

Clear Distinction Ministries

Study Notes

Night #12: **“The Mark of the Beast! (Pt. 2)”**

### **Who Is The “Man of Sin?” (Protestantism Speaks)**

**“To some we may seem slanderers and railers when we call the Roman pontiff ‘Antichrist’. But those who think so do not realize they are accusing Paul of intemperate language, after whom we speak, indeed so speak from his very lips. And lest anyone object that we wickedly twist Paul’s words (which apply to another) against the Roman pontiff, I shall briefly show that these cannot be understood otherwise than of the Papacy...”**

***-Institutes, Book 4, Ch. 7, sect. 25, John Calvin***

**“Paul does not speak of one individual, but of a kingdom, that was to be taken possession of by Satan, that he might set up a seat of abomination in the midst of God’s temple—which we see accomplished in popery.”**

***-Calvin’s Commentaries, Vol. 21, on 2 Thess. 2:3***

- John Calvin, and the leaders in Protestantism (quoted in our last study) were all in agreement on this point: **that the “man of sin,” the “antichrist” which the Apostle Paul spoke of was in fact the Pope of Rome.** Let’s review what the Apostle said...**2 Thess. 2:1-4**



- There can be no mistake, **the Pope of Rome fits the description perfectly** of “**that man of sin...the son of perdition**; who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; **so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**” Here he is, seated between two cherubim; the exact place of God alone...*Ps. 99:1, Is. 37:16*
- The Biblical title “man of sin” implies that this system, which the Pope represents, will lead the world into breaking God’s law... **1 John 3:4**

**The Leopard Beast Speaks for Itself:**

- These are very startling points. It would be unfair to make such claims and not afford the Papacy an opportunity to speak for itself. **Below I will quote several Popes, speaking on behalf of this system regarding the office of Pope.**

“The Roman Pontiff (Pope) judges all men but is judged of no man...We declare, assert, define and pronounce **to be subject to the Roman Pontiff is to every creature altogether necessary for salvation...that which was spoken of Christ: ‘Thou hast subdued all things under his feet’ may well seem verified in me...I have the authority of the King of Kings. I am all in all and above all, so that God Himself and I, the Vicar of God, have but one consistory and I am able to do almost all that God can do. What, therefore, can you make of me but God?”**

*-Pope Boniface VIII (1230-1303)*

“The pope is not simply the representative of Jesus Christ. On the Contrary, **He is Jesus Christ Himself, under the veil of the flesh.”**

*-Pope Pius X (1835-1914)*

“**The Pope is the guardian of dogma and morals; he is the depository of those principles which render families honest, nations great and souls holy; he is the counselor of princes and of people; he is the head, under whom no man can feel tyrannized over, because he represents God Himself. He is the Father (par excellence) because he unites within himself all that there is that is loveable, sacred and Divine.**”

*-Pope Pius X (1835-1914)*

**“We hold the place of Almighty God on earth!”**

**-Pope Leo XIII (1810-1903)**

“You know that **I am the Holy Father**, the representative of God on earth,  
**the Vicar of Christ, which means that I am God on the earth.**”

**-Pope Pius XI (1857-1939)**

- Rome holds nothing back. The point is crystal clear. **According to the Roman Catholic Church leadership, the Popes themselves, the man who is called Pope is God on earth—this is precisely what his assumed title Vicar of Christ (Vicarius Fili Dei) actually means.** This is precisely “the man of sin” of which the Apostle Paul spoke. **The question now is does the current Pope, Francis, also hold to that title: Vicarius Fili Dei, Vicar of Christ, GOD ON EARTH?** Below I’ll quote an article from *Catholic Herald*, a trusted Catholic source since the year 1888.

“From the moment he was introduced to the world after his election, **Pope Francis has emphasized his identity as “*the bishop of Rome.*”**

The 2020 *Annuario Pontificio*, the official Vatican yearbook, has made the same emphasis typographically by listing other descriptions of the papal office as “**historic titles.**” Like the 2019 edition, there is a page that says simply, “**Francis, bishop of Rome.**” But unlike last year’s edition, the new yearbook does not precede the biography of “Jorge Mario Bergoglio” with the titles: “**Vicar of Jesus Christ. Successor of the Prince of the Apostles. Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church. Primate of Italy. Archbishop and**

Metropolitan of the Province of Rome. Sovereign of Vatican City State. Servant of the Servants of God.” **Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office**, told Catholic News Service that unlike in 2006 when Pope Benedict XVI had the title “Patriarch of the West” removed from the list, this time **“there has been no suppression” of a title.** “The definition of ‘historic’ in relation to the titles attributed to the pope on one of the pages dedicated to him in the Annuario Pontificio of 2020 seems to me to indicate **the bond with the history of the papacy,**” Bruni said. **All of the other titles “are understood to be tied historically to the title of bishop of Rome** because at the moment he is designated by the conclave to guide the church of Rome, **the one elected acquires the titles tied to this nomination.**”

***-Cindy Wooden, Catholic Herald, “Did Pope Francis Really Drop the Title of ‘ Vicar of Christ,’ April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020***

- **According to Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office, Pope Francis has not relinquished his assumed title of “Vicar of Christ.”** He has not relinquished the title which according to Pope Pius XI means that he is **“God on earth.”** Instead, the very title by which he is called today, “Bishop of Rome,” is “historically tied” to it.
- Interestingly enough, that very title Vicarius Fili Dei, in its Roman numerals, equates to that number of a man “666.”

