

Global Information

Enlightenment from Above



by Missionary
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All the World Looks to Rome

The month of April 2005 brought us two successive events of special significance in the capital of the world, Rome. Pope John Paul II went and Benedict XVI came, voted in by 100 of the 115 cardinals. The international press as well as the mass media filled entire programs with their reports.

Those were two world-moving events within the Vatican which will go down in the history books. The whole world could observe the heads of state and the representatives of the various religions as they said good-bye and paid their last respects to one pope. Shortly thereafter, millions throughout the world watched as the worldly heads of state bowed to the newly elected pope and cardinals and bishops bowed their knees and all tongues confessed faithfulness and expressed their reverence to him. The entire world could participate “live” as the new pope assumed his office, thanks to modern technology. The question arose once again if the papacy has a biblical foundation or if it actually is a tradition introduced by the church.

Headlines called this event »a millennial happening« and a comparison was made to Christ, the LORD, when He will start His reign as King. Only then will the following be fulfilled, “... *every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.*” (Phil. 2:11; Heb. 1:6-14; Rev. 11:15; a. o.). Some people ask why such a divine glorification and honour is being bestowed upon a mere man. According to the testimony of the Holy Scripture, there is only One that is worthy to receive honour and glory, “*Thou art worthy, O LORD, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*” (Rev. 4:11).

Prophets foretold the great day when the One to Whom all power is given in heaven and on earth will start His reign, “*For the kingdom is the LORD’S: and he is the governor among the nations. All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him ...*” (Ps. 22:28-29).

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God ...” (Ps. 95:6-7).

“... That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall confess ...” (Isa. 45:23).

Then the Kingdom of God, for the coming of which we have been praying for two thousand years, will in reality be on earth with all the blessings of paradise.

What happened in the Vatican on April 24th, 2005, exceeded in worship, in pomp and circumstance everything that we had knowledge of so far. Some commentators compared the pompous inauguration of the pope with the humble entrance of the King of Kings, the Messiah, when He rode on the foal of an ass into Jerusalem. Christ, the LORD, did not come with great glamour, He did not come to Rome, He came in simplicity and humility into Jerusalem to His people, into the city chosen by God. It was only the simple crowd that took palm branches, throwing them on the road, and the children were shouting, “Hosanna ...”, as predicted in Zech. 9:9 and reported in Mt. 21:1-11. The highly esteemed clergy of the Jews did not receive Him. The scribes were performing their duties, celebrating themselves and being celebrated. Only those who received Him were given the power to become the children of God, specifically all those who believed in His Name (Jn. 1:12).

Can it be His servant, whom all the world celebrates and before whom all the mighty ones on earth bow? Is it really His vicar, to whom all pay exceptional homage? Some ask whether the Scripture is being overlooked where the LORD God Himself says, *“I am the LORD/YAHWEH: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another ...”* (Isa. 42:8). On this earth God was never worshipped or glorified in a man, only and exclusively when He personally came to us in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, Who said of Himself, *“I receive not honour from men. But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.”* (Jn. 5:41-44). Then the LORD of Glory said, *“How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only.”* What is true scriptural belief and what is unscriptural tradition? That is the big question.

All of humanity is being confronted with the question whether salvation is acquired exclusively in the Roman Catholic Church. Can redemption solely be found in her? Can only the person who has the Church as mother have God as Father? If that was the case, then all others would be hopelessly lost for ever. Then all of them, even the 347 denomina-

tions which are presently united in the World Council of Churches, must admit to having misled their members to whom they promised salvation, salvation which they could not provide.

Can a church in the Middle East claim to be the true Church of Jesus Christ? Can the Greek-Orthodox, the Maronite, the Syrian, the Egyptian, the Coptic, etc., etc. be the one? Are they not all state churches — the churches in the various countries into which people enter by birth? Can the Anglican Church, the Church of Scotland, the Reformed Church, the Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church, or any of the many others be the original Church of the living God? Can the joining of all these churches in the World Council give salvation to all of mankind?

We are facing many questions that actually no one of us can answer. But we all have a right to know the only true answer — and that is the one from above. Religiously oriented authors have dared to pose this question: Is the man within the papacy the personification of the one who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, as described in 2. Thess. 2, who puts himself in God's place and allows others to worship him? Believe it or not, Bible scholars are asking: Could this be the "superman" of the end-time, to whom the whole world will look up to, and who was described by the reformer Martin Luther as "the real End-Christ who sits in the temple of God and reigns in Rome"? Is it already the Antichrist, the one announced by the Apostle John (1. Jn. 2), and who will step onto the world platform before the coming of Christ? Can it be this loving man? Is it his office that is being described? Sharp tongues even ask if it could be the man of Rev. 13:8, of whom it is written, *"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."* Others pose this question: Does not the title "Holy Father" exclusively apply to God? For THUS SAITH OUR LORD, *"And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."* (Mt. 23:9). This is how we are taught in the LORD'S Prayer, *"... therefore pray ye: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come ..."*

Those who know the Scriptures question whether we have the need for both, one Father in heaven and one vicarious "Holy Father" on earth? Whose Kingdom was to come? What did John the Baptist announce in his first sermon in the wilderness of Judea, when he proclaimed, *"Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* (Mt. 3:2)? What Kingdom did Jesus of Nazareth announce with the same wording in His first sermon (Mt. 4:17)? Did He refer to the Church in the Roman Empire or did

He point to the fulfilment of Lk. 16:16, *“the law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.”*?

This subject is so important — it cannot be brushed aside and cannot be explained away. No one who sincerely searches for the truth can continue on in the usual way after April 2005. Looking at the Church of Rome from the biblical standpoint can also bring clarification in regards to our own churches. What is our personal lesson from this?

Some people could not help but think of the end-time events, called eschatology, when they saw the pictures of the dignitaries dressed in scarlet-red and of the mighty ones on earth, of whom it is written, *“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains.”* (Rev. 6:15-17). At the moment when the apocalyptic judgements will strike the earth, not even the dignitaries and the mighty men of the earth shall be spared.

Many religiously oriented journalists wrote articles in regards to that great event. They did, however, leave more questions open than they could answer. Some even wanted to know if this great event in the “eternal city” has to do with the city from Rev. 18:16, unto which the threat is pronounced, *“Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and*



pearls!” Whoever has seen the pictures on TV or in the various magazines of the ones dressed in scarlet could come to the conclusion that this comparison to Revelation is not too far-fetched.

