

THOSE WONDERFUL WALDENSES: PETER WALDO AND THE POOR MEN OF LYONS

**ANOTHER PROTESTANT WITNESS SATAN AND EVANGELICAL LEADERS DO
NOT WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT**

**TESTIMONY OF ROMAN CATHOLIC PETRUS DE PILICHDORF, A. D. 1395
ON THE RISE AND ORIGIN OF THE WALDENSES**

"The rise and origin of the Waldensian heretics was this: although the sons of iniquity deceive the simple, saying that their sect has existed from the time of Pope Sylvester - namely, when the Church began to have property of its own [i.e., when greed and avarice set in]. The heresiarchs consider this unlawful because the Apostles of Christ were commanded to live without property, Matt.10: 'Provide neither gold nor silver,' & etc...They lie, therefore, when they say that their sect has existed from the time of Pope Sylvester.[1] Whence we must observe, that about 800 years after Pope Sylvester, in the time of Pope Innocent II. [circa A.D. 1120] there was a certain rich man in the city of Walden, which is in France, who either read or heard that our Lord had said to the young man, Matt. 19: 'If thou be perfect, go and sell all that thou hast, and give to the poor; and when he went away sorrowful because he was rich, having many possessions, the Lord said, How hardly shall a rich man enter into the kingdom of heaven' - and again - 'It is much easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven' - and a little further on Peter said to the Lord, 'Lo! We have left all and followed thee.' When Petrus Waldensis [Peter Walden or Waldo] heard or read this scripture, he thought that the apostolic life was not to be found in the world, and therefore proposed to renew it [note seeds of the Reformation], and having sold all things, and given to the poor, he began to live a life of poverty; which some other persons seeing, they were pricked to the heart, and did likewise. Among these, one who was called John, and who was from Lyons, joined himself to Peter.

"When they remained a long time in poverty, they began to think that the Apostles of Christ were not only poor men, but preachers, and they began themselves to preach the Word of God. News of this having reached Rome, the Pope commanded that it should cease because the preaching of the Word of God is not suitable for uneducated, illiterate persons. They refused to obey, as if the Court of Rome had forbidden them out of envy. This being discovered, the Church excommunicated them; and they contumaciously resisting, the Church condemned them. From that time on the Waldenses dared not preach openly, but preached secretly. Out of hatred of the [Roman Catholic] Clergy and Priesthood, they began to preach, not only errors of ancient heretics, but new and damnable articles which destroy, condemn, and reprobate all things - except only the sacraments - by which the clergy collects her sons [i.e., preaches and teaches how one is saved].....

"When they had long preached clandestinely, and had thus seduced many from the communion of the faithful to their sect [i.e., the Waldenses preached separation from the Church of Rome, not ecumenism], under a false pretense of sanctity [i.e., because Rome was a whore, God hates spiritual fornication with

her, His people are to be holy), they thought that preaching alone was ineffectual unless they also searched the consciences of their believers, by hearing confessions, enjoining penance, and absolving from sins. And since their believers have seen on a daily basis that the Waldensian ministers are distinguished by outward holiness of life, unlike the majority of the Priests of the [Roman Catholic] Church who are devoted to sensual vices [note excessive immorality centuries ago], the Waldenses believe that they can be better absolved from their sins by their own ministers than by the Priests of the Church. And unless the mercy of God shall vouchsafe to inspire the Prelates of the Church with greater vigilance [i.e., to do a better job as 'overseers' of their flock, including the sinful priests], it is feared that the Waldenses will usurp to themselves still greater power [i.e., gain more adherents]....."[2]

**THE TESTIMONY OF DOMINICAN INQUISITOR, STEPHEN OF BOURBON, 13th CENT. ON
WALDO'S TRANSLATION OF LATIN SCRIPTURES INTO THE COMMON LANGUAGE**

"The sect began in this manner, according to what I have heard from many persons who have seen its earliest members, and from the highly respected Priest Bernardus Idros and our friend from Lyons: when Bernardus was a young man, a scribe, he was hired to write the earliest books in the Romaunt [French] language specifically for the Waldenses' use. A certain grammarian called Stephanus de Ansa translated and dictated, who, although fortunate to acquire a large benefice in a major Church in Lyons, he lost his life suddenly due to a fall from the upper chamber of a house he was building. A certain rich man from Lyons, called Waldensis [i.e., Peter Waldo], hearing the gospels, and not being very educated, but desiring to understand what they said, made an agreement with the aforementioned Priests, that the one should translate into the vulgar tongue, and the other write what he dictated, which they did. And so they proceeded with many books of the Bible; and with many treatises [i.e., Bible commentaries] of holy men, arranged under Titles, which they called Sentences." [3]

**PETER WALDO AND DISCIPLES TAKE AN AUDIENCE BEFORE POPE ALEXANDER III.
LATERAN COUNCIL, 1179, MOCKS WALDO: CALLING HIS SECT IGNORANT AND ILLITERATE DESPITE
PRESENTING SCRIPTURES TRANSLATED INTO THE FRENCH LANGUAGE, THEY ARE REFUSED
PERMISSION TO PREACH [4]**

