



"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone
who asks you for a reason for your hope"
1 Peter 3:15

The Anti-Catholic Bible – Part II

The Anti-Catholic Bible

As we discussed in **Part I**, **Lorraine Boettner** was a member of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in the first part of the 20th century – and an anti-Catholic of the highest order. In 1962, he wrote a book called “**Roman Catholicism**”, which quickly became **THE** authoritative source for Protestant clergy regarding all things Catholic. The problem is that **MOST** of it is simply false.

The following list of “Catholic Inventions” is taken right out of Boettner’s deeply flawed and defamatory book. He plays fast and loose with the facts and dates in his vilifying diatribe against the Church.

It’s disturbing that in this day of so much available information, many non-Catholic groups *still* use this bogus list to find fault with the Catholic Church – never investigating the fact that most of its claims are patently false, petty and embarrassingly ignorant. This list or variations of it can be found on many anti-Catholic websites and literature.

The Anti-Catholic Bible (*cont'd*)

Boettner wanted to cast a negative light on the disciplines introduced by the Catholic Church and doctrines declared. He wanted to show that they were nothing more than man-made "*inventions*" because they were not explicitly taught in the Bible. As you will see, he was dead wrong. The doctrinal and dogmatic decrees made by the Church are Scripturally-based while other matters of discipline were declared to accommodate the needs of the growing worldwide Church.

Aside from Boettner's attacks being false, it is interesting to note that Protestants have also added some of their **own** traditions such as altar calls, individual interpretation of Scripture, the withholding of baptism from infants and Sola Scriptura that have no basis in Scripture.

23. Celibacy of the priesthood, decreed by pope Gregory VII – 1079

“Why does this bother Boettner? Nobody is asking *him* to be celibate. What Boettner, and others who are threatened by the idea of priestly celibacy need to remember is that this is a **discipline** – *not* a doctrine - nor, is it unbiblical.

Some of the Apostles themselves were said to be married, including St. Peter. But, this doesn't detract from the discipline of priestly celibacy that St. Paul recommended in **1 Cor. 7:7–9, 28, 32–33**. In those verses he states that celibacy was a more perfect state because the married man is anxious about worldly affairs and how to please his wife, whereas the celibate man (*himself included*) could focus on how to please the Lord.

Many of the Early Fathers, including **Tertullian, Origen, Eusebius,** and **Epiphanius** also favored celibacy. But at the local **Council of Elvira (Spain) (295-302 AD)** celibacy was first imposed on bishops, priests, and deacons. The bottom line is that ***nobody*** is forced to become a priest, ergo, no Catholic is forced to be celibate. Those who enter the religious life know very well in advance that this discipline is expected of them.

24. The Rosary, mechanical praying with beads, invented by Peter the Hermit – 1090

What is “*mechanical*” prayer? Does he mean “*robotic*” or is it just another term to infuse the reader with disdain for the Church?

The Rosary is anything but “mechanical”. It is a Biblically-based intercessory prayer that reflects on various events in the life of Christ. Secondly, its origin is traditionally associated with St. Dominic and was not “invented” by Peter the Hermit. Lastly, the anti-Catholic will usually point to **Matthew 6:5-6** where Jesus condemns repetitious prayer. However, the Rosary does not fall into that category because Jesus was deriding the pagan practice of babbling prayer.

One example of this can be found in **1 Kings 18:26-29** where the pagan prophets on Mount Carmel tried to invoke Baal all day long, repeatedly calling on his name and performing ritual dances. Jesus *wasn't* condemning all repetitious prayer as He Himself engaged in repetitive prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane when he prayed the same prayer **three times** in a row (**Matt. 26:39-44**). Those in heaven would also be guilty of this because, as **Rev. 4:8** tells us, they repeat the same thing without ceasing day and night.

25 - The Inquisition, instituted by the Council of Verona - 1184

There was a Council of Verona? Perhaps, Boettner meant, *Synod* of Verona.

Gregory IX established the first Papal Inquisition in 1233 to investigate the Waldensian heresy as well as the and Albigensian heresy. The Synod of Vereona called for severe measures against the Waldensians, Cathari and Arnoldists and was a joint effort of both Pope Lucius III and Emperor Frederick I; however, it was *hardly* an Inquisition, as Boettner asserts.