On April 26th, 2005, Pope Benedict XVI spoke to the representatives of all religions, ending his statement with the words, “At the beginning of my pontificate I invite all of you, the believers of natural religions and all that search for the truth with sincere hearts, that together we will become builders of peace and pledge to understand, respect, and love each other.” Does this multiplicity have anything to do with the believers of the Holy Scripture? Is the search for truth the real search for the divine truth, as expressed in the statement of the Apostle Peter, “*And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*” (1. Pt. 1:25), or is it something that is only declared to be the truth and indeed is an entirely different gospel from the one preached by the Apostles Peter and Paul, namely one that is under a curse (Gal. 1:1-10)? The Apostle Paul foresaw that another gospel, another christ under the influence of another spirit would be preached (2. Cor. 11:3-4).

On May 12th, 2005, Pope Benedict XVI addressed the diplomatic representatives from 174 countries. The diplomatic corps welcomed him with great applause before he spoke to them. And again sharp tongues were referring to Rev. 17:18, “*It is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.*” The pope is both, as it was emphasised, he is the head of the church and also the head of state. Thereby the Vatican, unlike any other country on earth, unlike any church and any religion, has direct access on the diplomatic and the religious level in every country. The Vatican is represented wherever world politics are made. That is the only way real globalisation and the much-wanted unification of the world family, which is divided into world religions, can be achieved, by leading it into a true unity under the forum of the world government.

In an article of a renowned publication we find this statement, “Protestants, what now?” At the end of point three we read, “Return to your roots! Should Protestantism not come back to its roots — the Bible and the confession —, then it will disappear!” But obviously the Protestants are no longer concerned with “Sola Scriptura”, as it was emphasised by the reformer Martin Luther, but rather with the unification. It must also be asked if this is the unity Jesus Christ spoke about in His special prayer in Jn. 17:21, which some presently refer to. However, it only applies to those who truly belong to the Church of Jesus Christ, “... *Father, I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one.*”

Pope Benedict XVI described the believers in all the various religions as disciples who eagerly strive for peace. Some noticed that he did not mention the Jews and that the Islamic religion found special mention. His emphasis was that bridges of friendship must be built and that the unification and peace process, as set forth by his predecessors, must continue. All the world religions must therefore submit themselves if they wish to survive. And all countries must belong to the WTO — World Trade Organisation, otherwise they will not be able to buy or to sell.

The concern now is the predicted constellation for the new and final world order. No other religion possesses such worldwide power in politics, religion, and commerce. The European Union is increasingly taking over the role of the leader, regardless of how a referendum on the European constitution in the 25 base countries would turn out, or if it is even granted. The spiritual power dominates the worldly power and holds the reins in its hands (Rev. 17).

Some even ponder if those who do not submit and bow to this unification process will have their freedom of faith and speech restricted and be persecuted. This especially applies to the faithful Bible believers who will never join any ecumenical movement, as they cannot possibly agree to any compromise at the expense of the truth. They must obey God over any man.

Then the thought was expressed that the office of Benedict XVI, the 265th pope, will only be transitional. The “Pope of peace” — “Gloria olivea” was to be in office when peace would be achieved between the Arab nations and the Jews. After him there should only be one more, “Peter, the Roman” who will once again crown himself with the tiara bearing the inscription VICARIUS FILLII DEI — the numerals of which add up to the number 666 (Rev. 13:18). In the Cathedral in Washington the tiara of Paul VI is the main attraction for the tourists and, of course, a very good source of income. The 266th pope is to be the last one, with whom the end-time events are to find their fulfilment, right to the destruction of Rome. But before that happens, this proclamation is to be made, “Now there is peace and safety!” (1. Thess. 5:1-3). The world peace process shall soon be successful, by way of a “Roman treaty”, spelling out a compromise over Jerusalem between Israel and



the Arab nations. As the Oslo Treaty suggests, it will provisionally be made for the duration of seven years.

On October 11th, 1962, Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council attended by 2,500 delegates with the statement of the German Cardinal Constantine Bea, “Let us speak the language of our separated brethren, so they may understand us!” And they all understood that language! It was also Pope John XXIII who insisted that the accusatory statement, *the Jews are guilty of murdering Jesus Christ*, was taken out of the Good Friday mass. Pope John Paul II spoke all the important languages, also the Slavic language of the communists, and all understood him. Pope Benedict XVI speaks all of the six main languages fluently, even Hebrew, and all will understand what he says.

On Thursday, May 24th, the Embassy of Israel in Rome, which is situated near the Holy See, announced that in commemoration of the 85th birthday of John Paul II on May 18th, they would issue an extra souvenir stamp in Israel, showing him at the Wailing Wall. They immediately followed through on that announcement. The communication in all languages with all nations and religions is making progress, even with Israel.



On May 13th, 2005, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Mgr. William Joseph Levada, the archbishop of San Francisco, USA, to be his successor as prefect of the faithful congregation. The insiders say this could mean that he might be elected as the next pope. Mgr. Levada together with then-Cardinal Ratzinger composed the latest version of the Catholic catechism in the years 1986-1993. It is indeed a masterpiece to present the Roman Catholic faith in a believable manner. Of course it must be said that, even though many Scriptures were quoted, the catechism in comparison to the Word of God, which remains for ever, does not represent the scriptural belief of the Church of Jesus Christ in doctrine and in practice, but rather the belief of the Church of Rome.

Should it happen that Mgr. William Joseph Levada is elected as the next pope, then it would be the fulfilment of what the man of God, William

M. Branham, USA, said on December 19th, 1954, in the sermon “Acts of the Holy Spirit” in Jeffersonville, “I believe, one of these glorious days, when this united confederation of church goes together, and the new pope is brought out of the United States and put over there according to prophecy, then they’ll form an image like unto the beast. And I tell you, the true Church of God will be drove together. The real, true believers out of Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Nazarene, Pilgrim Holiness, whatever they’ll be, will go together and cemented by the love of God, that’ll make the Body of the Lord Jesus Christ, all the believers. And agnostics and shallow-minded will be cast to one side; they’ll go right on into the confederation of churches....”