**POOR MEN OF LYONS DECLARED HERETICS AND EXCOMMUNICATED BY
POPE LUCIUS III. IN BULLA *AD ABOLENDAM*, A. D. 1184
JUDGED HERETICS BY PREACHING WITHOUT AUTHORITY OF ROMAN CHURCH**

**4th LATERAN COUNCIL, 1215, ANATHEMATIZES ALL HERETICS WHO PREACH WITHOUT
PERMISSION OF THE HOLY SEE OF ROME
CANON 21 FORBIDS CHRISTIAN BURIAL TO ALL WHO REFUSE CONFESSION, EUCHARIST ON EASTER
TRANSUBSTANTIATION DEFINED AND DECREED**

**COUNCIL OF TOULOUSE, A. D. 1229
HERESY STILL UNCHECKED; BIBLE TRANSLATIONS OFFICIALLY FORBIDDEN BY CHURCH OF ROME
BIBLE READING DANGEROUS - CONTRADICTIONS APPARENT BETWEEN SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION**

Canon 1. "We appoint, therefore, that the Archbishops and Bishops shall swear in one priest, and two or three laymen of good report, or more if they think fit, in every parish both in and out of cities, who shall faithfully and frequently seek out the heretics in those parishes by searching all houses and subterranean chambers which lie under any suspicion. And looking out for any appendages or outbuildings, in the roofs themselves, or any other kind of hiding places; all which we direct to be destroyed."

Canon 6. "We direct that the house in which any heretic shall be found shall be destroyed."

RECANTING HERETICS MUST WEAR MARK OF THE BEAST FOR IDENTIFICATION

Canon 10. "Also we decree that if any heretic, having voluntarily abandoned their heresy shall return to the Catholic faith acknowledging their error, they shall not remain in the town in which they previously dwelt, if that town be suspected of heresy; but shall be placed in a Catholic town which lies under no suspicion of heresy. Moreover, in detestation of their ancient error, they shall wear two conspicuous crosses, of a different color from their garments; nor shall any such person be allowed to discontinue these crosses, without a letter from his Bishop testifying to his reconciliation. Nor in the future shall any public office be entrusted to any such persons, nor shall they be admitted in any matters of law, unless they shall have been restored to unity [i.e., prove they are no longer 'separated brethren'], with a sufficient penance by the Lord Pope, or by his Legate.

Canon 11. "Heretics compelled to return to Catholic unity through fear of death are to be imprisoned by the Bishop of the place, to perform penance, using caution to prevent them from corrupting others...

Canons 12-13. "Require an oath against heresy, and regular confession to a priest three times a year from all citizens who have reached the years of discretion.

Canon 14. "We prohibit also that the laity be permitted to have the books of the old or new testament.....we most strictly forbid their having any translation of these books.

Canon 15. "We decree, also, that whosoever be considered a heretic, or be marked with suspicion, shall not henceforth exercise the profession of a physician [for fear that a Christian physician could lead the dying person to Christ by faith alone]; and when any sick person shall have received the holy communion from the hand of the priest, let him be vigilantly looked after until his death, or recovery; lest any heretic should get access to him; for we have understood that wicked and abominable things have often occurred from the access of such persons [like getting saved]." [5]

COUNCIL OF BEZIERS, A. D. 1233

Canon 4. "Those who are reconciled from heresy, who will not wear two prominent crosses as commanded by the Bishop shall be taken for heretics and their goods shall be confiscated." [6]

COUNCIL OF NARBONNE, A. D. 1235

WALDENSES AGAIN MARKED OUT BY ROMAN CHURCH AS REPROBATED HERETICS WORTHY OF DEATH

Canon 29. ".....We speak of all these things, however, on the supposition that those who are found so offending knew by whom they were done: Heretics or Waldenses; and were not ignorant that the holy church denounced them as separate from the unity of the Catholic faith on account of their peculiar errors and damnable sects, and has excommunicated, persecuted [the Catholic Church admits to persecuting others!], and condemned them. Nor is this fact easily dismissed as being secret, and thus unknown: for what stranger is there who does not know of the condemnation of the Heretics and Waldenses for many years past which was made public knowledge because of their notoriety and executions? And who has not heard of the many expenses, hard work and painstaking toil of the faithful to insure the death of so many unbelievers, solemnly condemned and publicly executed?....For wishing to be hidden and seeking concealment, the Heretics and Waldenses entrust themselves only to their believers, perpetrating the aforesaid evil deeds in their hiding places." [7]

THE TESTIMONY OF DOMINICAN INQUISITOR RAINERIUS SACCONI, A. D. 1254 ON THE HERESIES OF THE WAIIDENSES

Chapter 4. ON THE SECTS OF ANCIENT HERETICS. ALL UNITED AGAINST CHURCH OF ROME

".....Among all these Sects, which still are, or have been, none is more pernicious to the Church than that of the Leonists [i.e., Poor Men of Lyons]; and this for three reasons. The first is because it is older; for some say that it has existed from the time of Sylvester, some from the time of the Apostles. The second, because it is more universal; for there is scarcely any country in which it does not exist. The third, because...the Leonists have a great appearance of piety; and they rightly believe all things concerning God which are contained in the Creed [i.e., they are orthodox] - only they blaspheme the Romish Church; which blasphemy a great multitude of the laity are induced to believe as true....The various heretical groups are divided in Sects among themselves, but in attacking the Church they are united.....and thus these crafty little foxes destroy the vineyard of the lord, that is the Catholic Church, by their errors."

