

The King's Highway

AN ADVOCATE OF SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS

VOL. XLI

MONCTON, N. B., APRIL 30, 1964

No. 8

IS THE BIBLE A CATHOLIC BOOK?

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The Gospel Banner

In their magazine and newspaper advertisements the Knights of Columbus assert from time to time that the Bible is a Catholic book, that the Roman Catholic Church produced the New Testament, and that it was the only Christian Church in existence until the 16th century when the Protestant Reformation took place.

A professor at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, J. A. O'Brien, says in his most recent book that the entire New Testament was written by Catholics, and that his church translated the Bible into many languages before Protestantism "saw the light of day."

Are these claims historically accurate? Can they be supported by the evidence of history? We believe not.

During the first few centuries of Christianity the church was catholic, that is, universal, but it was not Roman. There were actually five great bishops in the church, all of equal power: the Bishops of Jerusalem, Antioch, Constantinople, Alexandria, and Rome.

Gradually the Bishop of Rome began to assume more power than the others and eventually he became the most important. Finally he began to call himself a pope.

The first bishop to successfully exercise his authority in a catholic or universal sense was Leo I, who ruled from 440 to 461. Standard church histories regard him as the first pope and the Roman Catholic Church as beginning in the year 440.

But in the centuries which followed there were always a number of Christian church bodies in northern Africa and around the eastern end of the Mediterranean, which continually refused to submit to the authority of the Pope in Rome.

There were also Christian church groups in Britain, Ireland, southern France, northern Italy, and Armenia, all of which were entirely independent of Rome. Then in 1054 the many millions of Greek (Orthodox) Catholics decided to no longer recognize papal authority, nor do they do so to this day.

The fact that the Roman Catholic Church did not exist until the year 440, plus the fact that all the writers of the New Testament were Jews (with the possible exception of Luke), is complete proof that the Church of Rome had nothing whatever to do with the writing or compilation of the New Testament.

The latter was recognized as Scripture long before there was any official pronouncement to that effect by a church council or by the Bishop of Rome. Later Roman pronouncements did not create the canon of Scripture; actually they were simply a recognition of what was already generally accepted.

By no stretch of either the imagination or the facts of church history can the apostles and their writings be considered Roman Catholic.

—The Wesleyan Methodist

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Jacqueline Corey



Tragedy of the cruelest kind hit the Rev. Lawrence Corey family at Bristol, N. B., when at 3 p.m. on April 15, little Jacqueline Corey, age seven, was swept down the swollen waters of the Shiktehawk Stream and without doubt on into the ice-filled waters of the Saint John River. In spite of intensive efforts by both R.C.M.P. and local residents, using bull-dozers and diving equipment, no trace of little Jacqueline has been found.

Jacqueline, her older sister Janie, and two other friends were playing together at the rear of the Corey home when they decided to cross a foot bridge over the Shiktehawk, used commonly by the children and the residents of the area. The other three children crossed safely, but Jacqueline failed to make it. The children looked back to find her gone.

The uncertainties surrounding the tragedy have only added to the grief of the parents. The sudden loss coupled with the all but hopeless efforts to recover her body have made the experience a heart-breaking one.

As fellow-ministers, parents, Highway readers, and friends, our hearts join with Mr. and Mrs. Corey, Janie, Jeffrey, and Jill in the hour of their great sorrow. We have the consolation that little Jacqueline loved her Lord, having left a clear testimony of her personal faith, and that the wisdom of a loving Heavenly Father makes no mistakes.

Marshall Foch's Motto

There are no hopeless situations; there are only men who have grown hopeless about them.