Pope Benedict XVI expressed his respect towards other religions and cultures, certainly with the unmistakable goal of bringing all of them together under the patronage of Rome. He urges that Europe must return to its original “Christian roots”. The question arises if that would mean the time when Christianity was forced upon the people of Europe in connection with the forced baptism by the Roman Church, which extended right to the time of Charles the Great. During that epoch the European soil was saturated with blood, especially by the slaughtering of the 4,500 Saxons in the year AD 782. Another question to consider is what kind of seed it was that took roots. Was it the seed of the Word, the true Gospel of Jesus Christ as preached and sown by Peter and the other apostles, or was it the seed of the interpretations brought forth by the so-called church fathers? All churches and religions as well as the papacy have the right to present their faith, but if they refer to Jesus Christ then they must stand the test of God’s Word. Only thus can we know without fail if we are dealing with religious traditions, into which we were all born, or with the true scriptural proclamation, teaching, and practice.

In the book *Introduction into Christianity* by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, he provides in its 340 pages a fundamental declaration from the Catholic viewpoint, in a remarkable manner. However, our concern is the introduction into God’s plan of Salvation according to the divine viewpoint. The term “Christianity” is not once found in the Bible. We only read that those in Antiochia who believed in Jesus Christ were called Christians (Acts 11:26). The word “Christ” means “the Anointed One”, and the believers in Him who were anointed — by the Holy Spirit — were those who had actually received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Mt. 3:11; Acts 2; a. o.); therefore they were called “Christians”, because they were indeed “anointed” (2. Cor. 1:21-22).

History Lives on

Now we shall take a look into history. 482 years ago, November 19th, 1523, was the last time a German was elected as pope, namely Pope Clemens VII. It was at the time of the Reformation. On October 31st, 1517, the German monk Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses unto the church door in Wittenberg. Whoever makes the effort to read the statements carefully will come to the conclusion that he hit the nail on the head every time. In 1518 Martin Luther refused to withdraw his statements, in 1520 he published his main articles of the Reformation. On January 3rd, 1521, he was banned by the pope. In 1522 the New Testament translated by Martin Luther was published. At the same time the Swiss theologian Huldrych Zwingli published his writings about the Reformation in their entirety.

The breakthrough of the Reformation had the effect that Germany, Europe, and the Christian world were split into two different Christian camps. The Catholic Church, non-reformable, remained in power, the Protestant churches prepared the way for the subsequent revivals, which are still continuing until now, mainly in all the non-denominational churches. Sadly, the Protestant churches which came out from the Catholic Church have taken the main unscriptural doctrines about the Trinity and the triune baptism with them. Only now, after the last Pentecostal revival, the breakthrough into the original state of the first Church is taking place. For this purpose the ministry of William Branham, which was supernaturally confirmed by God, was used in a mighty way.

Now we shall skip a few centuries and come to the political division between East and West. It was after World War II that Germany and the European continent and the world were divided. Those who still remain of the war generation have felt the pain and the effect of the division. Then we also experienced the end of the political division, when on November 9th, 1989, the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin was re-opened. Before this happened, there were demonstrations held by Lech Walesa's Catholic labour union Solidarnosc at the shipyard in Gdansk, Poland. According to the article by Bernhard Eibisberger in the magazine "Wirtschaftsnachrichten 1/2005", the Vatican supported it with millions of dollars. The Protestant churches in East Germany contributed their part with the so-called "Monday demonstrations" in the larger cities, which finally led to success.

Now we are experiencing how after the political division the religious division is also being overcome. All know that it was Pope John

Paul II who, as they say, was “led by providence” to bring down world communism and, as Lech Walesa said, “to knock out the teeth of the Russian bear”. Pope Benedict XVI does not need to do much, for all the daughter churches are ready to return into the lap of the mother church. Likewise all the other world religions not only *look* towards Rome, but they come and wish to be integrated into the world family, in which all cultures and religions must find their place. Now the religious division is being overcome just like the political division. No one recalls that Pope Benedict XV as recently as the year 1915 declared the protestant pulpits to be “plague-boils”. Now there is unity in multiplicity and multiplicity in unity.

A German was the main reformer through whom the free proclamation was brought to the people and the Word of God was placed back into the hearts and hands of mankind. Now it is once again a German who is inviting all the churches that came forth since the Reformation back into the Church of Rome. As he stated at the inauguration on April 24th, there shall be “one shepherd and one flock”. However, there are people whose conscience urges them to ask for an investigation committee. As long as we have the freedom of speech, we must be allowed to ask if the course of church history is one of biblical developments, or if the 3rd century marked the establishment of a completely unscriptural tradition which subsequently took its course. Sharp tongues ask again if those dressed in scarlet are indeed the representatives of the mother church, which is spoken of as “Great Babylon” (Rev. 17:1-6). However, she is not the mother of sons and daughters of God, but rather the mother of daughter churches.

Where today can we find those who sincerely ask, as Pilate did, “What is truth?” and who are ready to hear the One who wore the crown of thorns, despised by the religious world, Who said, *“To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”* (Jn. 18:37)? Back then Jesus was flagellated, he was beaten, scorned, dressed in scarlet and was given the crown of thorns. All those dressed in scarlet in Rome were crowned in dignity. The burning question is, “What is truth?” — not religious truth, not church truth, not Jewish truth, not Christian truth, but rather the only truth that exists — the Word of God which remains for ever. We must search with an honest heart to find the only way that leads to eternal life. For this we need the one road map which shows us the only scriptural way. As the saying goes, “Many ways lead to Rome, but only one leads the way out!” The fact of

the matter really is to be or not to be, to have eternal life or not. What is truth? What is deception? There is only One Who could say of Himself, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"* (Jn. 14:6). This statement of our LORD is contrary to the assertion, "Only those who have the church as mother can have God as Father."

In no way shall the dignity of the pope, the Catholic Church, or any other church and religion be touched. This is, however, a very serious matter, and we must look into the Holy Scripture to get the answers on every subject which is in connection to the Church of Jesus Christ. We also must take a good look into church history.

The world is divided into twelve main religions. Their representatives obeyed the call of Pope John Paul II on January 24th, 2002, beckoning them to the pilgrimage place of Assisi in Italy. The six best-known of those religions are Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Taoism, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Then there are the various nature and tribal religions. The dignity of mankind, regardless of race, colour, and religion must remain untouched. Every one is free to decide for oneself. It is also understandable that all the people on earth are sure of themselves, their religion, and their view of the world. But that does not provide anyone with real assurance that they are indeed right. We have to take a good look at this whole matter from above. Only that which originates with God brings us back to Him. In my monthly travels during more than 40 years of missionary work I have repeatedly made missionary trips to over 130 countries, and therefore have come to know the religions at first hand.