Chapter 5. OF THE SECTS OF MODERN HERETICS RAINERIUS RECAPS THEIR BEGINNING

"Observe, that the sect of Poor Men of Lyons, who are also called Leonists, arose in the following manner: once when the principal citizens were assembled in Lyons, it happened that one of them died suddenly, in the presence of the company; whereby one of them was so much alarmed that he [i.e., Peter Waldo] immediately distributed a large property to the poor. And from this cause a great multitude flocked to him. He instructed them to embrace voluntary poverty [as a backlash and protest against the wealth of the priests; the heretic Waldo was also the precursor and model for the Franciscan Order - which Rome refuses to acknowledge], and to be imitators of Christ and the Apostles. And as he had some little learning he taught them the text of the New Testament in the vulgar tongue [French]. When he was

reproved for his rashness, he derided it, and began to urge his doctrine, telling his disciples that the clergy, who were immoral persons [note immorality of priests centuries ago], envied their holy life and doctrine. When the Pope excommunicated them, they persevered in contempt of it, and so to this day their rancorous doctrine flourishes everywhere.

"Observe three things. First, concerning the blasphemies wherewith they blaspheme the Romish Church, and its statutes and all the clergy. In the second part, their errors respecting the sacraments of the Church and the saints are stated. In the third part, observe the abomination [of desolation] in which they hold the decent and approved customs of the Church."

WALDENSES IDENTIFY CATHOLIC CHURCH AS MYSTERY BABYLON
CALL THE POPE THE HEAD OF ALL ERRORS
BOTH POPES AND BISHOPS REPUTED MURDERERS

"First, they say that the Romish Church is not the Church of Jesus Christ, but a church of malignants and that it apostatized [i.e., fell away: $\alpha\pi\sigma\tau\alpha\sigma\iota\alpha$] under Sylvester, when the poison of temporalities was infused into the church. And they say that they are the church of Christ because they observe, both in word and deed, the doctrine of Christ, of the Gospel, and of the Apostles."

2. "Their second error is that all vices and sins are in the church [may the reader take note] and that they alone live righteously."

3. "That scarcely anyone in the church, but themselves, preserves the evangelical doctrine [i.e., justification by faith in Christ alone through grace]."

4. "That they are the true poor in spirit and suffer persecution for righteousness and faith [may the reader take note who the persecutor is and who the persecuted is]."

5. "That they are the Church of Jesus Christ [i.e., the elect]."

6. "That the Church of Rome is the Harlot in the Apocalypse, on account of its excessive external display, which even the Eastern Church does not respect [and they are nobody to throw stones!]."

7. "That they despise all the statutes of the Church because they are heavy and numerous."

8. "That the Pope is the head of all errors."

9. "That the Prelates are as the Scribes; and the Monks, Pharisees."

10. "That the Pope and all Bishops are murderers on account of wars [i.e., Inquisitions]."

11. "That we are not to obey Prelates [i.e., not to take the mark of the Beast]; but only God."

12. "That no one is greater than another in the church. Matt. 23: 'All of you are brethren.'"

13. "That no one ought to bow the knee before a priest. Rev. 19: where the Angel says to John 'See thou do it not.'"

14. "That tithes are not to be given to priests because first fruits were not given to the primitive church."

15. "That the clergy ought not to have possessions: Deut. 18..."

20. "That wills are not to be made in favor of Churches - also, that no one ought to be a tenant of the church [i.e., the church should not own property for the purpose of generating income] - also, that they condemn all the clergy for idleness, saying that they ought to work with their hands as the Apostles did - also, they reprobate titles of dignity such as Pope, Bishop, & etc. - also, that no one is to be forced into believing the same way - also, that they make no account of all ecclesiastical offices - also, they care nothing for ecclesiastical privileges - also, they despise the immunity of the Church and of ecclesiastical persons - also, they contemn Councils, Synods, and Assemblies - also, they say that monastic rules are the traditions of the Pharisees."

