speak infallibly there are some conditions: (1) “The Pope must speak ‘*ex cathedra*,’ i.e., he must speak from his throne. (2) “He must speak to the universal church and not to a particular group or nation. (3) “The wording must be clear. For example, he must state that he is speaking as the Vicar of Christ, successor of St. Peter and Pope of the Universal Church.”

Where did such erroneous ideas as the above come from? Did they come from God's word? NO! Since there are only two sources of religious authority, God and man, they had to come from man.

Due to space limitations we are going to move on to some things about the Roman Catholic Church in more recent centuries. We do want to point out a few things before we do that. There are so many things of interest that it is difficult to choose those things which are now most timely. We shall mention a few things about the papacy.

THE CONDITION OF THE PAPACY

The power and authority of the Pope has varied at different times. In periods when the Catholic Church has been characterized by turmoil and power struggles the Pope has not been exalted as in times of peace. An example is given by the noted church historian, Philip Schaff, as he describes the papacy in the 10th century:

“The papacy itself lost all independence and dignity, and became the prey of avarice, violence, and intrigue, a veritable synagogue of Satan. . . . Pope followed Pope in rapid succession, and most of them ended their career in deposition, prison, and murder. The rich and powerful marquises of Tuscany and the Counts of Tusculum acquired control over the city of Rome and the papacy for more than half a century. And what is worse (incredible, *attamen verum*), three bold and energetic women of the highest rank and the lowest character, Theodora the elder (the wife or widow of a Roman senator), and her two daughters, Marozia and Theodora, filled the chair of St. Peter with their paramours and bastards . . . They turned the church of St. Peter into a den of

robbers, and the residence of his successors into a harem, and they gloried in their shame. Hence this infamous period is called papal Pornocracy or Hetaerocracy." *The History of the Christian Church*, Vol. IV, pp. 283-284.

It is hard to imagine a religious group, in this case the Roman Catholic Church, to be more evil than the condition described above. But it only involves a little study of church history to see the facts. But when people are taught, and believe, that they must blindly follow someone or some organization, regardless of what they are called upon to do, then anything can happen, even that which is very wicked. Some of the evil within the Catholic Church has been brought to light recently. We shall discuss this later.

A lot of attention has been given to religious cults in recent years. A cult is where people blindly follow some leader. With Catholicism it is the following of a man-made system in which the Pope has all authority, Just as Christ had all authority within His church. Christ is the author of eternal salvation to them that obey Him (Heb. 5:9), but the Pope has set himself up as Christ and God on earth, and he is the author of all manner of evil and deceit. He indeed is a "man of sin."

The Split Within the Roman Catholic Church. Due to differences within the Roman Church, a split occurred in 1054 A.D. It was a split between the East and the West. Rome continued as the head of the Roman Catholics while the East, or the Greeks had their seat in Constantinople. This division continues until the present time. The East is known as the Greek Orthodox Church.

I was told by people in Kiev, Ukraine a few years ago that the Greek Orthodox for the most part went along with the Communist Regime. In that way they were no threat to atheistic Communism.

SOME CURRENT ERRONEOUS TEACHINGS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Volumes could be written on the false teachings of the Catholic Church, but we shall touch upon some of the more common ones. Some may not realize how just how clearly many of these false teachings are set forth in Catholic literature. There was a time when Catholics were kept in the dark more than now. About forty years ago I talked with a Catholic lady in Pensacola, Florida, while door-knocking. I told her that I understood that Catholics did not read the Bible. Her response was, and she had several children, "We don't even have a Bible in our house." Her reasoning was, as obviously she had been taught, that the regular member of the Catholic Church could not understand the Bible. It was up to the priest to tell them what to believe.

There are various sources of information put out by Catholics which plainly teach many things. The false teachings we shall discuss will be from the Catholics' own literature, not hearsay. The following information shall be from a paper-back book entitled, *This Is Our Catholic Faith*, authored by Rev. Arthur W. Terminiells. It carries the Imprimatur of Most Rev. T.J. Toolen, D.D., LL. D. Archbishop. Bishop of Mobile-Birmingham. Copyright 1956. The following quotations will be from the above source, unless noted otherwise.

"8. WHY IS THE BIBLE ALONE NOT SUFFICIENT AS OUR RULE OF FAITH OR GUIDE TO THE TEACHING OF CHRIST? The Bible alone is not sufficient as a guide to Christ's teaching, because: (a) It was not CHRIST'S way.... (b) The Bible alone is not a SAFE guide (c) The Bible is not COMPLETE.... The Bible alone is not CLEAR...."

"9. WHERE ELSE IS CHRIST'S REVELATION TO BE FOUND? It is also found in Tradition, i.e., in the living, spoken word of Christ and His Apostles...."

"10. WHERE IS THE TRADITION OF THE CHURCH FOUND? It is found chiefly in writings of the Fathers of the Church of the first centuries, in the decrees of the Councils, the decisions of the Popes and in the ceremonials of the Church."