Every religion is void of the finality, of the true absolute which carries the seal of God. We all need something that is beyond any shadow of doubt and even beyond our human comprehension, something confirmed by God. The numerous religions have adopted various ways of temporarily servicing the soul. Reference might be made to the hereafter and some even speak about paradise. But upon closer examination we realise they are only applicable to this passing life. At the same time they are the actual obstacle standing between God and humanity. Any philosophy or view that stirs hope for an afterlife, without giving us the direct connection to the Eternal One, will lead to grave disappointment. We always reach the point where our final questions are not being answered. The true destiny of those who have passed on remains veiled. Only the One Who died and rose from the dead can give us the one true answer. He taught the apostles after His resurrection during the forty

days before His ascension to heaven and they became His true witnesses. Everything that is temporal — no matter how religious it is — has its limits. The access to eternity was not automatically given unto us when we entered this world. Before we can deal with the main subject about God and eternal life, we must first recognise how the Eternal One stepped into the realm of time.

In this exposition we cannot go into detail with the many religions and the statutes of their beliefs. We also cannot concern ourselves with the statements that the philosophers of this world left behind. What advantage could a human being possibly gain, for instance, from the belief that through meditation he will be re-incarnated in various life forms, undergo a process of purification, with the goal of eventually reaching nirvana, which means he ceases to exist? Of what use is the theory of evolution, when it bypasses the reality of creation? Thinking men who look past the realm of time are only interested in proven facts which are beyond human explanation. All have to admit that the majestic creation is a living reality in which we all exist. Even life itself and the inevitable death are facts. They are things which do not need our assessment, for they are final within themselves. What we should know is that human beings have a conscious inner life, a soul, and are destined to be in fellowship with their Creator. The first humans were cut off from that divine fellowship with God through unbelief and transgression. Then God Himself redeemed us through the work of redemption by Jesus Christ and reconciled us with Himself (2. Cor. 5:28). At this point every religion and philosophy comes to an end, the spirits are separated and living faith in the living God sets in.

This brief exposition is addressed to all mankind of good will on earth. The God of heaven can only have one eternal plan. HE wishes to show it to all men in all religions and cultures. HE is a personal God Who desires to be in fellowship with us, ever since the beginning of time. The fact is that only those who have received eternal life can live eternally. There is only one book on earth that is rightfully called “the Holy Scripture” and the Word of God, only one that sheds light on all the important questions, and that is the Bible. In finality, there is only One that is Holy, and that is God and all which originates with Him. Only the Bible testifies about Him Who is from eternity to eternity, and He only testifies of Himself in His Own Word.

God’s original Word is not found in any other book on earth, whether it is the Babylonian or the Jerusalem Talmud or the many other Jewish books. Therein we find the interpretations given by Rabbis of what is

written in the Thora — the five books of Moses. Within the 114 suras of the Koran — God, be merciful — one searches in vain for any correspondence with the Bible. Mohammed could not read, he only recited by memory from the Old and the New Testament, but unfortunately not once exactly the way it is written in the Holy Scripture. Surely, thereupon no man on earth can rely. The word “Allah” is not found a single time in the Bible, but the Word “Elohim” over six thousand times. In Islamic countries the Hebrew word “Elohim” was replaced in the Bible with the word “Allah”.

In the Holy Scripture God has foretold all things and He fulfils them in the course of time. The Old Testament, ending with the Prophet Malachi, is complete in itself, as is the New Testament with the last book, the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Together the two Testaments are one perfect harmony, wherein nothing needs to be changed, added, or taken away. In the last chapter of the Bible God Himself pronounced judgement upon those who would dare to do so. When someone makes his debut six hundred years later, claiming to have received direct revelations from the Archangel Gabriel, which actually have nothing in common with the Word of God, then one must take the following warning to heart, *“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”* (Gal. 1:8). Who could possibly add anything to what the prophets of God and the apostles of Jesus Christ left unto us? They have announced the entire plan of redemption and have shown the same in its realisation right to the very completion. What man would dare to correct God Himself?

Through the resurrection of our LORD and Saviour we have the proof that He was not only a man, but the LORD Himself Who conquered death, which had come upon the entire human race. We need to for ever respect the fact that after the resurrection the LORD Jesus Christ spoke to His Own, as recorded in Lk. 24:44-45, showing the fulfilment of all the things written of Him in the laws of Moses, in the Psalms, and in the prophets. In Him and through Him we have the proven divine legitimation that all things which God had foretold in the Old Testament concerning the Saviour were accomplished. Likewise, since the foundation of the New Testament Church all things God promised unto His Own have been coming to fulfilment. The same now applies to the end-time. All events predicted to take place before the Return of Christ and before time merges into eternity are being fulfilled. Only when we have promises in God’s Word can we look for their fulfilment. The resurrected

LORD gave His disciples the understanding of all the Scriptures back then, and He still does the same today.

There is no need and no promise for revelations that go beyond the Scriptures. Redemption had taken place. The New Testament Church was brought to life in a supernatural way by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The life of Christ entered into all believers, the different ministries and gifts were present in the Church of the LORD Jesus Christ. There was no need for the establishment of a “state church” in the Roman Empire, as it happened in the 4th century. That was a political decision. It was also not necessary to introduce the religion of Islam in the 7th century. That was a political decision as well. First the Jews, then the Christians, and then also the Arabs, all of whom refer to Abraham, obviously missed the connection to God’s work of grace according to His plan of Salvation. There was no need to arrange any of the councils, no need for new doctrines and dogmas. Each time a new creed or dogma was proclaimed, the Word of God was set aside (Mk. 7:9). God had already spoken and ordained all things. Every teaching, every practice for the New Testament Church was already revealed and in place. The New Testament had long since been completed. There was no need to force the Islamic religion upon the people. Nothing that is man-made has any connection whatsoever to the Will of God. HE is only bound to what He promised in His Word. All things in the Kingdom of God must and will only happen according to the declared Will of God.

THUS SAITH THE LORD: *“I will build My Church!”*

The New Testament only knows the one Church of Jesus Christ, which in itself is the pillar and foundation of the Truth (1. Tim. 3:15). His Church is composed of all the first-born who are written in heaven (Heb. 12:23), their names are in the Book of Life (Rev. 3:5). They are “... *as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*” All true believers in Jesus Christ are “... *a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people ...*” (1. Pet. 2:5-10). Amen.

The true Church of Jesus Christ is “... *built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the LORD: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*” (Eph. 2:20-22). Only to this Church applies the statement, “One LORD, one faith, one baptism.” (Eph. 4:5).