WALDENSES CONDEMN ALL CATHOLIC SACRAMENTS AS ABOMINABLE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD

"Secondly, they condemn all the Sacraments of the Church. In the first place, as to baptism they say that the Catechism is nothing [i.e., head knowledge does not save] - also, that the ablution [i.e., cleansing by water baptism] which is given to infants profits nothing - also, they reprobate all exorcisms, and benedictions of baptism - also, they reprobate the Sacrament of Confirmation and wonder why Bishops only are allowed to confirm [may the reader note that the same holds true today; the 2nd beast gives that indelible mark on the forehead] - also, concerning the Sacrament of the Eucharist, they say that priests in mortal sin cannot consecrate - also, they say that transubstantiation does not take place in the hand of him who unworthily consecrates, but in the mouth of him who worthily receives [by faith] - also, they say that the Mass is nothing, because the Apostles had it not, and that it is done for the sake of gain - also, they do not receive the canon of the Mass, except only the words of Christ in the vulgar tongue - also, they say that the offering [sacrifice] which is made by priests in the Mass is nothing, and does not profit - also, they reprobate the kiss of peace and of the altar - also, they call the singing in the Church an infernal clamour.

"Concerning the Sacrament of Penance, they say that no one can be absolved by a bad priest [may the reader note the wickedness prevailing centuries ago] - also, that it is better to confess to a good layman than to a bad priest - also, that such penance as is not heavy is to be enjoined by the example of Christ: 'Go and sin no more' - also, they reprobate the public penances, as chains, especially in the case of women - also, that a general confession is not to be made every year.

"Also, they condemn the Sacrament of Marriage, saying that married persons sin mortally if they come together without the hope of offspring - also, they despise the impediments of Orders, of public decency [note their charge of immorality offensive to public decency perpetrated by the Roman priesthood], and of ecclesiastical prohibitions - also, they say that the church has erred in prohibiting the marriage of the Clergy.

"The Sacrament of Unction they reprobate because it is only given to the rich - also, they say that the Sacrament of Holy orders is nothing; that every good layman is a priest [i.e., the priesthood of believers], for the Apostles were laymen - also, that the prayer of an evil priest [note the word 'evil'] does not profit - also, they deride the clerical tonsure - also praying in the Latin tongue does not profit the laity - also, they make it a matter of ridicule that illegitimate persons [i.e., illegitimate children of the priests] and wicked sinners are raised to eminence in the church [note the many charges of priestly immorality] - also, they say that every layman and even women ought to preach - also, whatever is preached which cannot be proved by the text of Scripture they consider fictitious [i.e., Sola Scriptura] - also, they say that the Holy Scripture has the same effect in the vulgar tongue as in Latin; wherefore they only worship in the vulgar tongue - also, they know by heart the text of the New Testament and a great part of the Old - also, they reject the Decretals and Decrees and sayings and expositions of the Fathers and adhere only to the biblical text - also, they despise excommunication and care nothing from priestly absolution - also, they reject the indulgences of the church, deride its dispensations - also, they despise canonizations, laugh at the legends of the saints, and pray to no saint, but God alone. They despise the relics of the saints - they consider the cross as mere wood - also, they abhor the sign of the cross on account of the suffering Christ underwent on it; nor do they ever sign themselves - also they say that the doctrine of Christ and the Apostles is sufficient for salvation without the statutes of the church - that the tradition of the church is the tradition of the Pharisees; and that the Church of Rome considers transgressions of human tradition more deplorable than the transgression of a divine law: Matt. 15.

THE WALDENSES CONDEMN IMAGE WORSHIP, MASSES FOR THE DEAD, PURGATORY, CHRISTMAS,
EASTER, SAINTS' FEAST DAYS
THEY REJOICE IN INTERDICTS AS OPPORTUNITIES TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

"As to the third point, observe that with respect to the customs of the Church, they hold these errors. All the approved customs of the Church of which they do not read in the Gospel they despise: Candlemas, Palm Sunday, the reconciliation of penitents, the adoration of the cross on Good Friday, the festival of Easter. They despise the feasts of Christ and of the saints because of the great number of them, and say that one day is like another - also, they do not keep the fasts of the church - also, all consecrations of candles, meats, palms, chrism, fire, wax, the Agnus Dei, of holy places, of holy persons, garments, salt, water. They deride the church built with walls and look upon it as a barn, calling it 'a heap of stones,' and say that God does not dwell there: Acts 17: 'God dwelleth not in the temples made with hands,' and that prayers made there are of no more avail than those made in a chamber: Matt. 6. They say that the decoration of the church is a sin and that it would be better to clothe the poor than to ornament walls; that Christ did not give his disciples stoles, nor scarves, nor surplices - also, they consecrate in a common drinking vessel instead of a chalice - also, they say that the cloth which covers the host is no more holy than the cloth of their breeches. They reprobate censuring; they say that holy water is like common water; images and pictures they call idolatrous. They reject the festive processions like Easter, and the mournful ones like the Rogation days and funeral processions. They claim that chanting day and night was instituted by Gregory. They rejoice during an interdict because at that time they seduce many. They say that men are compelled to go to church for the sake of lucre; and they also attend in a hypocritical manner: offer, confess, communicate, and make pilgrimages, but all hypocritically."