One does not have to be very wise to see that the above sets aside God's word as an all-sufficient guide, as declared in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. With God's all-sufficient word set aside as our only guide, and supplanted by "tradition," authority for anything men want to do can be found. This accounts for

the many, many errors taught by the Catholic Church. Actually, “tradition” is more powerful with the Catholics than the inspired word of God. This is seen in the fact that many things taught and practiced are based on tradition, even though those things are opposed by God’s word.

In Catholic literature one often sees statements with regard to what “the Church teaches.” We are accountable to what God’s word teaches, not what the church teaches. The church is to serve as “the pillar and ground of the truth” (2 Tim. 3:15), but it does not have authority to formulate doctrine. The Catholic Church assumes that authority, but God has never granted such. Note the Catholic claim:

“WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH? By the authority of the Church we mean the power of the Pope and bishops, as the successors of Peter and the other Apostles, to teach and govern in the name of Christ.”

Another thing we see in Catholic literatures is the frequent use of the term “Church of Christ.” Our Lord did not build, purchase, or approve anything like the Catholic Church. He built and purchased with his blood, only His church (Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28). By the use of the term “Church of Christ” some may be misled into thinking the Catholic Church is what it claims to be. But the use of that term in no sense justifies their claim.

“6. WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE THAT DIE WITHOUT BAPTISM? Those who die without Baptism and have not offended God by unrepented sin, go to a place we call ‘Limbo.’ Limbo is a place or a state where there is no suffering – a place of perfect natural happiness.”

“1. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH? After death, according to Catholic doctrine, these things can, or will, happen: (d) Souls which have no mortal sin, but still have unrepented venial sins, or temporal punishment due for either mortal sin or venial sin, will go to purgatory.”

God’s word knows absolutely nothing about “purgatory.” In fact, this idea is in sharp opposition to what God’s word does teach. The apostle John said: “Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (Jno. 5:28-29). Was it the case that John didn’t know about “purgatory,” or was it the case that what he said is exactly according to God’s will, which leaves out any idea of man-made purgatory?

“4. WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF BAPTISM? The effects of baptism are: (a) IN INFANTS, Baptism gives first grace (or justification) to the soul, and imprints upon it a permanent character. (b) FOR ADULTS, in addition to the above effects, it also removes all actual sin together with the temporal punishment due for all sin.”

“6. HOW MANY KINDS OF BAPTISM IN WATER ARE THERE? There are three kinds of Baptism of water: Immersion (or dipping), aspersion (or sprinkling), and infusion (or pouring).”

“8. WHY DOES THE CHURCH USE POURING RATHER THAN DIPPING OR SPRINKLING? The Church uses infusion today: 1. Because from the very beginning of Christianity, this type was used in the Church. 2. For practical reasons, it would be impossible to immerse infants, those in prison, those in hospitals, etc. During the early centuries Baptism was administered by immersion and sprinkling....However, although Baptism by pouring was not in common use until the 13th century, we know that it WAS used along with dipping even in the 1st Century.”

Where did the Catholics get all these strange ideas about baptism? It had to be from “tradition” since such is nowhere authorized by God’s word. Note how it is said that “pouring” was used “from the very beginning of Christianity.” This is simply not true! Catholics have no qualms about stating things which God’s word in no sense of the term justifies. The sad part about this is that multiplied millions are entrusting the salvation of their souls to a system of man-made error. A question I’ve never been able to answer to my satisfaction is this: Why will people entrust the salvation of their souls to systems of error, even when they think soundly about things in the secular world?

“6. WHY SHOULD WE CONFESS TO A PRIEST WHO IS ONLY A MAN, AND A SINNER, LIKE OURSELVES? When we go to confession we confess to the priest, not as a man, but as an agent of God. His personal life does not affect his agency or his office.”

“6. WHAT ARE THE CHIEF POWERS OF PRIESTS? The chief powers of priests are to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass and to forgive sins.”

Who is willing to entrust the forgiveness of sins to a mere man? Is it not the power of God to forgive sins, and not that of any priest or other person? Paul said, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (I Tim. 2:5). But we have the Catholic priest serving not only as a “mediator,” but as one who has the power to forgive sins! It is interesting to note that the “personal life” of the priest has nothing to do with his forgiving of sins. If this is a valid statement, then it would follow that all those homosexual priest which we’ve heard about in the past couple of years just went on forgiving sins as if nothing had happened. Who can believe such?

“2. WHY DO WE PRAY TO THE SAINTS? We pray to saints to ask them to intercede with God for us. We do not ask them to grant anything. In praying to the saints we acknowledge our own unworthiness to appear before God; and at the same time, we acknowledge OUR dependence, and the saints’ dependence upon God.”