Those who are born-again by the Spirit of God make up the real Body of Jesus Christ, *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptised into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit ...”*Amen. The individual members are supernaturally placed into the Body of Christ by the real baptism of the Holy Spirit. Only thereafter is this fulfilled, *“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings ...”*(1. Cor. 12:4-30). Amen. Again we are told that God Himself places the different ministries into His Church.

“... he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ ...”(Eph. 4:1-16). Amen.

The Church of Jesus Christ experiences the supernatural working of God through the power of the Holy Spirit, from the very beginning up to the moment she reaches her completion at the Return of Jesus Christ. *“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same LORD. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.”*Amen.

In the Church of the living God the following applies to His servants, *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”*

These are the ministries that are present in the Church, and they can only be brought about by the Holy Spirit:

*“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”*Amen. The Holy Scripture does not know any liturgy.

The order of a divine service and the fullness of the harmony in the original Church are further described in 1. Cor. 14. There we see how spontaneously the Spirit of God works: *“If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace ... For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”*Women were not to disturb the service by asking questions, instead they were

supposed to ask their husbands at home. That was the irrevocable guideline. Thereupon follows the clear declaration, *“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the LORD. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.”* (1. Cor. 14:38). Whoever does not acknowledge the New Testament Church order will not be recognised by God. And everybody knows that the same does not exist in any of the state or national churches on earth. They all have their own liturgy and their own way of conducting the services, which just give the appearance of being a divine service.

We must acknowledge that there is indeed a divine order assigned to the Church, as it is ordained and passed on to us by the man of God with the authority of a divine commission. In the beginning the original Church order applied to all local assemblies.

“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.”

In connection with the ministry of prophets and teachers, the following Scripture describes for us a service in the original Church: *“As they ministered to the LORD, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.”* (Acts 13:1-4).

We can see the structure, the order, the ministries and the gifts as they were in the beginning within the Church of Jesus Christ. As shown forth in many chapters of the Book of Acts and then in the Epistles, that is the original pattern, that is the Church of the living God. In Acts 15 we find recorded how the elders of the Church and the apostles dealt with the much-debated question of circumcision. The answer was given through the ordained mouth of the Apostle Peter, *“Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.”* It was a continuation, just as in the beginning with the true baptism of the Holy Spirit, which the believers received. Then the Apostle James continued in saying, *“Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of*

them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written ...”(Amos 9:11-12). Finally, it states, *“For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things ...”*

Then we read, *“And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words and confirmed them.”* (Acts 15:1-34). Since the inauguration of the New Testament Church by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we can see the supernatural working of God through the different ministries and gifts. At the very beginning, those witnesses who were chosen by the LORD shared with His Church the true Gospel of Jesus Christ and the whole counsel of God, *“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit ... And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things ... According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ our LORD ...”* (Eph. 3). Amen.

The Apostle Peter admonished the believers, *“... That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the LORD and Saviour.”* (2. Pet. 3).

The Apostle John emphasises, *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life ...”* (1. Jn. 1). Amen. The command of this hour is to return to the beginning!

Let us summarise briefly: The Church of our LORD Jesus Christ is not a religious organisation under the leadership of men, but rather the living organism of the Body of Christ, consisting of many members. Now, at the end of the time of grace, all things must be restored in the Church of the living God in conformity with the divine plan of Salvation. According to the testimony of the Holy Scripture, the promised Return of our LORD and Bridegroom (Jn. 14:1-3; Mt. 25:1-10) can only take place after the Church is brought back into its original state. *“Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”* (Acts 3:21). Amen.

Of the believers at the beginning it is said, *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of*

bread, and in prayers.”(Acts 2:42). These are the characteristics of the true Church of Jesus Christ:

Firstly, the believers remain in the doctrines of the apostles.

Secondly, there is true fellowship among those who stay within the teachings.

Thirdly, they partake in the LORD’S Supper, which is called the “breaking of bread”.

Fourthly, they remain in fellowship through prayer services.

Our LORD and Saviour Himself gave us the example of the breaking of bread. He did not hand out wafers, but did as it is written of Him, *“Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples.”*(Mt. 26:26). Amen.

The true Church still celebrates the LORD’S Supper today as it was done at the very beginning. A loaf of bread is prepared, the size according to the number of participants. Furthermore, only one cup is used, just as our LORD did back then. The cup receives the blessing and all drink of it. Thus it is written and therefore it is for ever valid. After His Resurrection our LORD proceeded exactly as He had before, *“And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.”*(Lk. 24:30). Amen. In Acts 20:7 we read, *“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread ...”*To the church in Corinth the Apostle Paul wrote, *“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”* (1. Cor. 10:14-22; 1. Cor. 11:23-34). Amen.

A Convincing Comparison

We could show forth all the teachings and the entire practice of the original Church. In summary it just needs to be said that from apostolic times all the true teachings about the Godhead, baptism, LORD’S Supper — absolutely everything related to the plan of Salvation is left unto us in writing. When we now present a comparison between the Church of Jesus Christ as it was at the beginning and all the churches which have developed over the course of the two thousand years, then it is only for the purpose to show the way back to the original Church and its structure. In regards to this we ask God that we may experience His mercy in the same way as our brothers and sisters in Christ did in the beginning, for Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever. Amen.

All who are familiar with church history know that the first centuries AD passed without a uniformly organised church. Originally there were only the local, sovereign assemblies. In the 2nd century Ireneus speaks about 20 assemblies, in the 3rd century Hippolyt refers to 32, in the 4th century Epiphanius writes about 60, and then Bishop Philaster mentions 131 different church groups. In the first centuries there were no cardinals or popes, and the bishops were not dignitaries, but they were the elders in the local churches. They had to be married (1. Tim. 3; Tit. 1). After the last widespread persecution of the Christians under Diocletian (AD 240-313), Caesar Constantine decided to unite all of those different fractions within one Christian church in the Roman Empire. Only later did they introduce a state religion and a “successor” to Peter, as well as the title “Pontifex Maximus” for the popes.

