

We will now begin the fourth lecture on Comparative Religion. /At this time we will criticize the Roman Catholic Church and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

/Chapter 8, The Roman Catholic Church

/The Roman Catholic Church is not quite a heretical church but is much similar to a heretical church. /Therefore, there is the need for us Protestants to understand what is wrong with the Roman Catholic Church.

I. Historical Origin

/There was a pope named Leo I in A.D. 451. /There was a pope named Gregory I in A.D. 590. /At this time, the Roman Catholic Church became the most powerful church in Europe. /The Roman Catholic Church separated itself from the Eastern Orthodoxy Church in 1054.

/The Eastern Orthodoxy Church is also known as the Byzantine Church. /The Roman Catholic Church separated from the Eastern Orthodoxy Church in 1054.

II. Establishment of an Unbiblical Doctrine

/The Roman Catholic Church made up incorrect doctrines annually for many years. /In A.D. 310, it made a system that people should pray for the dead. **/However, according to Acts 4:12 and 1 Timothy 2:5, no one should pray for the dead.**

/In A.D. 375, it made a system of hagiolatry for saints.

/This goes against Revelation 22:8-9. /It created a system called “mass” in A.D. 394. **/Mass is similar to sacrificial rites. /This is not a worship service. /Hebrews 10:12 criticizes the incorrectness of mass.**

/The system of purgatory was made in A.D. 594. **/The idea of purgatory is wrong. /1 John 1:7 and Romans 8:1 says that purgatory is wrong.**

/The pope system was made in A.D. 610. **/This is wrong. Matthew 23:9; Colossians 1:18; /1 Corinthians 3:11. /Jesus is the Head of the Church.**

/In A.D. 709, a ceremony was made in which people kissed the feet of the pope. /In A.D. 788, it created a system of bowing before the cross. **/This is the idolization of the cross.** /The words of dead saints, called the canon, was acknowledged as the Bible in A.D. 955. /In 1079, the fathers were made celibate. **/Matthew 8:14-15, /1 Timothy 3:2. /Celibacy made be a gift from God.**

/In 1090, the people were called to carry rosaries. **/Matthew 6:5.** /In 1190, a system of indulgence was made. **/However, indulgence does not atone for one’s sins. /Hebrews 7:27 /Hebrews 9:12.**

/In 1215, it asserted transubstantiation during the Holy Communion. /Transubstantiation is the assertion that the bread becomes the flesh of Jesus, and the wine becomes the blood of Jesus. **/1 Corinthians 11:26. /According to Scripture, the bread symbolizes the**

flesh of Jesus, /and the wine symbolizes the blood of Jesus. /It is a commemoration of the flesh and blood of Jesus.

/In 1215, the sacrament of penance was made in which the people confessed their sins to the father. /**Psalm 51:1 /1 John 1:8-9 /We must confess our sins to God.**

/In 1229, laymen were kept from reading the Bible. /**Revelation 1:3 tells us to diligently read the Bible.**

/The seven sacraments were created in 1439. /**Baptism and Communion are the only two sacraments in the Bible.** /In 1546, the seven books of the Apocrypha were acknowledged as the Bible. /**Yet, the Bible consists of sixty-six books. /Revelation 22:18-19 /We must not add to or take away from the Bible.**

/In 1854, it claimed, “Mary is without sin.” /**Romans 3:10 /Luke 1:30 /John 2:4-5 /According to these passages, Mary is a sinner. /Mary had strong faith but because she was a sinner, she was saved by faith in Jesus.**

/In 1870 it claimed that the pope was infallible. /**Mark 7:13 /Ephesians 4:12 /We humans are all sinners.**

III. Main Doctrines

/1. The Pope

/① The pope /means “papa,” which means, “father.”

/Criticism: The word “pope” itself is an arrogant word. /The pope cannot be our father. /Matthew 23:9. /Our “Father God” is our Father. /They believe that the pope is the head of the Church, and that the pope is Christ’s representative. /However, the Head of the Church is Jesus. /The representative of the earthly Church is the Holy Spirit. /John 14:26.

/② They say that the pope is without sin. /The fathers bow down flat on the ground before the pope in all respect.

/Criticism: This is wrong. /Historically, there were many wicked men from among the popes. /There were many popes who changed doctrines that were enacted by previous popes. /Some popes told people to read the Bible, and some told people not to read the Bible (Pius VII).

/Johannes XII was a wicked man who committed adultery, murder and perjury in A.D. 936. /Popes fought with one another for power and to become popes. /At one time, there were two popes in office. /Hence, popes sin and make mistakes.

/③ They claim that Peter was the first pope. /They base this on Matthew 16:18.

/Criticism: Jesus said, “On this rock I will build my church.” /Peter’s name is “Petros.” /This is a masculine noun. /“This rock” is “Petra.” /“Petra” is a feminine

noun. /Therefore, this verse does not mean that Jesus would build His church on Peter.