“3. IS IT NOT THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE ‘MEDIATOR,’ WHO IS CHRIST, AND THAT WE SHOULD GO TO GOD THROUGH HIM? Scripture speaks of the ‘one mediator’ who is Christ. Catholics do not deny that all graces come to us through Christ, and that He is the PRIMARY MEDIATOR. . . .(cf. I Tim. 2:5). But this does not exclude secondary mediators....”

“4. WHY DO WE HONOR MARY? We honor Mary: (a) Because she is the mother of God. (b) Because she was honored by God the Father who chose her as the mother of His Divine Son and sent His angel to announce this choice to her. (c) Because the Son loved her, not only as His own mother, but also as the purest of God’s creatures. (d) Because she is so powerful in her intercession with her Divine Son.”

With Catholics it is a very common thing for them to employ the word “But” to include whatever they want to include. Obviously, they are not content with the “one mediator” ordained by God. Therefore, they come up with “secondary mediators.” The acceptance of the “one mediator” which has God’s approval would put an end to the unscriptural practice of praying to the “saints” as mediators. As we have noticed already, Catholics are not limited by what God’s word says. They have “tradition” for just about anything they choose to do. And, they choose to do many things contrary to God’s inspired word.

With regard to Mary, if you have listened to Catholic services you will recall that you often heard the mention of Mary more than the mention of Christ. In fact, it has not been very long ago that a group of Catholics were trying to bring about some kind of rule that would have elevated Mary above Christ. The Catholics claim that Mary was “sinless throughout her life.” They also claim that Mary “remained a virgin before, during and after the birth of Jesus.” These claims are false!

“1. WHAT IS THE HOLY EUCHARIST? The Holy Eucharist is a Sacrament which contains the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ under the appearance of bread and wine. A more complete definition would be; ‘The Holy Eucharist is a Sacrament and a sacrifice.’ In it, our Lord Jesus Christ, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, under the appearances of bread and wine, is contained, offered and received.”

“4. EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED WHEN CHRIST SAID: ‘THIS IS MY BODY,’ AND, ‘THIS IS MY BLOOD’? (a) By these words the entire substance of the bread and wine was changed into His Body and Blood. We call this change ‘Transubstantiation,’ which means the change of one substance to another, and different, substance. (b) The appearances of bread and wine remained even after the substance had been changed. By these appearances we mean the color, taste, weight, shape, and whatever appears to the senses.”

The description of the “Holy Eucharist” sounds what the dictionary calls “malarkey.” The “bread and the wine” are changed into the body and blood of the Lord. Yet, its appearance hasn’t changed, and that means its color, taste, weight, shape, and whatever appears to the senses. How do the people

know this change has taken place? They must simply accept what they are told. Otherwise, they could test both the body and blood and see that it had not been changed. Someone suggested that if Christ is a literal “door,” (Jno. 10:7, 9), he might be more inclined to believe that the body and blood of Christ are literal.

“9. WHAT ARE RELICS? Relics are souvenirs of keepsakes of the saints or of our Lord. For example, particles of the true cross, parts of the clothing or bodies of saints, or something belonging to the saints.”

“10. WHY DO WE HONOR OR VENER-ATE RELICS? We honor relics because of their sacred association, just as we honor the remains of our national heroes, flags, etc.”

History records all manner of most outrageous claims of “relics.” As an example, I read one account of a claim that milk from the breast of Mary was in existence as a relic. Since Catholics are taught to believe whatever they are told, we can see why they believe things which are unbelievable.

We are concluding the references from the source referred to above. We have referred to only a few of the scores of items that are contained in that source, but we want to address some matters which have occurred within the Catholic Church in very recent times. However, before we turn our attention to that we do want to mention one other matter.

Most of the people whom I know are aware of the activities of many Catholics, such as drinking, gambling, etc. From a tract entitled “THIS IS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH,” by Richard Ginder, bearing the *Imprimatur* of Francis J. Spellman, D.D., Archbishop of New York, we learn that such is upheld by the Catholic hierarchy. Under the heading of *Regulations* we note the following words:

“The Catholic Church has never been puritanical. We are not against the careful use of alcoholics, for instance, nor tobacco, dancing, card-playing, or gambling. In themselves, these things have their place when used moderately as stimulants or as recreation. They can be abused, it’s true, but that should be no reason for banning them altogether.”

A few years ago, when we lived in Farmington, Missouri, I visited a picnic type of activity which was raising money for a Catholic school. Gambling, including poker and blackjack, was in full swing. Of course the law just looked the other way with regard to this violation of the law. A priest that was having some part in the activity, making some sort of a speech, was very, very drunk. During World War II I was in training for the Maritime Service. A number of the young men were Catholics. After drinking and carousing until late hours on Saturday night, they would force themselves to go the sunrise mass to make every thing right. But how about God?

In the remainder of our discussion we shall discuss present Pope and his celebration of 25 years as Pope. We will also have something to say with reference to “Saints,” and the canonizing of “Mother Teresa.” Another item to be discussed will be the hundreds of cases of sexual abuse by priests, and some efforts to cover up such evil. We shall also give a list of sources which provide much more detailed information about the Catholic Church. We trust this will be helpful to those desiring more information about the Catholic Church.

