

The Rule Of Faith

TO THE EDITOR:

I made a mistake in my letter which appeared on April 6. What Paul wrote to the Colossians was, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth, fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence and covetousness, which is idolatry."

Covetousness means to greedily desire, which God calls idolatry.

I hope you are looking up these verses, because it is possible to make a mistake when copying something. Plus, if you do not look them up, you could be deceived into believing what man says instead of what God says.

In the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 17, verse 11, it is said about the people in Berea, that Paul and Silas spoke to: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

The people in Berea searched the scriptures every day to see if what they were told was according to God's word. So many people have been deceived by various individuals and religions who have said, we have God's word, plus these additional teachings.

In Proverbs 30:6 we read, "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." Proverbs 30:5 reads, "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." Proverbs 13:13 reads, "Who so despiseth the word shall be destroyed, but he that feareth the commandments shall be rewarded."

Victor Paul Wierwille, founder of the Way International, tells us that Jesus is not God. God's word tells us in Isaiah 9, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

And there are many more false teachers.

God's word has been with us for thousands of years, but the devil is working hard to deceive, and to keep people from reading God's word. But God's word still stands to guide us.

seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you. But as the same anointing teacheth you of all things and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

I Corinthians 2:13 reads, "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

In the April 5, 1981 edition of "Our Sunday Visitor," a Catholic publication, on page 15, a reader asks a question: "I am wondering as I read my Bible why I find no reference about our belief in the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption of ~~May~~ **Mary**."

The answer: "The Catholic Church has two sources of faith — scripture and tradition. According to Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, 'Sacred tradition and sacred scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the word of God, which is entrusted to the Church. By adhering to it, the entire holy people, united to its pastors, remains always faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.' Tradition (the word comes from Latin, tradere, to transmit) is that body of teachings of Christ and His apostles, which are not explicitly contained in the Bible but passed on through the centuries by the teaching Church.

"The Catholic Church has always recognized the teaching authority of tradition. Protestants rejected this doctrine when they broke away from the Church and made the Bible the sole rule of faith. Saint Irenaeus tells us the apostles not only left bishops as their successors, but gave them 'their own position of teaching authority.'

"Tradition is closely allied to the infallibility of the Church (Mt. 28:20). The Catholic Church has teachings which come from the Bible and others which come from tradition. The Immaculate Conception and the Assumption of Mary are teachings from tradition."

Many Protestant churches have become involved with the Catholic Church in the ecumenical movement and have

God tells us in Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

The Roman Catholic Church tells us in their book titled "The Faith of Our Fathers," chapter eight, "that God never intended the Bible to be the Christians' rule of faith independently of the living authority of the Church." Page 83 of the same chapter states, "Indeed, when you accept the Bible as the Word of God, you are obliged to receive it on the authority of the Catholic Church, who was the sole Guardian of the Scriptures for 1,500 years. But after having ascertained to your satisfaction that the translation is faithful, still the Scriptures can never serve as a complete rule of faith and a complete guide to heaven independently of an authorized, living interpreter."

But Paul writes to Timothy in II Timothy 3:15, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

I John 2:25-27 reads, "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. These things have I written unto you concerning them that

fallen into the great apostasy, speaking lofty sermons instead of repentance from sin and salvation through Christ.

But there are also many Protestant churches who do still preach the cross of Christ and repentance from sin and salvation through Christ, who do use the Bible as their only rule of faith and who encourage their listeners to search the scriptures, to see if those things are so.

Jesus tells us in Luke 4:4, "It is written, that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." Again He says in John 12:48, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

And John 12:49-50: "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandments is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak."

Read God's word, study the scriptures, search for yourselves to see what God has to say to you. He loves you, that's why he died for you, to take the punishment we deserve so

that we could be set free through faith in Christ Jesus.

A former Catholic.

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