In the year AD 380/381 Caesar Theodosius I the Great declared the belief in the Trinity, which was mainly formulated by Tertullian from Tunesia, to be the official state religion that had to be accepted by every citizen. In the year AD 382 Caesar Gratian officially gave up the Roman title “Pontifex Maximus”, which he had carried as the highest-ranking member of the heathen priest faculty. “Pontifex Maximus” was the premier “bridge builder” and even back then had the task to build bridges between nations and tribes for the purpose of bringing them together. In the year AD 217 the Roman bishop unsuccessfully demanded that superior office, which eventually was first granted to Leo I in the year AD 441. He was the first one who claimed to have the exclusive rights to the words addressed to the Apostle Peter in Mt. 16, *“I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven ...”* In the year AD 312 Constantine introduced the political dogma that “the Caesar is both, the head of state and as vicar of Christ the head of the church”, as it was practised in heathenism, wherein both powers were represented by the emperor. This view was later adopted by the popes, who claimed the spiritual as well as the worldly power. Martin Luther rejected this idea and taught that these two powers must be separated.

Various church councils were held, beginning with the one at Nicea (AD 325), attended by about 300 delegates from all the different camps. The bishop of Rome was ill at that time and could not be present. Certain subjects were discussed and initial statements of faith were formulated. That was followed by one dogma after another, right to the dogmas of the infallibility of the pope in 1870 and the bodily ascension to heaven of Mary in 1950. If the faith in a dogma would be required for our salvation, then we would have to indict the apostles and even our

LORD for not telling us about it. O God, how very blessed we are to know that in the Word of Truth everything is recorded, absolutely everything You had to say to Your Church, and that only Thy Word is the light that illuminates our way! Amen. The New Testament has indeed been completed and has been in force since the passing of the testator, and nothing may be changed and nothing may be added to that Testament (Gal. 3:15). Is it not in fact a falsified faith, a falsified truth, a falsified gospel, if it does not coincide with the original? This is the crucial question we all must face.

The term “dogma” is taken from the Greek word “dokein” and means “it seems.” So it seemed to those church fathers that this or that could be right. Just because church fathers considered something to be seemingly right, that does by far not make it correct. God’s Word does not just *seem* to be right, God’s Word *is* right and true and remains for ever. Amen.

It is not our task to judge the greatest and mightiest institution on earth, or the many state and national religions and denominations, which all have their own tradition and character. But for the sake of truth we must ask this question: What happens if the churches do not coincide with the Holy Scripture in their teaching and practice? Of what possible gain is it to the faithful Catholics, that in the year 1929 the Vatican was pronounced a church state, which now has diplomatic connections to 175 nations on earth? What does this have to do with the salvation of our soul? What can all the Protestant believers gain from belonging to state-recognised churches in the different countries, when their clergy is not even recognised by God? The Church of Rome has over a billion members all over the world, has more than a million members in the various orders, about four hundred thousand priests and four thousand five hundred bishops. The other churches also have millions of members as well as their clergy. But how many of them have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and have obtained their assurance from above that they are a part of the Church of the living God? The following question poses itself: Can those billions and millions of people belonging to all the different church denominations be the “small flock” of which Jesus Christ spoke and to whom the Father is pleased to give the Kingdom (Lk. 12:32)? Can they all be the one Church of Jesus Christ that our LORD referred to when He said, “*I will build my church ...*”? Can the churches of this world be the Kingdom of God, which Jesus Christ our LORD said is not of this world (Jn. 18:36)?

When and where did Jesus Christ appoint the Apostle Peter as the head of His Church or even designate him to be the head of state? The LORD made this statement, “... *thou art Petros (a stone), and upon this rock (petra) — not upon ‘you’ — I will build my church ...*” — not upon the wavering man who also on that occasion, when he spoke without being under divine inspiration, had to be told by the LORD, “*Get thee behind me, Satan, thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*” (Mt. 16:23)! Jesus Christ Himself is that rock, the cornerstone upon which the Church is founded. That is the actual revelation the Apostle Peter received! The Redeemer alone is the “Head of His Church”!

The ambassadors of the pope in all the different countries are not ambassadors of Jesus Christ — they represent the Vatican state! What about all the clergy in the various church denominations? Are they messengers of God? Are they apostles of Jesus Christ, or are they indeed the servants of their churches? Do they preach the Word of God as it was done in the beginning, or do they stand for the teachings of their denomination? Did Jesus Christ ever claim a worldly position? Did He ever intend to have a state church or have any of the different churches recognised by the respective countries? Could Peter have been the first pope, when all historians agree that he has never even been in Rome?

Based only upon Facts

The journeys of the Apostle Peter to Samaria, to Caesarea, all the way to Antiochia (Gal. 2:11) are well-reported in the New Testament, also the missionary trips of the Apostle Paul are documented in detail. Paul was in Rome three times; he was born a Roman citizen (Acts 22:22-29) and therefore could freely visit Rome, even when he was on his way to Spain (Rom. 15:22-29). The Apostle Peter was not there a single time. Only when the Roman claim to primacy was at stake four hundred years later was the legend created that he had supposedly been to Rome. In reality, there is no tomb and no seat of Peter in Rome. During the reign of Claudius in the years AD 41-54, all the Jews were expelled from Rome, as recorded in Acts 18. Among them were Aquilla and Priscilla, whom the Apostle Paul met in Corinth. Under the rule of Nero, who reigned from AD 54 to 68, the first persecution of the Christians took place. As we find documented in Gal. 2, according to the divine ruling the agreement was that James, Cephas and John were to minister to the Jews, and Paul and Barnabas were ordained to serve

the gentiles. The Apostle Paul wrote to the small Jewish-Christian assembly in Rome and therein addressed 27 persons by name, but Peter was not among them. Paul remained in Rome for two years at his last visit (Acts 28:30). Only the legend ascribes the appearance of Simon Magus, whose performance impressed the Senate in Rome, to Simon Peter. This fact is known to all who have studied the international independent church history.

Do we have a promise from the lips of our LORD that the Apostle Peter would have a successor? No!

Is there any promise that Jesus Christ would have a vicar? Not in the Holy Scripture!

Do we find even one promise that Christ would have a Christian state within the worldly state? No!

Is there a promise that salvation would only be found in the Roman Catholic Church or in any other single church? Not in the Holy Scripture!

Was the Church of Jesus Christ, which is described in great detail with its gifts and ministries in the New Testament, ever given worldly authority? Not in the Holy Scripture!

Does the New Testament Church know of any holy water, of incense, crucifixes, rosaries, processions, pilgrimages, or purgatory? No!

Does the New Testament Church know sacraments? Does she know infant baptism and godfathers or godmothers? Does she know of any requiem for the dead, any holy sacrifice of the mass? No!

Does she know about the confessional or about indulgence? No!

Does the New Testament Church know of any beatification and canonisation of the dead? No!

Did the New Testament Church ever hear about glorifying Mary, or about a "Hail Mary"? No!