THE PRESENT POPE — JOHN PAUL II

Recently, the present pope celebrated his 25th anniversary as pope, an office and position which is wholly unknown to God’s revelation to man. At least 50,000 people attend the mass on St. Peter’s Square. This pope is the first non-Italian pope in 465 years. He is from Poland.

In a *Newsweek* article by Kenneth L. Woodward, Oct. 20, 2003, he speaks of the “The Fast Track to Sainthood.” Woodward says: “For the 25th anniversary of his election to the papacy, John Paul has called all 195 Cardinals of the church to join in the celebration — including 30 new ones who will receive their red hats.” The highlight of the week’s activities will be the beatifying of “Mother Teresa.” No one has been beatified in such a short time of just seven years. The shortest record up until this time was said to be 17 years, I believe.

John Paul II is said to be more conservative than many other popes have been. Conservative, liberal

or whatever, just think of the spiritual and political influence that this mere man has had! There are said to be 64 million Catholics in the U.S., and many, many millions in the rest of the world.

Here is a man who is so presumptuous as to claim himself to be the “vicar” of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ here on earth. That is, he claims himself to take the place of Christ, to have the power and the authority of Christ. How in the world can so many people be duped in that which involves the well-being of their souls eternally? The power he claims is such that Catholics teach that God’s word alone is not sufficient. Of course, if it were accepted that God’s word is all-sufficient as it claims to be (2 Tim. 3:16-17), there would be no pope on earth. A pope is something completely unknown to God’s word.

The Catholics have long claimed the power to perform miracles. History records literally hundreds of claims of miracles performed by Catholics. If they have power to perform miracles, why don’t they at least do one more to revive the pope, which is said to be near the end of his life? God’s word speaks of “lying wonders,” and until I have seen a miracle performed by Catholicism, that is the category in which I will place the reports of their miracles. But some people will believe anything!

CATHOLICISM AND SAINTHOOD

In the New Testament the word “saint” has reference to all Christian. It simply means one who has been set apart from the world. It is so used dozens of times. This is not so at all with the Catholics. Men of this religion have come up with a man-made teaching and practice that makes only the ones who qualify according to their changing rules, what they call a “Saint.” Again, this is something completely unknown to God’s word, that is, a “saint” as Catholics use the term. Their erroneous practice has influenced the wrongful use of the term by many who aren’t Catholics. We’ve all heard the expression, “Does he think he is a saint?”

To become a Catholic “saint,” one has to be “canonized.” That is, one must meet certain qualifications to be canonized. *Britannica* (Vol. 2, p. 810) says the first saint was Bishop of Augsburg, who was made a saint by Pope John XV in 993 A.D. At one time it was necessary for one to be dead 100 years in order to qualify for canonization. In the early 1960s Pope Paul VI shortened the time that was necessary.

“MOTHER TERESA,” CATHOLICISM’S LATEST “SAINT.” We’ve already mentioned that the beatifying of “Mother Teresa” breaks the record as to the time required. It might be observed that for people who trust their souls to a man-made religion, one thing might be seen as an advantage. That is, rules and regulations may be changed any time the hierarchy in control chooses. In the article from *Newsweek* referred to above, Mr. Woodward has some interesting information about “Mother Teresa” becoming a saint.

Father Brian Kolodiejchuk was the coordinator of the team which investigated Mother Teresa’s requirements for sainthood. He is quoted as saying, “I felt like I had God, the church, history — even Mother Teresa — looking over my shoulder.” It is said that as with all candidates for sainthood, the church required a “divine sign” in the form of a posthumous miracle. With all the claims of miracles by the Catholics it surely wouldn’t be hard to find a so-called miracle for any number of people. It is quite interesting to note the following evidence presented in behalf of Mother Teresa. How can one believe such? Yet, millions do!

The following is what is said to meet Mother Teresa’s requirements with regard to a “miracle.”

Among many miracles of intercession claimed, Sarno picked one in which a Hindu mother, Monika Beresa, came to the sisters suffering from a life-threatening stomach tumor. The sisters prayed to Mother Teresa for a cure and pressed a religious medal that she had touched to Beresa’s abdomen. Five hours later the tumor had completely disappeared.

Such claims as the above are quite typical. A good question to be asked is, “If miracles like this are actually performed, why aren’t millions more performed? It is so emotionally depressing to see the

great numbers in India who are in need of cures.

SAINTS DECANONIZED. A most popular saint with Catholics was St. Christopher. He was the “patron saint” of travelers, and in the 20th century, of motorists. *Britannica* says, “Though one of the most popular saints, there is no certainty that he existed historically.” “In 1969 his name was dropped from the calendar of the Roman Catholic Church...” Of Saint Nicholas [Santa Claus] it is said, “Nicholas’ existence is not attested by any historical document.”