Sale of Indulgences - 1190

Indulgences have never been “sold” by the Church. This is one of those urban myths that has grown over time – with the help of people like Boettner and other anti-Catholics. In fact, the Council of Trent issued some severe reforms regarding the practice of granting indulgences.

Because of previous abuses by some individuals, *“in 1567 Pope Pius V canceled all grants of indulgences involving any fees or other financial transactions” (Catholic Encyclopedia)*. This illustrated the Church’s seriousness about stopping abuses from indulgences. This fictitious date of **1190** only serves to further expose Boettner’s bogus list.

27. Transubstantiation, proclaimed by pope Innocent III - 1215

This is complete nonsense.

This is one of the most deceitful claims on Boettner's list. A declaration or decree of a Christian belief does **NOT** mean that it was "*invented*" at that particular time. If that were so, ALL of the creeds would be considered, "*inventions*".

The belief in Transubstantiation is derived from **John 6**, where Jesus instructed his disciples to eat his flesh and drink his blood. At the Last Supper, he showed them the *means* by which this was to be done (with bread and wine

In **1 Corinthians 11:27-29**, St. Paul warns us:

"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord." A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself."

That's a pretty harsh warning – *if* it were only a symbol as most non-Catholics believe, which it is *not*.

As for Transubstantiation - the only thing “new” about at the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 was the term assigned to what was always believed - **“Transubstantiation”**. As for the word itself, it was first used by the theologians **Magister Roland** about **1150**, **Stephen of Tournai** about **1160**, and **Peter Comestor** about **1170**.

We see that the Early Church *vehemently* believed in this doctrine in the writings of the Fathers, such as **Ignatius of Antioch**, a student of **John the Apostle**, when speaking of the heretics who rejected this belief:

“They abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, flesh which suffered for our sins and which that Father, in his goodness, raised up again. They who deny the gift of God are perishing in their disputes. (Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Smyrnaeans 6:2-7:1 [A.D. 110]).”

At the beginning of the 3rd Century, Tertullian wrote *“He took bread, offered it to His disciples and made it into His body by saying, ‘This is My body’”* (Against Marcion 212 AD).

About 140 years later, **Cyril of Jerusalem** wrote, *“Once at Cana in Galilee by a mere nod He changed water into wine; should it now be incredible that He changes wine into blood?”* (Catechetical Lectures [Mystagogic], 350 AD) [55].

28. Auricular (out loud) Confession of sins to a priest instead of to God, instituted by pope Innocent III in Lateral council – 1215

Oh, *really?* Well, the Bible shows that this is a doctrine that goes all the way back to the beginning.

First of all, Jesus gave the Church the authority to forgive or retain sins – and that this would be upheld on earth and in heaven (***Matt. 16:15, Matt. 18: 15-18, John 20:21-23***). **2 Cor. 5:18-20** explicitly refers to the sacrament of Reconciliation:

“And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

Similarly, **2 Cor. 2:10-11** states:

“Whomever you forgive anything, so do I. For indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for you in the presence of Christ, so that we might not be taken advantage of by Satan, for we are not unaware of his purposes.”

In about 244, Origen speaks of the sinner who “*does not shrink from declaring his sin to a priest of the Lord*”. A few years later, Cyprian of Carthage stated, “*Finally, of how much greater faith and more salutary fear are they who...confess to the priests of God in a straightforward manner and in sorrow, making an open declaration of conscience.*” (C&F p.43)

Again, the anti-Catholic *refuses* to understand that simply because something is declared or reiterated, it does **NOT** mean that it wasn't a practice of the Early Church. It is something that is being officially declared usually because of a controversy or heresy. A perfect example of this is the doctrine of the Hypostatic Union of Jesus, declared at the 1st Council of Ephesus in 431. 1215, *indeed...*

29. Adoration of the wafer (Host), decreed by pope Honorius III - 1220

This claim is almost comical, if not so tragically ignorant. It implies that Catholics worship a piece of bread and a cup of wine. This is misleading and dishonest. We worship Jesus and believe that the bread and wine are transformed into his body and blood. From the earliest writings of the Church we see the Eucharist was believed to be the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Again, at the beginning of the 2nd century, **Ignatius of Antioch** – student of St. John the Apostle, wrote about the heretics of his time who rejected this belief: *“They (**the heretics**) abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, flesh which suffered for our sins and which that Father, in his goodness, raised up again. They who deny the gift of God are perishing in their disputes (**Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Smyrnaeans 6:2-7:1 [A.D. 110]**).”*

In his ***Epistle to the Romans*** (110 AD), he wrote *“I have no taste for corruptible food nor for the pleasures of this life. I desire the Bread of God, which is the Flesh of Jesus Christ...and for drink I desire His Blood” [59].*

Contrary to what many Protestants believe – the Eucharist is by no means a mere symbol. Jesus Himself declared it to be His Flesh and Blood (***Matt. 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:19-20, John 6:51-58***).