## A KEY TO THE MYSTIC NUMBER



**"VICARIUS FILII DEI",**  
OR  
**"VICAR OF THE SON**  
**OF GOD",**

IS A FORMAL LATIN TITLE OF THE LEADING  
**"MAN"** OF THE PAPAL SYSTEM.

CERTAIN LETTERS OF THE LATIN ALPHABET HAD  
NUMERICAL VALUE, AND IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT  
THE NUMERICAL EQUIVALENT OF THE ABOVE TITLE  
IS **666**

**666**  
**LATIN**

V	=	5
I	=	1
C	=	100
A	=	0
R	=	0
I	=	1
U	=	5
S	=	0
F	=	0
I	=	1
L	=	50
I	=	1
I	=	1
D	=	500
E	=	0
I	=	1

**666**

- **The Papacy is called by many names in Scripture:** The Beast that emerged from the sea (**Rev. 13:1-11**), the king of the North (**Dan. 11**), the whore that rides the beast (**Rev. 17**), the little horn (**Dan. 7**) and the man of sin/antichrist (**2 Thess. 2:3-4**).

## What Is the Mark of the Beast?

- We've already seen that a beast in Bible prophecy represents a kingdom (**Dan. 7:23**). We've now discovered from the various evidences that the beast kingdom of **Rev. 13:1-11** is in fact **the Papacy—the Roman Catholic church**. The question now is what is its mark? Whatever it is, we know it centers in **WORSHIP and is antagonistic to the Worship of the Creator (Rev. 14:9 & 12, 13:4, 8, 12 & 15)**. **WHAT IS THE MARK OF THE PAPACY?** Let's evaluate, from some of the various denominations why it is that they view Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week as a special day of worship instead of the 7<sup>th</sup> day, Saturday, sanctified by God in the beginning for man.

### **THE BAPTISTS SAY:**

**“There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday...It will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week...Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament, absolutely not. There is no Scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week...Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from The Christian Fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with**

the name of the sun god, when adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism.”

*-Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, Author of ‘The Baptist Manual,’ in a paper read before a New York ministers’ conference held Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 1893*

## The Churches of Christ (The Disciples of Christ) Say:

“The first day of the week is commonly called the Sabbath. This is a mistake. The Sabbath of the Bible was the day just preceding the first day of the week. The first day of the week is never called the Sabbath anywhere in the entire Scriptures. It is also an error to talk about the change of the Sabbath...There is not in any place in the Bible any intimation of such a change.”

*(First-Day Observance pages 17 & 19)*

“To command men to observe the Lord’s day [Sunday] is contrary to the gospel.”

*(Memoirs of Alexander Campbell, Vol. 1 page 528)*

The 8 New Testament “First Day” (Sunday) References:	
Matthew 28:1	Mark 16:1-2
Mark 16:9	Luke 24:1
John 20:1	John 20:19
Acts 20:7-13	1 Corinthians 16:1-2



- The above 8 texts are all of the New Testament references to Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week. None of these, transfer the solemnity or holiness of the Sabbath from the 7<sup>th</sup> day Saturday to the 1<sup>st</sup> day Sunday. It is a change, acknowledged by many Christians today that has no foundation in Scripture.

## **The Roman Catholic Church Says:**

**“From this same Catholic Church, you have accepted your Sunday, and that Sunday, as the Lord’s day, she has handed down a tradition; and the entire Protestant world has accepted it a tradition, for you have not an iota of Scripture to establish it. Therefore, that which you have accepted as your rule of faith, inadequate as it of course is, as well as your Sunday, **you have accepted on the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.**”**

***(D. B. Ray, “The Papal Controversy,” 1892 pg. 179)***

**“If the Bible is the only guide for the Christian, then the Seventh-day Adventist is right in observing the Saturday with the Jew. But Catholics learn what to believe and do from the divine, infallible authority established by Jesus Christ, the Catholic Church...**Is it not strange that those who make the Bible their only teacher should inconsistently follow in this matter the tradition of the Church?**”**

***(“Question Box” by Conway, 1903 Edition, pages 254-255)***

**“Reason and sense demand the acceptance of the one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible.”**

***(James Cardinal Gibbons, Catholic Mirror, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1983)***

**“SUNDAY IS OUR MARK of authority...the Church is above the Bible and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact.”**

***(The Catholic Record, London, Ontario, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> 1923)***

- **What is the mark of the Papacy? What is the mark of her authority, in opposition to God, which centers in worship? According to the Papacy the “...transference of Sabbath observance...” to “SUNDAY,” is her MARK of authority.**
- **It is important to note that none have the mark of the beast until Sunday worship is enforced by law in America (*Rev. 13<sup>2nd</sup>* beast). This day is approaching soon. Even now, Pope Francis and others are seeking to point the nations to ENFORCE SUNDAY REST (SABBATH) BY LAW.**

**“The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a**

**power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator.** While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive **the mark of the beast**, the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive **the seal of God.**”

**(The Great Controversy pg. 605.2)**