If such popular saints as St. Christopher and Saint Nicholas are figments of imagination, how can Catholics believe in all the other saints? Who knows how many other saints have no historical record that they ever existed?

EVIL WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

History is replete with the account of many evil activities which have taken place within the Catholic Church. To name a few: 1) The Crusades, when multitudes were murdered, property taken, etc. 2) The persecution of “heretics” by burning at the stake and other forms of punishment. 3) The corruption of the papacy in many instances, is recorded by reliable historians. Space limits us.

The sexual assault on boys and young men by Catholic priests has been a major news item during the past two years. These assaults go back several years. It is only in relatively recent times that this has come to the attention of the public. A major concern on the part of some has been the efforts of the Catholic officials to try to cover up these acts. An article in *Newsweek*, March 10, 2003, by Daniel McGinn, discusses the extent of this crime. He says:

“It’s been 14 months since the scandal over the Roman Catholic Church’s handling of priest’s sexual abuse broke in Boston and rippled across the country. Nationwide, more than 300 priests have been removed over abuse allegations. Most will eventually face charges before a church tribunal and never minister again; some will go to jail. But a handful – as many as two dozen nationally, experts guess – will return to their posts after investigations conclude the allegations are unsubstantiated.”

Some, including Catholics, have expressed their doubt that actions taken against sexual assault by the Catholic hierarchy will be as effective as they should be. In a *Newsweek* article, Nov. 18, 2002, by Peg Tyre and Julie Scelfo, some interesting statements are made.

It is said that “When Roman Catholic activists Peter Isley found out last week that the church’s proposed plan for dealing with sex abuse by priests could give bishops oversight of investigations, and will involve secret tribunals, he was very angry.”

Critics of the plan say it is the same old story. The revised plan gives the job to the bishops, many of whom have mishandled sexual abuse cases in the past. Of the “secret tribunals” involved the Rev. Thomas Doyle, “a former canon lawyer and expert on sex abuse by the clergy,” says “I’m skeptical tribunals could be useful.” He says further, “If tribunals had the capacity to take on these kinds of issues, they would have been handling these for decades.” It is easy to understand that tribunals would not be unbiased in their decisions.

In a *Newsweek* article, Dec. 23, 2002, Kenneth L. Woodward discusses Cardinal Law’s resignation. Woodward, a Catholic, says: “Still, I do not understand what it is about ecclesiastical privilege that would render any bishop unable to sympathize – on the instant – with the victims of a predatory priest. The innkeeper of hell, I suspect, is holding special reservations for those few sanctimonious bishops who, complicit in cover-ups of their own, delude themselves in thinking they are suffering like Jesus on the cross. Have they never heard of Judas?”

NEWS FLASH !

We just called attention to Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Law, a doer of much evil. Just an hour ago on this date of Nov. 18th, more sad news came from Massachusetts. The state Supreme Court voted in favor of allowing the seven homosexual couples to obtain marriage license to be married. The Legislature has 180 days to make a ruling on the action. If the Supreme Court's decision stands, Massachusetts will be the first state to legitimize homosexual marriage. This is another step in banishing God from our society. It is indeed a frightening time when we have those who want to make of our country another Sodom and Gomorrah! God-fearing people need to wake up while there is still some possibility of turning back to a state of morality where God's existence is accepted.

Let's go back to our subject of discussion, the Roman Catholic Church. We have been able to only touch the hem of the garment with regard to the teachings and practices of this greatest religion in our country. We trust that what we have been able to present will cause some people to think. Just one thing mentioned should be enough to convince people of the falsity of the Catholic Religion. That one thing is the fact that Catholicism teaches that God's word as contained in the Bible is not sufficient. What an affront to God this is. In order for them to have any basis for existence they have to resort to "tradition" for "so-called truth" which God has not revealed in His word.

We suggest the following for further information on Catholicism: 1) Bro. O.C. Lamberts work, *Catholicism Against Itself*. 2) Encyclopedias, and especially the Catholic Encyclopedia. 3) Materials available from Catholic sources, such as Knights of Columbus. Many brethren, including several former Catholics, have written about the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church has great influence in our country, therefore we need to know what it is and what it stands for. Everything they stand for is not error, but much of it is. I think we could say that all religions claiming to be the Christian religion, teach some truth. "Some truth" does not make a religion right. Truth is the only basis for the Lord's church.

- - - Walter W. Pigg, Editor

**SEASON'S
GREETINGS!**

* * * * *

**We sincerely wish
for our readers and
supporters
A VERY SAFE
AND HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON**

* * * * *

**May the New Year
Of 2004 be a very
Prosperous One
in every good thing!**

* * * * *

**We are thankful for
“gifts” from our
“fellow-helpers”
and those who have
given of their labor
which have enabled
us to carry on our work in behalf of
the cause of Christ.**

**Walter and Naomi and
the church at Hickory Grove**

ET Phone Home (IX)

Alan Adams, Assistant Editor

Just as ET found many “earth things” strange and alien; so might a Christian dedicated to ancient Christianity, when he is among many brethren (and not a few preachers) of this generation, find himself on alien turf. One element of Christianity, so old, so fundamental; yet so put upon and abused is The Assembly.

