

## 28 THE LIE BELIEVED (3)

### THE PAPAL MASS AND CONFESSION.

The Lord Jesus's time with His disciples in the Passover room was very moving. Those were the last hours before His terrible suffering. The Saviour spoke very earnestly to His disciples in that room. The Lord Jesus also instituted the Lord's Supper there. Then He took bread, broke it, and said: "Take, eat; this is My body". Then He passed the cup of wine around and said: "This cup is the new covenant in My blood". That same night, one of His disciples betrayed Him.

God's servants regularly serve the Lord's Supper in church. That's what the Lord Jesus commanded. He said: "Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the dark days of persecution, when imperial soldiers often imprisoned Christians and condemned them to death, the Christians celebrated the Lord's Supper every day. The danger of death was all around them. They were not sure of their life from one moment to the next. Each day could be the last for them.

They came together in dark holes and caves, in secret hiding places. The catacombs were great hiding places for the hunted people of God. Beautiful, richly decorated churches? They did not exist yet, and the believers did not desire them either.

But when Constantine the Great stopped the persecutions, the Christians no longer needed to hide in holes and dark caves. What a relief for the heavily afflicted Christians!

They began to build large churches everywhere. They must have been thankful that the Lord had finally given them rest! But regrettably, they soon started a rivalry about who had the most beautiful church. The



*Saint Georges Cathedral, Perth*

buildings became more elegant, more extensive, and more beautiful. Wealthy Christians gave large sums of money for the beautification of the buildings. They brought in beautiful wall paintings and placed costly statues everywhere.

Most people were content with *external* things. Just a sermon was no longer good enough. No, music and song had to make the divine services more attractive.

Isn't it like that these days too? Many people suggest all sorts of things to brighten up the church services.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF THE PAPAL MASS

In the previous chapters, we learned how all kinds of dreadful errors had gradually crept into the church, and the people believed them!

The way they celebrated the Lord's Supper also changed. They declared that every time the priest served Holy Communion, he sacrificed the Lord Jesus. The church, which departed more and more from the purity of the doctrine, turned the Lord's Supper into a *sacrifice* for the *masses*.

"For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

Heb. 10:14

Sacrifice?  
The *Old* Testament priests did that.

So, the office of the priest came back into the churches.

In the Old Testament, the priests sacrificed on an altar.

So, the altars came back into the churches.

We read in God's Word: "For by *one* offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." (Heb. 10:14). That means that the Lord Jesus offered Himself for His people on the cross. But when He could finally cry out: "It is finished!" it *was* finished. Nobody needed to add anything to that. Then the Lord Jesus had *fully* and *perfectly* paid for the sins of all His elect. But sadly, the church rejected the pure foundation of the truth.

They taught that the work of redemption was not yet complete.

They taught that when the priest blessed the bread, that bread changed into the flesh of the Lord Jesus.

They taught that when the priest blessed the cup of wine, that wine changed into the Saviour's blood!

The people believed all those lies. The Roman Catholic Church still teaches these lies.

Thankfully, we may know better. When the Lord Jesus says: 'This is My body!' He means: 'This bread *signifies* My body.'

The Roman Catholic priests said:

"No way! That's not true. The Lord Jesus says: 'This is My body!' That's why the bread and wine change into the flesh and blood of the Lord Jesus."

When you break bread, crumbs can fall on the floor. The priests said: "Oh, that's not allowed, for then something of the body of Christ is lost."

That's why the clergy told the gullible people to bake breadcakes. They called those breadcakes



*Pope Francis delivers mass. Euronews*



*Lady receiving wafer from a priest.*

<https://www.newliturgicalmovement.org/>

*wafers*. They did not need to break those wafers. But the Lord Jesus *did* break the bread as a sign and seal that His body would also be broken. Note that the *bones* of the Lord Jesus were not broken, but His *body* was broken. This means that He gave His life for His people.

When the priest had blessed a wafer, they called it "The Host." This naming means that every wafer supposedly became a piece of the Saviours' flesh. After the priest had pronounced the blessing, he took a little bell, the so-called altar bell, and rang it. Then the whole congregation knelt in adoration to worship the body of Christ.