30. Bible forbidden to laymen, placed on the Index of Forbidden books by the Council of Valencia - 1229

First of all – there has **NEVER** been a Council of Valencia (Spain). Even if there HAD been one – it couldn’t have occurred in 1229 because Spain was under the control of the Muslims at the time.

The only prohibitions against owning Bible was due to the fact that some people who were wealthy and educated enough to own one were having unauthorized and spurious translations made that were causing all sorts of doctrinal confusion. isn't.

MOST people (85-90%) were functionally illiterate and wouldn't have been able to read one anyway. Also, since they were handwritten, they were extremely expensive and difficult to come by. This entire objection by Boettner is just another fairy tale.

31. The Scapular, invented by Simon Stock, and English monk - 1251

Actually, Boettner got this one *right* – for a change.

HOWEVER, since Simon Stock's vision was a matter of **private revelation** - no Catholic is required to believe it or develop a devotion towards it. So, what Boettner tries to pass off as "Catholic doctrine" simply isn't.

32. Cup forbidden to the people at communion by Council of Constance – 1414

Once again, Boettner has his dates confused.

Actually – the Church had placed restrictions on receiving the Eucharist under one species LONG before Boettner’s date of 1414. In the **2nd** century at the **Council of Laodicea** and in the **7TH** century at the **Council of Trullo**, the laity was limited to receiving under one species during Lent. This was due largely to abuses with the Precious Blood and the fear of spillage.

At any rate – it was about **1000** years **BEFORE** Boettner’s invented date of 1414 . . .

33. Purgatory proclaimed as a dogma by the Council of Florence - 1439

The concept of a Final Purification pre-dates the Catholic Church (**2 Macc. 42-46, Matt. 5:25-26, Matt. 12:32, Matt. 18:32-35, Luke 12:58-59, 1 Cor. 3:12-15**). The actual doctrine has been written about since the **2nd century**.

At the Council of Florence, the Bishops merely *defined* the doctrine – they didn’t **invent**” it.

34. The doctrine of the seven sacraments affirmed – 1439

Once again, Boettner plays fast and loose with the facts.

Seven sacraments are mentioned in the early to mid **12th** century by **Peter Lombardin** the fourth **Book of Sentences**. Again, seven sacraments are spoken by **Otto of Bamberg** in **1139**, at the **Council of London** in **1237**, and at the **Council of Lyons** in **1274**, . ALL of these instances pre-date Florence by about **300** years.

35. The Ave Maria (part of the last half was completed 50 years later and approved by pope Sixtus V at the end of the 16th century) - 1508

Rubbish.

Any amateur Bible student knows that the entire first half of the Hail Mary is taken directly from Scripture (**Luke 1:28, Luke 1:42**).

The entire prayer as we know it today first appeared in the “**Calendar of Shepherds**”, published in France. It was also written in a book around the same time by **Girolamo Savanarola**. This means that Boettner is ff by about **15** years for the second half of the prayer and about **1450** years off on the first half . . .

36. Jesuit order founded by Loyola – 1534

Whereas Ignatius Loyola indeed founded the Society of Jesus in 1534, why Boettner feels that this is a heretical or doctrinal matter is beyond understanding. He never mentions other orders such as the Dominicans, Franciscans or Benedictines – so why only the Jesuits?

Boettner's *own* Calvinist denomination wasn't formed until **1536** – so why isn't *this* an issue?

37. Tradition declared of equal authority with the Bible by the Council of Trent - 1545

This is about as bogus as it gets.

All we have to do is to open our Bibles to the following passages to read where St. Paul admonishes us about the importance of Oral Tradition (**1 Cor. 11:2, 2 Thess. 3:6**). As a matter of fact, he **EQUATES** Tradition with Scripture in **2 Thess. 2:15**.

