

Why I Became A Protestant

by

Luis Padrosa

Moody Colportage Library #240

Copyright @ 1953

CHAPTER TWO

NECESSITY OF A VISIBLE CHURCH

In order to prove that the Pope and the Roman Church are infallible, the Catholic Church uses another argument.

“An authority is necessary,” it says, “to be the depository of the Scriptures and of the doctrinal treasures of Jesus Christ.”

It is true that the Scriptures and the teachings of Jesus Christ cannot be abandoned with impunity to the hands of all, so that they can destroy them or modify them to their individual fancy.

This all Protestants also admit.

But this *necessity* (we would call it *convenience* does not prove the *existence* of an infallible authority.

It has always been necessary or convenient for men, in order to be right in the matters of religion, to have a sure source of teachings. It has never existed.

It would have gone well with the Israelites to have had an infallible authority to interpret the Scriptures. If the Jews had had it, the ecclesiastical court would not have condemned Jesus Christ as guilty of death as a blasphemer and impostor.

If God for so many centuries left the most vital questions of man in danger of perpetual discussions, why can't He continue doing the same now?

The only thing that logically follows the above reasoning is that there must be an authority, call it church, synagogue, synod, convention, committee, etc., which watches over Christian doctrine, as is done in all the sciences and other human affairs.

Even though someone should try it, he cannot mutilate Homer, Virgil, or any of the classical authors. There exist critical documents and recognized specialists who step out in defense of the original.

They are not infallible. People know that they are not, but they believe them.

One does not see why it cannot be the same in religious matters, although there isn't any pontifical or ecclesiastical infallibility. To *preserve* a book, or several, it is not necessary to be infallible. The Jews preserved the sacred books for many centuries and they were not infallible.

Convenience, therefore, doesn't prove the *existence* of infallibility.

The error of the Catholics is in believing that the Church is to give men new doctrines and show them the way of their eternal salvation.

In this is their principal error. If it were so, of course it would need, as the Apostles and Evangelists needed, infallibility.

But this is not the mission of the Church.

The mission of the Church is to teach men that the Way, the Truth and the Life is in fulfilling the Word of God; and that this is expressed in the sacred Scriptures, especially so and in a complete and final manner, in the New Testament.

What Peter and the other Apostles affirmed is what is sure; what they condemned is indisputably error.

After them, whoever wants to know the truth must go to the teachings which they left written.

This is the rock placed by Jesus Christ. Its infallibility is enough for us.

But the Catholic Church wants to modify, at its pleasure, the doctrines of Jesus Christ and the Apostles. It wants the salvation of men to depend on itself.

The salvation of men depends only on Jesus Christ, our divine REDEEMER.

He is the Way. He never said that the Way was the Church. **"I am the way, the truth, and the life,"** He said (John 14:6).

On the other hand, the Catholic Church wants to be the Way herself, and to be absolute mistress of the Truth, so as to modify it at her will. To accomplish it she has put the clergy in place of Jesus Christ, and the Church in place of the Word of God.

~ end of chapter 2 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