When plotting a problem on a piece of graph paper we take particular interest when several lines intersect the same point. The same thing is true with ideas, doctrines or practices. Consider so many of the far-out and fallacious practices that are appearing (even abounding) in every corner: Instrumental Music; Solos, Choirs, Choruses; Divided Assembly (AKA, Children’s Bible Hour); Women as worship leaders in mixed assemblies (Preaching, Praying, Translating, Lord’s Supper, Offering); Skits and Dramatic Presentations, et al. Each of these innovations intersect at The Assembly. The Assembly is truly under assault. Brother Calvin Warpula flat out says, “The New Testament speaks of Christians ‘coming together’ but not of ‘worship services.’ The idea that ‘worship services’ have special rules not binding on other Christian assemblies is a human tradition....”

With this article, we will have completed our study of that continuous, connected composite of The Assembly as seen in First Corinthians 11:17 – 16:9. We’ve noted: *The People of It* (“whole church as-

sembled together" [14:23]; men and women [34-35]); *The Nature of It* ("worship God...God is among you" [25]; "speak ... to God" [28]; Cf. "all here present before God" [Ac. 10:33]); *The Place of It* ("together...into one place" [I Cor. 11:20]); in other words, the people in The Assembly were there to worship God and thereby be edified ("teaching and admonishing one another singing...to the Lord" [Col. 3:16]; "church received edifying" [I Cor. 14:5]). We should also note *The Time of It* ("the first day of every week" [16:2, RSV]).

Now, as to *The Activities of It*: A careful consideration of our text will show **five** separate and distinct **acts**. As we have seen, and shall see again, these are "acts of reverence paid to God"; that is, they are **acts** of worship. We've discussed three of these acts: Hearing ("the word [voice] of the Lord"; Cf. Isa. 28:14, 23; Neh. 8:1-8) which is led by one who Preaches (Ac. 20:7, KJV) or Speaks (I Cor. 14:19); The Lord's Supper ("in remembrance of me," 11:25); and Singing ("to the Lord," Eph. 5:19). Each of these **acts** takes place in an Assembly gathered before God; and each **act** is uniquely "God-ward." Not a single one of these **acts** is, shall we say, *Spectator Worship*. The New Testament knows nothing of an Assembly wherein one or more *do* these "acts of worship," while an audience of appreciative (even "edified") spectators looks on. If ever there was a case of "joint participation (fellowship)," it is in The Assembly. There, each Christian gathered, participates in each **act** of reverence to the glory of God.

Now, let's turn to the **act** of Giving. Ever so often, you come across someone who thinks he has discovered that Giving is not an **act** of worship. Let's see: That it is an **act**, surely no one would deny. I mean, it is something, in The Assembly, that you *do*.

First, that an **act** of giving, an offering of a portion of one's material goods, can *ever* qualify as an **act** of worship, is seen in Matthew 2:11. The record says when the wise men "were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." Surely, no one will dispute that these men from the East were giving a portion of their material goods; and that that very **act** of giving was indeed an **act** of worship.

Secondly, as regards "giving" in The Assembly, consider carefully the context: We have an Assembly of "the whole church" coming together on the "first day of every week." Among the various activities of that Assembly, each Christian ("every one of you") was to "lay by him in store as God hath prospered him" (I Cor. 16:2). We have a *specific act*, done at a *specific* time, and in a *specific* setting or place ("in the assembly").

This Assembly, by its nature, was "God-ward," gathered "before God." Wouldn't then, this Divinely prescribed **act**, therefore be an "act of reverence paid to God"? Isn't that precisely what Worship is? No: It doesn't follow that *anytime* I take money from my pocket to give to a good cause or a needy person, I am, therefore, worshipping. Such "giving" falls under the purview of Christian Service, but, giving outside the Assembly is without that "to God" quality which constitutes it an "act of worship" in The Assembly.

The fifth, and final, "act of reverence paid to God" in The Assembly is Prayer. We pray "Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name" (Matt. 6:9). Prayer, we see, by its nature, is an **act** of worship whenever or wherever it is done. And it is to be done in The Assembly as in other places. (I Cor. 14:15-17; 2 Tim. 2:1, 8).

So much more could, and should, be said about The Assembly. I have no doubt that the picture of The Assembly painted by Paul in I Cor. 11:17 – 16:9 gives the lie to: (1) The idea that The New Testament doesn't speak of "worship services"; (2) The idea that The Assembly may be divided on **any** basis; (3) The idea that women may lead The Assembly in acts of worship, either as Speaker, Prayer, Singer, Translator; or with regard to Giving or the Lord's Supper; (4) The idea that *part* of The Assembly may do **acts** of worship while the rest watch and listen; and (5) The idea that an **act** of worship which is to be exclusively done *in* The Assembly may be done **out** of The Assembly. [This completes the "ET" series].