THE WALDENSES UNDERSTOOD ONLY THE ELECT ENTER HEAVEN

"They despise the [supposed] sepulchre of Christ and the sepulchres of saints - also, they reprobate the ecclesiastical burial: Matt. 23: 'Woe unto you that build sepulchres.' Also, they say the offices for the dead, the mass for the defunct, oblations for funerals, visitations of sepulchres, reading vigils and other sufferages do not profit the souls of the dead. All these errors they hold because they deny Purgatory, saying there are only two ways - namely, one way, of the elect, to heaven, the other, of the damned, to hell: 'Where the tree falls there it shall be.' They also say that every sin is mortal, and none venial; and that one *Pater Noster* ['Our Father'] is more efficacious than the sound of ten bells, and more than the Mass. They say that every oath is a sin: 'Swear not at all; let your communication be yea, yea, nay, nay' - for the perfect among them [i.e., ministers] would rather die than swear; but the imperfect swear if compelled to do it. They consider him who compels anyone to swear as worse than a murderer, as likewise he that confirms, because he exacts an oath from the one confirmed. The same holds true for an inquisitor who examines one's faith, and a priest who compels anyone to abjure his sins whereby many are perjured. They say that malefactors are not to be condemned [to death], as it is written: 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay.'" [8]

By now the reader should have a strong sense of the Protestant biblical faith adhered to by the Waldenses. Their wisdom and knowledge of spiritual matters was such that they were able to reprove the multitudinous errors employed by the Catholic Church, giving proof texts explaining why they were in error. For this the Waldenses were persecuted and massacred. Regrettably, the Body of Christ today is clueless as to the many God-dishonoring doctrines and practices still held by the Church of Rome. This huge lack of knowledge is resulting in an ecumenical bridge being built by Church leaders that will undoubtedly lead to reunification with the Roman Catholic Church and persecution for those who separate.

THE TESTIMONY OF RAINERIUS AS TO THE MORALS OF THE WALDENSES AND OTHER 'HERETICS' PROVE THEIR CHRISTIAN PROFESSION

"Heretics are distinguished by their manners and their words, for they are sedate and modest in their manners. They have no pride in clothes, for they wear such as are neither costly, nor mean. They do not own businesses in order to avoid falsehoods, oaths and frauds, but only live by labor, as workmen. Their teachers also are shoemakers and weavers. They do not multiply riches, but are content with what is necessary. They are chaste, especially the Leonists. They are also temperate in meat and drink. They do not go to taverns, dances, or other vanities. They restrain themselves from anger, they are always at work, learning or teaching, and so they pray but little. They also go to Church to hear sermons, but only hypocritically, that they may catch the preacher in his discourse."

"They may also be known by the precision and moderation of their language. They abstain from course language, slander, gossip, and joking conversation; also lying and swearing. Neither do they say 'verily' or 'truly' and the like, because they consider these as oaths. Thus, they say 'yea, yea, and nay nay.' They frequently give indirect answers to questions. If, for instance, they are asked, 'Do you know the Gospel or the Epistles?', they answer, 'Who should have taught me those things?' or they say, 'Persons of great and profound understanding, or those who have leisure, and ability for it, ought to

know such things as these.'"

INQUISITOR RAINERIUS DESCRIBES HOW THE WALDENSES EVANGELIZE

Chapter 8. "The heretics craftily devise how they may introduce themselves to the acquaintance of the noble and the great; and they do it in the following manner: they exhibit to gentlemen and ladies, some kind of tempting wares for sale, such as rings and kerchiefs. Having sold these, if the heretic is asked, 'Have you anything more to sell?', he answers, 'I have more precious gems than these. I will give them to you, if you will satisfy me, that you will not betray me to the clergy.' Having received assurance, he says, 'I have a brilliant gem from God, whereby man may have the knowledge of God. I have another which shines so, that it kindles the love of God in the heart of him who possesses it.' He speaks of gems metaphorically. After that he recites some devout chapter, such as Luke: 'The Angel Gabriel was sent', & etc. - or from John's discourse, John 13: 'Now before the feast,' & etc. When the heretic has begun to interest his hearer, he adds Matt. 23: 'in Moses' seat', & etc.; also, 'Woe unto you who have taken away the key of knowledge, ye enter not in yourselves and ye forbid others to enter;' and that of Mark 12: 'Woe unto you who devour widows' houses.' When asked by his hearer to whom he is referring, he answers, 'The [Roman Catholic] clergy and the monks.'"

WALDENSES USE DISPARITIES BETWEEN THEIR FRUIT AND THE FRUIT OF CATHOLICISM

"After this the heretic draws a comparison between the behavior of the Romish Church and those of his sect, saying thus: 'The Doctors of the Romish Church are proud in their dress and carriage', Matt. 23: 'They love the chief seats, and seek to be called Rabbi by men' - and Rabbis such as these we do not desire to have. Also, the priests are incontinent, but each of us has his wife and lives chastely with her. The priests are rich and covetous, to whom it is said, 'Woe unto you rich, for ye have received your consolation'; but we are content with what food we have and the clothes which cover us. Also, the Catholic priests, who have sensual desires, are those to whom it is said, 'Woe unto you who devour widows' houses', we, however, live by humble means. In addition, the priests fight and make wars, and command the poor to be killed and burned [Cf. Rev.13], to whom it is said, 'He that taketh the sword shall perish by the sword.' [A direct allusion to the Pope as the 1st Beast, Antichrist, and the Bishop as the 2nd beast, the false prophet.] We, however, do suffer persecution from the Roman Church for righteousness' sake. [Note who the persecuted is and who the persecutor is.] Additionally, the priesthood eats the bread of idleness, doing nothing; but we work with our hands. They wish to be the only authorized teachers, but to them it is said: 'Woe unto you that have taken away the key of knowledge'; among us women teach as well as men; and a disciple of seven days instructs another. Also, there is hardly a teacher among them who knows by heart three connected chapters of the New Testament, but among us there is scarcely a man or a woman who cannot repeat the text in the vulgar tongue."