Those poor people knew no better. They did not kneel before the body of Christ but before a few pieces of bread. It is a lie, a *big lie*, that those wafers changed into the flesh of Christ. The body of Christ is not on earth but has ascended to heaven, and there He sits at the right hand of God His Father till He returns on the clouds of heaven.

But the people believed that big lie.

Regrettably so.

That's how the Lord's Supper gradually changed into the papal mass. That was a terrible thing!

Do you know what our Catechism says about that? Just read question and answer 80. There we read that the papal mass is *an accursed idolatry*. We may never forget that description. The church wandered even further from the truth. All those who occupied an office in the church they called "clergy", and all other people, such as builders, bakers, carpenters, etc., were called "laymen."

The Lord Jesus had said: "Drink you *all* of it."



*Pope Francis holding the cup of blessing. Reuter*

The priests said:

"Oh, no, that is not allowed because someone might accidentally spill a drop of wine, which means they were spilling a drop of blood of the Lord Jesus."

So the priest became the only one permitted to drink from the cup. The "laymen" were *not* to receive the cup of the Lord. They were only allowed to have a wafer placed on their tongue. All those lies clearly contradict the Word of the Lord, and that's why the papal mass is *no longer* the Lord's Supper.

## CONFESSION

I must tell you about one other error. It is about the confession.

The confession?

What's that?

Listen!

In James 5:16, we read: "Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one another." So when someone has sinned *publicly*, he must make a public confession before the congregation. You may have seen that done in a church service.

Imagine that the police caught someone stealing, making it public, and everyone speaks unfavourably about it. Then such a man or woman must publicly confess that sin. It has become a public sin.

But how many sins don't we commit that are *not* public?

What ugly, wicked thoughts sometimes arise deep inside us? How many sins are committed in secret, by men and women, boys and girls, which no one knows except God alone?

Must we go and tell all those secret sins to others?

No, that is what we may *not* do. What should we do then?

We must admit those secret sins to *God* but not to each other. When we kneel in prayer in the evening, we must confess our sins to the Lord and ask Him to forgive them.

But the priests said:

"No, that is wrong. You must tell all your secret sins to the priest, and then the priest will forgive them in the Name of God."

That act of telling all those secret sins to the priest is called 'confession'. The Roman Catholic Church still upholds that custom. All Roman Catholic Church buildings have built little enclosed places called 'confessionals'. In those little rooms, the people confess their sins to the priest, who forgives them.

But we know that *that* is a lie. The *priest* cannot forgive sins; only *God* can do that.

Gradually an additional custom was introduced to make the people 'pay' for their sins to be forgiven.

We could say more about 'confession' but will do so in another chapter.



*Confession. Painting by Giuseppe Molteni, 1838.*



## QUESTIONS

1. What did Christ mean when He said: "Take, eat, this is My body"?
2. What did Christ mean when He said: "This cup is the New Testament in My blood"?
3. Why did the early church celebrate the Lord's Supper daily?
4. How does the mass deny the one sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the cross?
5. Why does the mass use the wafer instead of ordinary bread?
6. What is another name for the wafer?
7. Why is it impossible for Christ's body to be present in the mass?
8. Why is the mass called an 'accursed idolatry'? See question 80 of the Heidelberg Catechism.
9. Why is the priest the only one allowed to drink the wine?
10. Can you prove this practice wrong from God's Word?
11. What is 'confession' in the Roman Catholic Church?
12. Why is this error so serious?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. What Jewish feast did the Lord's Supper replace?
2. The Jewish feast mentioned above included the shedding of blood. Why did this end in the New Testament church?
3. What are some additions to the regular, basic church service often added by various denominations today?
4. What are the dangers of such additions?



*A Jesuite at the confessional.*

<https://nikolaassintobin.blogspot.com/>

### What is Roman Catholic confession about?

Sins committed after Baptism are forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance. For those who have committed mortal sin, this Sacrament is necessary to be reconciled with God and the Church.

What can a person expect when they go to confession? They will be greeted by the priest, who will usually read from Scripture. The person confesses their sins; the priest may offer encouragement or guidance for the person's moral and spiritual growth. The priest gives a penance and asks the person to say an act of contrition. Then the priest, representing Christ, grants absolution.