An Addendum on Catholicism

It was my intention to include a little additional information on the subject of Catholicism, including the unrest which occurred within the Roman Catholic Church, during 14th, 15th and 16th Centuries. The hierarchy had become very corrupt while at the same time declaring its supreme authority over the minds and actions of its subjects. A greater access to the Bible had come to be and people could see the glaring errors being taught.

John Wycliff (1324-1384), from England, has been called "The morning star of the Reformation." John Huss (1369-1415), of Bohemia, was influenced by Wycliff. He was condemned as an heretic and burned at the stake. The bones of Wycliff were exhumed after his death, and burned.

The movement which broke away from the Catholic Church in the 16th century was known as the "Protestant Reformation." Well known leaders in this movement were: Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) of Switzerland, Martin Luther (1484-1546) of Germany, and John Calvin (1509-1564) of France. From these men came the Lutheran Church and the Reformed Church. Soon thereafter came the Presbyterian Church and the Anglican (Episcopal) Church. From these early movements came most of the Protestant denominations.

Out of the Reformation Movement a number of men began a movement to return to original New Testament Christianity. This was know as the "Restoration Movement. Space does not allow our discussion of this movement.

In much of the 20th Century, in our country, most of the Protestant denominations had little or nothing to do with the Catholic Church. Our own brethren had absolutely nothing to do with this religion which had its beginning in the great apostasy from the New Testament church.

In more recent times things have changed. It is not all that unusual for some denominations to cozy up the Catholic Church, and vice versa. The saddest thing is that some of our own brethren now seem to have an affinity for the Catholic Church. A sad example here in our own area was the fellowship of the Catholic Church in their *2000 Jubilee Reival* by our own brethren. John Dale was one of the speakers, and some members and elders from Glendale were in attendance, as were elders from East Wood in Paris, TN. Few outcries were heard in our area.

4th Annual Banner of Truth Lectures
June 14-17, 2004
Murray, KY,
at the Curris Center,
on Murray State Campus.

Theme: God's Inspired Word
A discussion of various Bible texts

Children's Corner — "Don't Forget Your Sword!"

"Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:10-17).

As children, we learn to dress ourselves for the different kinds of things we do. Play clothes are for playing outside and having fun and not worrying about getting dirty! When it rains, we wear our raincoats. We dress in school clothes to go to school. On Sundays, we put on our very best to wear to Bible class and worship. This is one of the important learning processes in our lives.

Daddies and Mommies, along with Bible class teachers and preachers, lay very important groundwork for us to follow. They help us as children to learn and prepare for the most important event in our lives. Their number one goal is for us to one day have heaven as our home.

When a soldier goes to battle, he or she is armed and prepared for protection and the ability to take control and win the battle. Christians are like soldiers in the Lord's army. Our parents and teachers are armed with God's word, the **Sword of the Spirit**. This Word gives them the knowledge they need to guide us in learning and prepare us for doing God's will and teaching others. As children, we should learn very early how important our **Sword of the Spirit** is in our lives. God's word is our pattern for our goal. Arming ourselves with our **Swords** will help us reach our goal. So, remember, next time you go to Bible class or worship, **"Don't Forget Your Sword!"** - - A guest writer.

Editors Note: The above is being carried on a trial basis. If there is sufficient interest in something especially for children, we would consider offering such. We would like to hear from our readers as to what you think about this. For it to be profitable it would be necessary for parents to make use of the material with their children.

That there is now a very real and pressing need for children to be taught about God, beginning at a very early age, no God-fearing person can deny. Unless special care and concern are shown for our children, very few of them will ever know what it is to live a Christian life, and receive the eternal reward which is in store. Children are now facing the most trying time ever! Parents have a great responsibility and opportunity toward children.

FELLOWHELPERS

July, Aug., Sept. 2003

Alhambra	100.00
Pine Ridge	250.00
Berea	100.00
Hornbeak	200.00
Maple Hill	300.00
Wards Chapel	25.00
Saks	60.00
Mt. Olive	100.00
Larry Pennington	45.00
Alton W. Fonville	20.00
Anonymous	100.00
Earl L. Webb	20.00
Robert M. Price	600.00
J. F. Travis	50.00
Alan Jamail	20.00
M/M John H. Brown	50.00
David Keely	25.00
Percy Wafford	10.00
Mavis Henson	10.00
Name misplaced	10.00
Anonymous	300.00
Clarence E. Hall	100.00
Emogene Collier	20.00
Edward D. England	30.00
Elmer Scott	30.00
Mrs. Tammy Lawrence	40.00
Mrs. J. W. Grace	25.00
Troy Leland	10.00
Dale Steele	10.00
George Walker	10.00
Total July – Sept. contribution	2,670.00

***“That ye may be fellow-helpers
to the truth” (3 John 8)***

Our sincere thanks go out to our brethren who continue to make our work on behalf of the cause of Christ possible. We are continually receiving expressions of appreciation for the work we are doing, and this is a great encouragement to us.