WALDENSE 'HERETICS' ACCUSE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BEING THE CHURCH OF THE LOST, KILLING THE SAINTS, AND SENDING THE FAITHFULS' SOULS TO HELL

"And because we have the true faith of Christ [Cf. Rev.14:12], and all teach a holy life and doctrine, the papal Scribes and Pharisees persecute us, without cause, to the death, as they did Christ. Moreover, the priests say and do not, binding heavy burdens on men's shoulders, but do not move them with their finger; but we practice what we preach and teach. Also, the priests are more concerned in

compelling the observance of the traditions of men, than they are the commandments of God - such as fasts, festivals, going to Mass, and many other things which are all of human institution - but we only persuade men to keep the doctrine of Christ, and the Apostles [sola Scriptura]. Furthermore, we transmit souls, at death, to heaven, while they send almost all souls to hell.

"Having stated these and other points, the heretic says, 'Consider which state and which faith is the more perfect [i.e., biblical] - ours or that of the Church of Rome - and make choice of it.' And thus the proselyte is turned away from the Catholic faith, being seduced by their errors; and thus, as a believer of them, a receiver, a favorer, and defender, and hiding him for several months, he learns their doctrine in his own house." [9]

We see in the foregoing passages the uncompromising method of evangelizing used by the Waldenses. They not only gave the lost the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Christ, but they warned of the eternal danger to one's soul inherent in the Roman Catholic Church's traditions, priesthood, sacraments, doctrines, and fruit. To further amplify the extreme disparity between the faith of the Waldenses and the faith of today's professing evangelicals we must reprint the Waldensian treatise which teaches how one may identify Antichrist:

THE WALDENSIAN *TREATISE ON ANTICHRIST*

"Antichrist is the falsehood doomed to eternal damnation. covered with the appearance of the truth and righteousness of Christ and His spouse, yet opposed to the way of truth, righteousness, faith, hope, and charity. The same is true of the moral life of its priests and to the truth they dispense, for they are false apostles, being upheld by the power of two swords: secular and ecclesiastical. Antichrist is a deceit which hides the substantial truth of salvation in its liturgy, cleverly disguised as Christian, yet opposed to Christ and His Spouse, the Church, including every faithful member in it.

"Thus, in a general sense, it is not any particular person, holding a particular office or ministry, but is the lie itself, opposed to the truth, yet appearing to be of the truth: adorning itself outwardly with the piety and beauty of Christ's Church, of Christ Himself, His name, offices, scriptures, sacraments. The lawlessness of this system - with its hierarchy of priests whose hearts are blinded and evil - such a congregation taken together is called Antichrist, or Babylon, or the Fourth Beast, or the Harlot, or the Man of Sin, the Son of Perdition. His ministers are called false prophets, lying teachers, ministers of darkness, the spirit of error, the Whore of Revelation, the Mother of Fornication, clouds without water, dead autumn trees rooted up twice, foaming waves of a cruel sea, wandering stars, Baalamites and Egyptians.

"It is called Antichrist because being covered and adorned with the semblance of Christ, His Church, and His faithful members, it opposes itself to the salvation wrought by Christ...Antichrist could not come in anywise, but all these forementioned things must needs meet together to constitute the hypocritical lie in its fulness: the worldly wisemen, the religious orders, the Pharisees, priests, theologians, the secular power and world joined together. By doing so all of them in their totality comprise the Man of Sin and error perfectly...According to the Apostle we may truly say, This is that man of sin perfected, that lifts himself up against all that is called God, shewing forth himself as if he

were God, being come with all manner of deceivableness for those that perish. And since he is truly come, he must no longer be looked for; for he is already grown into manhood by God's decree."

THE EIGHT WORKS OF ANTICHRIST WHICH IDENTIFY HIM

1. "His first work is that the service of *latría*, worship properly due God alone, Antichrist perverts unto himself, to his works, and to the poor creature, rational and irrational, sensible or insensible; as, for example, worship given male or female saints departed from this life, including worship given to their images, bones or relics. Antichrist's works are seen in his sacraments, especially that of the Eucharist which he worships equally as God and Christ; and he worships things he blesses and consecrates, forbidding the adoration of God alone.