Did the original Church know of celibacy? No! The Apostle Paul, under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, foretold the "big falling-away" and declared the "celibacy" to actually be the doctrine of devils (1. Tim. 4:1-5), for it is contrary to God's order of creation, which fits in with the order of Salvation. Those in charge of local assemblies, whether they were elders or deacons, had to be married to even hold that office.

In the Church of Jesus Christ there are no monasteries, no convents, no orders of any such nature, no monks and no nuns. Nothing at all has remained as it was at the very beginning in the Church of the living God. Every teaching, every practice has been changed and is in actuality contrary, it is anti = against or in place of what Christ taught and

then commanded His apostles to teach. Everything in the church world is unbelievable, but it is declared to be believable.

Mary, the Jewish Miriam, the chosen virgin (Isa. 7:14), the mother of our LORD, has fulfilled her single, great task, but after that she is only mentioned once more in Acts 1:14, and that in connection with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Did the apostles know anything about her immaculate conception? No! The Son of God had to be born into sinful flesh (Rom. 8:4). HE had to be born into the fallen creation to redeem us out of the fall.

Did they ever hear about Mary remaining a virgin for ever? No, for the Bible gives witness that she had four sons and also daughters (Mt. 13:55-58; a. o.), and that Joseph only knew her after the Christ, the Son of God was born (Mt. 1:25). In Jn. 2:12 we read about Him, *“After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples ...”*. The Apostle Paul testifies, *“But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the LORD’s brother.”* (Gal. 1:19). Amen.

Did the apostles testify of the bodily ascension of Mary? No! For it is written, *“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven ...”* (Jn. 3:13)!

Can she be a mediator, if it is written, *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus ...”* (1. Tim. 2:5)? Can she intercede on our behalf, if the Scripture says, *“And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous ...”* (1. Jn. 2:1)? Can Mary possibly be even one of the things that only Jesus Christ alone is? Certainly not!

All worship of Mary and any others who were proclaimed to be saints, with all its icons and pictures and statues, has according to the witness of the Holy Scripture nothing to do with the divine service, but is declared to be idolatry (Ex. 20:1-6). It is absolutely directed against Christ and therefore “antichrist” — unscriptural. Those things are a part of the Christian churches and completely outside the Word of God.

We could continue to list the many other things which are taught, believed, and practised. One could even ask: Did Jesus Christ establish the “Knighthood Order of the Holy Sepulchre”, or was it Hugo of Pyens? Did the Redeemer introduce the order of the Jesuits; and is He responsible for the counter-reformation, or was it the zealously of the Spaniard Ignatius of Loyola, who made it his task to bring everybody back to the one “holy” Roman Church, even with force? It does not need to be asked who was behind the founding of the secret order of Opus Dei in 1928, which now has 86,000 members who are active in key positions on

all levels in ninety different countries. In light of all these facts, can anyone claim that salvation is only found in the Catholic Church and that she is the Church of Jesus Christ? Can any other church make any such claim?

The Tragic Events

Just in the seven crusades from AD 1095 to 1292, 22 million people were murdered. Is that supposed to be considered as the administration of salvation? Whoever reads the declaration made by Pope Urban II in the council of Clermont in the year AD 1095 will be stunned. And whosoever further reads that after the terrible massacre in June 1099 the number of Jews and Muslims then living in Jerusalem was reduced from 40,000 to only 100 will indeed be speechless. What did this have to do with the liberation of the Holy Sepulchre of Christ from the hands of unbelievers, as the order of Urban II stated, considering that the story about the Holy Sepulchre within the city is purely fictional? The tomb was then and is to this day in the garden nearby Golgotha, the place of a skull, outside the city, as the Scripture testifies. Amen. *“Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.”* (Jn. 19:41). Further it is written, *“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.”* (Heb. 13:12). Amen.

One may not finish the thought about the consequences of the countless misdirections and misinterpretations the enemy has invented. On the other hand, we still have the one book on earth that gives us the correct and complete information and is incorruptible and ends with the Revelation of Jesus Christ, wherein even the last mysteries have been unveiled. Behind us are one thousand years of the absolute rule of Rome, the dark ages with the Inquisition, the stakes, the witch hunting, the persecution of the Jews, the massacre of the Huguenots, etc. — a lot of blood was shed. The Church of Rome exercised its religious and worldly powers. Some Bible experts assert that this is reflected in Rev. 18:24, *“And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.”*

Can anyone accuse today’s pope, cardinal, or priest in this regard? Most certainly not! The developments in the church have been going on for the last 1,500 years. They have all been born into that tradition, have been educated therein, and take for granted that everything is

right. The same applies to all other churches and their clergy. All have their own beginning and history and tradition.

Every church has developed her own existence. However, the Church of Jesus Christ remains as she was on the very day of her founding. As the records of church history convincingly demonstrate, the concern in all the various church denominations was no longer the true significance of the Word of Jesus and the apostles, but rather their own interpretation, which all of them are guilty of producing. Furthermore, they were all forced into the state church. After the Reformation the many different teachings came forth again. And now all of them, regardless of what they believe and practise, are returning to the mother church.

No church can actually claim to be the original Church of Jesus Christ. Christ Himself builds His Church of all those who accept the grace of God and receive eternal life, as they did in the beginning. From all nations, languages, tribes, from all state churches and all non-denominational churches, from all religions and cultures God calls forth His Own through the message of the Gospel. Throughout the entire span of the time of grace the following is being fulfilled, *"... And as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."* (Acts 13:46-49). Amen. Never was salvation connected to a man or to an institution. From the very beginning the divine message was focussed on the Redeemer, *"... for there is none other name under heaven given among men ..."* (Acts 4:12), only the LORD Jesus Christ in Whom alone we find God's Salvation. His call goes forth even to this day, *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden ..."* (Mt. 11:28). Therefore a messenger of God can during the sermon address the listeners with these words, *"Believe on the LORD Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved ..."* (Acts 16:31). Faith in a church can never be faith in God. That is impossible. Only the one true faith in the one true God Who revealed Himself unto us in Jesus Christ is valid. Through a personal experience of Salvation every one of us can be born again and have the living hope (Jn. 3:1-10; Jas. 1:18; 1. Pet. 1:22-25).