Once again – all Trent did was to *affirm* the Apostolic teaching on Scripture and Tradition that is clearly spelled out in Scripture.

Apocryphal books added to the Bible by the Council of Trent – 1546

This is complete and utter *fiction*.

During a period of **37** years at the end of the 4th and the turn of the **5th century**, the Canon of Scripture was formally declared and confirmed **FIVE times**. It is the ***same*** canon of Scripture that was around during the **Protestant Revolt** and that is ***still*** in use today by the Catholic Church. It was during the so-called **Reformation** and subsequent periods that **rebellious**, prideful men had problems with the canon and decided that some of the books were uninspired. **Luther** wanted to **remove** several books including **Hebrews, James, Jude** and **Revelation**. **Calvin** and **Zwingli** did not believe Revelation to be inspired and wanted to remove it as well.

- The **Synod of Rome (382)** is where the canon was first formally identified.
- It was confirmed at the **Synod of Hippo** eleven years later (**393**).
- At the **Council (or Synod) of Carthage (397)**, it was yet again confirmed. The bishops wrote at the end of their document, "***But let Church beyond sea (Rome) be consulted about confirming this canon***". There were 44 bishops, including St. Augustine who signed the document.
- **7** years later, in **405**, in a letter from **Pope Innocent I to Exsuperius**, Bishop of Toulouse, he reiterated the canon.
- 14 years after that, at the **2nd Council (Synod) of Carthage (419)** the canon was again formally confirmed.

The Canon of Scripture was officially **closed** at the Council of Trent in the 16th century because of the *perversions* happening within **Protestantism** and the random **editing** and **deleting** of books from the Canon. The Council did not “**add**” anything that was not already in the Canon from **1200** years before.

39. Creed of pope Pius IV imposed as the official creed - 1560

In the Catholic Church, there are **THREE** Creeds used: The **Apostle's Creed**, dating back to Tertullian; the **Nicene Creed**, from the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD; and the **Athanasian Creed**, from the 4th century.

This "**Creed of Pius IV**" that Boettner mentions was never an actual creed. It was an oath of adherence to Catholic doctrine that was required of all in ecclesiastical office. Pius IV wrote the bull **Injunctum Nobis** which contained a list of Catholic doctrines which candidates for office in the Church had to swear to. It was issued in **1565**, not **1560**, as Boettner falsely asserts.

T40. Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, proclaimed by pope Pius IX - 1854

Uhhhh, actually – this had been taught about **1400** years **PRIOR** to it being officially defined.

We first read about the **Immaculate Conception** of Mary at least as far back as the writings of **St. Ephraim of Nisbis** in 370 AD. He wrote that Mary was "**immune from all stain...no spot...nor any taint**" could be found in her. Various other Patristic Fathers also described Mary in like terms. **St. Ambrose** said she was "**free from all stain of sin**". **Severus of Antioch** said she was "**pure from all taint**". **Sophronius of Jerusalem** called her "**pre-purified**". **Andrew of Crete** called her the "**pure and Immaculate Virgin**". **Theognastes of Constantinople** said she was "**conceived by a sanctifying action**".

What Boettner always seems to omit is the fact that simply because a doctrine is defined at a certain time does **NOT** mean that it hadn't already been taught for a **LONG** time. A perfect example of this is the doctrine of the **Trinity** which was first defined at the Council of Nicaea in **325 AD**. However, it is a **foundational** belief of Christianity.

41. Syllabus of Errors, proclaimed by pope Pius IX, and ratified by the Vatican Council; condemned freedom of religion, conscience, speech, press, and scientific discoveries which are disapproved by the Roman Church; asserted the pope's temporal authority over all civil rulers – 1864

This is absolutely false.

The Syllabus of Pius IX was actually very controversial for its time when it was released in 1864. It was condemned by Germany's Bismarck and Italy's Victor Emmanuel and its publication was forbidden in Russia and France. It was perceived by many as a Papal declaration of war against the modern state.

The document, however, simply contains a list of erroneous opinions, according to Catholic teaching. Some of them include the idea that there is no God (#1), that Jesus Christ is a myth (#7), that all religions are equally legitimate (#16), that the Church does not have the right to own property (#26), that bishops cannot publish letters to their congregations without the permission of the state (#28), that the state can intrude on governing the Church including the specification of how the sacraments are to be administered (#44), that the Church doesn't have the right to establish schools; that even seminaries are to be subject to the state (#46 and 47), and that the state has the right to appoint and depose bishops, and to prevent them from communicating with the Vatican (#49 and 51).