2. "His second work is that he robs and deprives Christ of the merits of Christ, which include the whole sufficiency of His grace, righteousness, regeneration, remission of sins, sanctification, confirmation, and spiritual nourishment; by imputing and attributing them to his own authority, to his own doings, or to the saints and their intercession, or to the fire of purgatory. Thus he separates the people from Christ and leads them away by means of those things just mentioned; so that by not seeking the true things of Christ, through Christ alone, they become justified by their own works, without a living faith in God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is the will, work and Gospel preached by Antichrist that man's whole salvation depend upon his works [not on God's grace].

3. "His third work is that he calls dead faith regeneration by the Holy Spirit: baptizing children in that faith and teaching that by the means of water baptism regenerates, creating a living faith. Not only is Antichrist's sacrament of baptism administered to those without a living faith, but so is his sacrament of holy orders and the other sacraments upon which his Christian religion is founded: all of which are opposed to the (sovereign work of the) Holy Spirit.

4. "His fourth work is that he builds his whole religion and the sanctity of his people on his Mass; for by their hearing that alone, he deprives them of true spiritual food.

5. "His fifth work is that he does everything to be seen, and to glut his insatiable avarice.

6. "His sixth work is that he allows manifest sins without ecclesiastical censure and excommunication." [Does the reader sense a feeling of *deja vu*?]

7. "His seventh work is that he defends his unity, not by the Holy Spirit, but by the secular power .

8. "His eighth work is that he hates, persecutes, makes Inquisition after, and robs and puts to death the members of Christ." [Note the clear sense of who is doing what to whom.]

"These are the principle works of Antichrist, whose works cannot all be counted or written. Let it suffice to have pointed out these, by which he covers his lying wickedness."^[10]

Elliott then cites how the Waldenses' reveal the cunning veil 'under which Antichrist hides his intrinsic wickedness':

1. external profession of orthodox faith.
2. alleged antiquity via apostolic succession.
3. the large numbers of his followers; their proof text: Rev. 13:7-8.
4. by pretending miracles; their proof text: 2Thess. 2:9.
5. by external sanctity: prayers, fasts, etc.
6. by quoting Christ, the Church Fathers and Councils.
7. by the administration of the sacraments.
8. by verbal preaching against vices [As the current Pope hypocritically preaches against abortion, and selfish greed that neglects the poor.]
9. by some of the elect, that, like true gold, still remain in Babylon:

"The Elect of God, that desire and do that which is good, are detained there, as in Babylon; and are like unto Gold, wherewith the wicked Antichrist doth cover his Vanity, not suffering them to serve God alone, nor to put all their hope in Christ alone, nor to embrace the true religion."

Elliott proceeds: "Then follows an earnest call from Scripture to come out of Babylon, externally as well as internally, and to unite with the Holy City, Jerusalem":

"Now it is evident, as well in the Old as the New Testament, that a Christian stands bound, by express command given him, to separate himself from Antichrist. For the Lord saith, Isa. 52: Withdraw, withdraw yourselves, go forth thence, touch no unclean thing, go forth from the midst of her; cleanse yourselves, ye that bear the vessels of the Lord."

"Also the Lord commands our separating from Antichrist, joining ourselves with the Holy City, Jerusalem. Therefore, knowing and believing these things - the Lord having revealed them unto us by his servants the prophets, and being admonished by the Lord's commandments - we do mentally, spiritually and physically depart from Antichrist since we most certainly know his identity. Our only goal and purpose is to please the Lord who saved us, having free and righteous fellowship with those who also share the truth of Christ as His Spouse."

Rev. Elliott describes the Waldenses' next statement of evangelic truth as "briefly, but beautifully sketched out; especially Christ's all-sufficient grace and righteousness in opposition to the mock righteousness and idolatries of Antichrist:"

"But there is no other cause of idolatry than a false opinion concerning grace, truth, authority, invocation, and intercession; which this Antichrist has taken away from God in order to ascribe them to ceremonies and authorities, and a man's own works, to saints and purgatory."^[11]

"The recognition of the Romish 'false opinions of grace,' and preservation of the true Augustinian gospel-doctrine of grace and forgiveness throughout the Dark Ages is a fact most observable. Merle well remarks on it, as the *antagonistic principle* which was at length to

introduce the Reformation and shake the whole power of Rome."^[12]

The reader need understand the extreme persecutions the Waldenses underwent, century after century, all well documented historical facts. Forced to seek shelter in the Italian Piedmont valleys, they exemplified the Woman who was given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness to be nourished for time, times, and half a time.^[13] It is at this point in our study that we need ask and answer a disturbing question:

HOW IS IT THE ANCIENT WALDENSES KNEW THE IDENTITY OF ANTICHRIST AND TODAY'S CHRISTIAN IS BAFFLED?