All religions, all churches have the right to be in existence. And whosoever does not respond to God's call and does not wish to receive eternal life may remain where and what he or she is. But those who believe as the Scripture says must keep only to what is written in the Bible. In reality, there are only two confessions of faith: The first one is found in the teachings of the apostles and prophets (Eph. 2:20), which are to the last detail the teachings of Jesus Christ, as we find them affirmed in the Holy Scripture. The other one is found in the teachings and confessions of faith established by the churches. The first one *is* biblical, the

others are simply labelled as “biblical”. One *is* apostolic, the others are just claiming to be “apostolic”. As harsh as it may sound, the one excludes the other. Now we all have the opportunity to decide for ourselves, and everyone will then stand in the final judgement, knowing that the righteous Judge will pronounce the verdict only according to His Own Word.

What is the reason for concealing the deviation in the development of the church in the Roman Empire, all the way to its division in the year AD 1054 and all the other stages thereafter? Why are things no longer being compared with the Holy Scripture? What is indeed authoritative? What bears the Seal of God? Does anyone today still believe in the contributions of Pippin or Constantine? Has it not been proven that the Church of Rome was interested in worldly power, which was exercised in the name of Christianity? Is it not repeating itself now with all the different churches and denominations in the various countries, that religion and politics are joining forces? Therefore we ask this question: What does this have to do with the true Church of Jesus Christ? God Himself decided that the glorious message — the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ was to be preached in all the world and that all who receive the Salvation of God through Christ obtain the forgiveness of their sins. For our LORD said, “... *for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*” (Jn. 8:24).

Only those who believed, who had experienced their personal Salvation through repentance and conversion, were then baptised by immersion according to the Great Commission in Mark 16, “*He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved ...*” We find this confirmed throughout the Book of Acts and also later on, all who believed were baptised in the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ. They also experienced the promise which was declared through John the Baptist (Mt. 3:15) and confirmed by our LORD in Acts 1:5, “*For John truly baptised with water; but ye shall be baptised with the Holy Ghost ...*” None of the experiences a true believer makes is an official act of the clergy, but rather the supernatural working of God in those who are ordained to believe in Jesus Christ. Repentance for the life we lived without God, conversion to turn back from the broad, mainstream way and instead walk the narrow way, rebirth by the seed of God’s Word which was placed into our soul (Jas. 1:18; 1. Pet. 1:23), renewal of our innermost being through the working of the Holy Spirit (Tit. 3:5) — all these are personal experiences one makes as he or she comes to believe. Every one must actually experience for oneself that God has established a personal relationship with us in order to call

us, the children of man, back to be children of God. The following advice can be given to everyone: Believe only God and accept the Holy Scripture as the solely valid guideline for faith, doctrine, and practice.

Church history has acquainted us with the various revivals that have happened since the Reformation and also with all the accompanying controversial, much-disputed issues. Martin Luther and others in his time preached what they had personally experienced: The grace of God and the justification through faith in Jesus Christ, the Saviour. Then followed the revival wherein John Wesley and others took another step in the right direction. They not only proclaimed justification, but also the personal experience of sanctification according to the Word of God. John Smith and many others followed, with the acknowledgement of the baptism by immersion of those who believed in Jesus Christ. In every revival those things were personally experienced by the reformers and the believers. The past centuries indeed show the footprints left behind by the revivals, which delved ever deeper and led us closer to God's Word and the testimony of the original Church. In every revival the true believers acknowledged and experienced first-hand the message preached unto them, whether it was justification, sanctification, or the infilling with the Holy Spirit. It was always a personal experience. Martin Luther could preach about justification only after he personally had the experience. That is how it was with John Wesley. He had personally experienced the sanctifying power of the Word and then he testified of it. This also applies to John Smith, whose testimony of the baptism of the believers led to a breakthrough. The same happened in the Pentecostal revival about a hundred years ago. First the brethren in Los Angeles, then the ones on every other continent received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. After receiving their own experience, they testified of it and all those who believed their testimony also experienced it personally.

After World War II the dear LORD Himself gave a divine calling and a special commission. With view to the approaching Return of Jesus Christ, William Branham was called on May 7th, 1946, in the same supernatural way as the Apostle Paul. By direct commission he had to preach the original divine message, which was to forerun the second coming. Not since the days of our LORD and the time of the apostles has such a ministry been on this earth. The sick were healed, the blind could see, the deaf could hear, the lame could walk, and some were even raised from the dead. As in the beginning, the full Gospel was being preached and the dear LORD confirmed His Word in a supernatural way. It is

commonly known that about five hundred evangelists in the USA started their own ministries after they were inspired by what they had witnessed and experienced in one of Brother Branham's meetings. The mighty worldwide revival, wherein the salvation of the soul and the healing of the body was preached and experienced, reached the ends of the earth in a short time. In the years from 1955 to 1965 I personally was a true eye- and earwitness of that unsurpassed God-given ministry.

Now we no longer have only a part of the truth, as it was the case in the past centuries, now we have the full Gospel with all the experiences, the proclamation of the whole counsel of God, the total restoration of the divine order of Salvation in the Church of Jesus Christ. Now taking place is the calling-out of those who are preparing themselves to be ready at the Return of Jesus Christ. According to Mt. 25 the cry is now going forth, *"Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."* All who belong to the Bride Church hear the voice of the Bridegroom. This last message must coincide with the first message one hundred percent. All who make up the true Church of Jesus Christ now have the same teachings about the Godhead, the baptism, the LORD's Supper, etc., etc., and they do have the same experiences. Not all who say "LORD, LORD!" will enter the Kingdom of God, even if they prophesied and performed miracles (Mt. 7:21-23), but only those who actually do according to the Will of the heavenly Father. Connected to the term "the end-time message" is the calling-out from all traditions, from absolutely everything which does not agree with God or His Word (2. Cor. 6:14-18; Rev. 18:4).

No one will dispute the fact that Christianity is in a complete spiritual chaos, in the direct Babylonian confusion and captivity, and that all speak their own religious language. Therefore the calling-out of God's people from all that separates us from Him and from one another and the total restoration in agreement with His Word are taking place. Whoever is of God will hear the Voice of God and understand what the Spirit says unto the churches. All those who seek diligently and honestly will most certainly find it. And to them applies, ***"Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts!"*** (Heb. 4:7). Amen. Amen means: So be it!

Krefeld, June 2005
By His commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bro. Frank". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

The same author has dealt with the most important subjects the Holy Scripture speaks about. These brochures are published worldwide in many different languages and have been a lasting blessing to many people.

In this Mission Center we have also published edited sermons of William Branham, which can be sent upon request to all who desire to have them. A list of available publications can be provided.

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If you are interested, you may write to the address listed below:



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