The Syllabus was a declaration of freedom of religion and freedom from state interference. Today, Pius IX would be considered a civil rights *hero* for standing up for the rights of not only Catholics – but ALL Christians. As usual, Boettner created an issue where there was none.

42. Infallibility of the pope in matters of faith and morals, proclaimed by the Vatican Council - 1870

We read about the concept of Papal Authority and Infallibility as far back as the *Letter of Clement (80 AD)*. In this letter to the Corinthians, Clement is adamantly clear that he is to be obeyed. In the 2nd century document, *Against Heresies*, Irenaeus states in no uncertain terms that **ALL** of the churches must obey and conform to the teaching of the Church at Rome.

In his document, *Against the Pelagians*, St. Augustine declares emphatically from a letter from Pope Innocent I: "**Rome's reply has come; the matter is closed.**"

Regardless of what Boettner falsely claims – nothing was “**invented**” in 1870. Papal Infallibility was merely **defined**.

43. Public schools condemned by pope Pius XI – 1930

This is referring to a document issued by the Catechetical Office of the Holy See in 1935 (not 1930, as claimed), entitled "**Provido Sane Consilio: On Better Care for Catechetical Teaching**". It does not condemn public schools. It simply insists that Catholic students in public schools have the rights to receive proper catechesis from the Church, to safeguard them against instruction in the public schools that is hostile to the Catholic Faith.

It was Pius IX taking a stand against the atheistic teaching going on in public schools where, in some nations, the right to Catholic Catechetical instruction was infringed upon or even denied some students all in the name of “political policy”. Once again – today, this would be seen as a battle against civil rights violations but Boettner paints a typically negative picture.

44. Assumption of the Virgin Mary (bodily ascension into heaven shortly after her death), proclaimed by pope Pius XII - 1950

As with other instances where the Church defines a Dogma that has long been taught and believed in – Boettner and the anti-Catholic world see it as a “**new invention**”. Once again, they are wrong.

St. Martin of Tours first wrote explicitly about Mary's bodily Assumption into Heaven in his letter *Libri miraculorum* in **593 AD** – some **1300** years **BEFORE** it was defined. **Germain of Constantinople, Andrew of Crete, and John Damascene**, also wrote about Mary's Assumption. John Damascene mentions in his *Second Homily on the Dormition of Mary* in **745 AD** that Mary's coffin was opened just 3 days after her death which contained nothing but an empty shroud.

45. Mary proclaimed Mother of the Church, by pope Paul VI – 1965

This teaching actually goes back to before the **12th** century. In fact, the earliest writings we have are attributed to **Berengaud of Treves** in **1125 AD**, where Mary is referred to as "**Virgin Mother of the Church**".

Rupert of Deutz (1135) in his *Canticum Canticorum* refers to Mary as the "**Mother of Churches**"; and **Denis the Carthusian (1471)** refers to Mary as "**Mother of the whole Church**". Since then, many others have taught on this, such as **St. Antoninus of Florence, St. Lawrence, St. Peter Canasius, Matthias Scheeben**, and **St. John Bosco** and others.

At any rate – the first mention of this teaching is about **840** years *before* Boettner claims it was "**invented**" . . .

Conclusion . . .

These **45 “heresies and inventions”** as Boettner calls them in his book, ***Roman Catholicism*** developed over time in Church history - as **ALL** doctrines develop. **NONE** of them, however, are “**heretical**” nor were they “**invented**” on the dates listed, as we have examined. This is nothing short of anti-Catholicism in its purest form - and something that we should all be so familiar with that we are able to spot it from a mile away.

As was stated earlier, this is the unofficial “**primary**” source where most Protestant Ministers and Elders get their information about the Catholic Church and its teachings - when they ***should*** be going to the **REAL** primary source, namely the **Catechism**.

Christ’s Church is not a nameless collection of constantly splintering sects teaching different doctrines. This is ***not*** the unity that Jesus prayed so fervently for in **John 17**. The Church is the united Body of Christ. It is the **only** Church instituted by Him and can trace every one of its bishops, doctrines and traditions back to the Early Church of the Bible. Every single Protestant denomination only goes as far back as the 16th century or after.