'1-888-ASK HANK' TYPIFIES SHEPHERD MINISTRY LEADING SHEEP ASTRAY

CRI SLEEPING DRUNKEN PROPHET KEN SAMPLES:

“Those who classify Roman Catholicism as a cult (an inauthentic and invalid expression of Christianity) usually also give the Eastern Orthodox church the same classification - What they do not realize, however, is that if both of these religious bodies are non-Christian, then there was no authentic Christian church during most of the medieval period. Contrary to what some Protestants think, there was no independent, nondenominational, Bible-believing church on the corner (or in the caves) during most of the Middle Ages. Additionally, the schismatic groups who were around at the time were grossly heretical.”^[14]

As the unbiased reader will attest, Mr. Samples, the false prophet and teacher chosen by CRI President, Hendrik Hanegraaf, to answer the numerous complaints and questions surrounding the mystery of Roman Catholicism, has lied to the Christian public. Fulfilling 2Thess. 2:11, CRI has believed the Lie: that the Man of Sin is the Man of God, and that the Mother of all Harlots is Holy Mother, the Church. Even the New Catholic Encyclopedia is hard-pressed to convince its readership that the Waldenses were heretics worthy of persecution, torture and execution:

“At the end of the 12th century, the Waldenses were rebuked for usurping the office of preaching and rejecting the authority of unworthy priests [even Catholic scholars admit the depravity of its priesthood], for wearing sandals [now that’s a sin worthy of death!], refusing to take oaths, and for categorically forbidding the killing of any man [another sin worthy of death!]. But contempt for the power of the Church [i.e., refusal to worship the Beast and take his mark], which was the basis of the heresy...”^[15]

CRI AND NUMEROUS OTHER MEGA-MINISTRIES WORSHIP THE BEAST

If there is one horrifying truth this author wishes to impart to his readership, it is that the corrupt and evil tree of Roman Catholicism, and her head, the papal Antichrist, is currently being worshiped by ever-growing numbers of evangelicals who hold positions of authority over the

deluded sheep. To worship is to obey; to obey is to submit; to submit is to serve; and to serve is to worship. CRI, Billy Graham, *Christianity Today*, Pat Robertson, TBN, Ralph Reed and the Christian Coalition, etc., etc., all serve as examples of professing Christians who lack wisdom and understanding. Wisdom and understanding which stems from knowing truth; truth being that which is taught by the Teacher, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, who cannot fail in teaching the elect; the elect, who cannot possibly be deceived by the false prophets of Mystery Babylon (Matt.24:24).

HERE IS WISDOM: COUNT THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST [16]

HERE IS THE MIND WHICH HATH WISDOM: THE SEVEN HEADS ARE SEVEN HILLS[17]

The Holy Spirit has deemed it of paramount importance that the Church be alerted to the identity of Antichrist and Mystery Babylon. Knowing their identity is apparently the apex of wisdom for a saved Christian who is already blessed to know Christ. Otherwise, the Lord would not have inspired St. John to make those statements in the Revelation. The Devil deceives the whole world, i.e., the earth dwellers, into believing the Lie that Catholicism is Christianity and her head is 'one of the most moral and spiritual leaders of this century.' But Christ promises the elect cannot and will not be deceived. He has even told us beforehand (Matt. 24:25). That statement is confirming the prophetic implications of what He just said. In the future, after the days of the Apostles, the non-elect can be and will be deceived into believing Antichrist and his false prophets are orthodox Christians. The elect are not to be amazed at that fact. Lack of wisdom and understanding as to their identity, coupled with a denial of the truth when confronted by God's people, is the fruit of unbelief coming from a tree not planted by the Father. Repentance for teaching lies as truth and embracing the truth when confronted by God's people is the fruit of a good tree. To continue in a state of unrepentance is most serious, indeed. May the reader be granted the wisdom to discern whose fruit is good and whose is evil, who is of God and who isn't, and upon whom God has placed His unchanging love or His unchanging wrath, and may he live his life accordingly.

CHAPTER NINE NOTES:

1. Pope Sylvester of Rome: A.D. 314-337. The point the Waldenses were making is an important one. They are not a new 'heresy,' but have apostolic succession from the time of Emperor Constantine and the founding of the Catholic Church. The 'apostolic' mark is one of the four 'marks' claimed by the Church of Rome. The Waldenses, however, refuted the Church's claim.
2. Maitland, op. cit., pp. 440-42, transl. from *Bibliotheca Patrum*.
3. Elliott, op. cit., vol. 2, p. 375; Cf. Maitland, op. cit., pp. 128-29.
4. Elliott, op. cit., pp. 352ff.
5. Maitland, op. cit., Transl., pp. 192-94.
6. *ibid.*, p. 196.
7. *ibid.*, p. 197-200.
8. *ibid.*, pp. 405-16, Cf. Wakefield and Evans, Martyrs' Mirror.
9. *ibid.*, pp. 433-37.
10. Elliott, Transl., op. cit., vol. 2, pp. 395-96; also small extracts from Froom, op. cit., vol. 1, pp. 880ff., and H. Grattan Guinness, Romanism and the Reformation, transl. by this author.
11. Elliott, op. cit., p. 396.
12. *ibid.*
13. Revelation 12:5, 14.
14. *What Think Ye of Rome?: An Evangelical Appraisal of Contemporary Catholics* (Part Two), Kenneth R. Samples, Christian Research Institute, 1993), p. 3.
15. op. cit., Article, WALDENSES, p. 771.
16. Revelation 13:18.
17. Revelation 17:9.