We are so thankful for those who are unafraid to “stand fast in the faith,” and encourage others who are willing to do so. God’s people can be victorious if they maintain their faith, and heaven will surely be worth all efforts put forth. – *Editor*

Banner of Truth Financial Report

July, August, September 2003

Balance on hand July 1, 2003	15,049.54
July, Aug., Sept. contribution	<u>2,670.00</u>
Total Funds Available	17,719.54

July, Aug., Sept. Expense:	
Mailing BOT, three months	2,207.06
Ink and Plates	422.85
Mailing Labels	80.25
E-mail, three months	65.85
Phone	25.23
Copier	299.00
Stamps, return mail, other postage	<u>178.91</u>
- Total Expense	2,879.15
Total funds available	17,719.54
Less July, Aug., Sept. expense	<u>2,879.15</u>
Balance on hand Sept. 30,2003	14,840.39

READERS' RESPONSE

"I had a spell of some kind on Feb. 8, which left me helpless. I've come a long way, but still not able to care for myself and go back home. . . . It's a very nice rest home and I get the best of care. I can get around in my wheel chair, I'm 87 years old. Can't hear very good, but I thank the good Lord that I can still read. Love Banner of Truth and don't want to miss a copy. Thank you. In Christian love – **Helen E. Roberts.**" – **KS.** (*We're thankful that you have made that much improvement. I can relate to not hearing good, myself, but still have so much for which to be thankful. It is indeed encouraging to hear from those in their golden years who take God seriously and want to continue in His Truth. May the Lord richly bless. – Ed.*)

"I am a member of the West Main congregation here in Franklin, TN. Recently I visited the congregation in Gatlingburg and picked up a copy of 'Banner of Truth' from the rack. I enjoyed your editorials very much and would be very grateful to be on your mailing list. I have enclosed a small check to assist in mailing expenses. Thank you and May God Bless you – **Polly Johnson.**" – **TN.** (*Happy to add you to our mailing list. If you know of others who would profit by Banner of Truth, send us their names, we'll add them. Thanks for the check to help with expenses. Good to have you as a fellow-helper. – Editor.*)

"I would like to start receiving the publication, Banner of Truth. Would you please start sending it to me. Thank you – **George L. Teel.**" – **KY.** (*We've added your name. If you enjoy BOT, please pass it on to others who might find it profitable – Editor.*)

"We are sending you a check. We have been out of touch, due to surgeries and other illness. We wanted to send you a donation in memory of our dear friend and brother in Christ, Don Shiflett. He was buried with a "Banner of Truth" in his hand. Please remember his daughter, Rhoda Doss and family. His 20 yr. old twin grandson's are preparing to minister and carry on Don's work. May God bless you and your work. In Christian love, - **Vernon & Bernice Key.**" – **AL.** (*Sorry to hear of the death of our friend and brother, Don Shiflett. It was never my privilege to meet him personally, but I felt that I knew him because of the communication I have had with him. He was a great supporter of Banner of Truth. Good to know of the plans of his grandsons. John heard a voice from heaven saying, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord...that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them" (Rev. 14:13). – Editor.*)

"Would you please send me the 'Banner of Truth.' I got a copy over at Arab, AL, church of Christ where my daughter worships. So good to read of brethren standing up for what God says instead of the 'Politically Correct.' Have wonderful life in Christ and happy holidays – **Betty Cochran.**" – **AL.** (*Wishing you Happy Holidays – Ed.*)

"It was good to see you again at the S.T.O.P. lectures. Keep up the good work. We enjoy the B.O.T.

Please add my good brother to your mailing list – **James W. Berry.**” – **AL.** (*Always good to see friends of like faith. – Editor*).

“Enclosed \$8.00 to help in the publishing of Banner of Truth. I appreciate receiving it and the Truth that it presents. In Christian love – **Jimmy Clark.**” – **TX.**

“We have enjoyed the Banner all these many years. You have been sending us about 15 and we have been passing them out to others. But now, due to health we don’t get out as much as we used to. So, you can cut it down to one. Keep up the good work. We appreciate all the work you all do for our Lord – **George & Margaret Walker.**” – **FL.** (*If you can find someone else who will pass out BOT, let us know and we’ll send a bundle. That some people don’t like BOT is evidence of its need – Ed.*)

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Visit BOT at David Lemmons’ web at:

<http://www.hcis.net/users/dlemmons/BOTlist.htm>

Readers may get on David’s LemmonsAid e-mail:

LemmonsAid-subscribe@YahooGroups.com

Has your address changed? Don’t miss a single issue of BOT. Help us save \$. – Ed.