/“This rock” is the truth that Peter recognized and the confession of faith. Matthew 16:16. It means that Jesus would build His church on that truth and confession of faith. /Therefore, it is not right to believe to Peter was the first pope. /Peter was also married. /Peter denied Jesus and worked for Satan. Matthew 16:23.

/2. The Clergy

/Among the offices is the office of “father.”

/Criticism: There is no office in the New Testament of “father.” /Ephesians 4:11 /Jesus made the sacrifice of atonement once and for all. Hebrews 9:12; 10:12. /The father is also called “priest.” /This implies the same office of the priest in the Old Testament. /There is no office of the priest in the New Testament. /Peter also did not call himself a priest, but an elder.

/In the New Testament, all believers are spiritually a royal priesthood. /1 Peter 2:9 / Specific people are not called priests, but all believers become priests.

/3. The Virgin Mary

/① They pray in the name of the Virgin Mary. /They pray on their knees before statues of the Virgin Mary. /They praise Mary. /They say that Mary is omniscient and omnipotent. / They say that Mary is the intercessor or mediator.

/Criticism: Mary cannot be considered more important than Jesus. /The Bible says nothing about worshipping Mary. /The subject of our worship is God alone. /Matthew 4:10 /Acts 1:14 /Mary too received salvation through Jesus. /1 Timothy 2:5 /1 John 2:1.

/② They say that Mary does not have original sin or actual sin. They also say that Mary did not have any other sons besides Jesus. /They say that Mary was a virgin her entire life.

/Criticism: Mary too was a sinner. Luke 1:46; 2:22; Mark 3:20. /Mary had other children after she gave birth to Jesus. /Matthew 12:46 /Matthew 1:25 /John 7:3-5 /They say that Jesus’ siblings were cousin. /However, the Bible clearly says speaks of them as Jesus’ younger siblings.

/4. Purgatory

/① They say that a person goes to four places when he dies. /First, heaven. /Second, hell. /They say that this hell is a place where those who committed great sins go. /Third, purgatory. /This is a place where those who committed small sins go. /Fourth, limbo. /This is the outskirts of hell. /They say that this is a place where unbaptized infants who have died go.

/Criticism: The Bible does not speak of purgatory. /There is only heaven and hell. /“Prison” in 1 Peter 3:19 refers to hell.

/② They say the following regarding liberation from purgatory. They say that if those who are alive pray for one who is dead, the dead will receive forgiveness of his sins. /Those who are alive attend mass for the dead, and the sale of indulgence allows the dead to be released from purgatory and enter heaven.

/Criticism: The Bible says that it is no use to pray for the dead. /Ezekiel 24:17 /Psalm 31:12 /Luke 16:22 /We immediately go to heaven when we believe in Jesus. / Luke 23:43 /John 5:24.

/5. The Seven Sacraments

/First, baptism. /Second, confirmation. /This is the imposition of hands. /Third, communion. /Fourth, penance. /Fifth, extreme unction. /This is the act of anointing the dead. /Sixth, ordination. /This is the giving of the offices of the priest or father. /Seventh, matrimony.

/Criticism: There are only two sacraments of the New Testament, which are baptism and communion. /Luke 22:19 /Matthew 28:19 /There are two sacraments of the Old Testament, which are circumcision and the Passover.

/6. Mass

/They claim that when the priest pray over the bread and wine, it changes into the flesh and blood of Jesus. /This is transubstantiation. /Mass is a ceremony in which they offer Christ as a sacrifice to God. /They reenact the sacrifice that Christ made.

/Criticism: This is the denial of Christ’s atonement. /Hebrews 9:12 /When they perform communion, they use over two hundred complicated steps. /They also do not give the people wine, but tell them to eat only the bread. /This is wrong. /Jesus gave His disciples bread and wine. Mark 14:23.

/7. Soteriology

/They do not say that one is saved only through faith in Jesus. /They say, “You can be saved through good deeds.” /“You can be saved through baptism.”

/Criticism: They say that one can be saved by his actions. /However, we are saved by God’s grace and faith in Jesus. /Ephesians 2:8-9 /Romans 3:24

/8. Idolatry

/They worship the statue of Mary. /They worship dead saints. /They worship the remains of dead saints. /They worship the bread of communion. /They worship angels. /They worship the crucifix. /They worship religious pictures and paintings of saints. /They sprinkle holy water.

/Criticism: These are all superstitious beliefs. /The first and second commandments

of the Ten Commandments tell us not to worship idols. /Exodus 20:3-6. /They also added seven books of the Apocrypha to the sixty-six books of the Bible. Revelation 22:18, 19.

/Chapter 9, The Seventh-day Adventist Church.

/The Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I. Founder William Miller

/Miller was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts in 1782. /He predicted that the world was going to end in 1843. /He confirmed that Jesus was going to return on October 22, 1844, which ended as a failed prediction. /The Albany Conference was held by Adventists in 1845. /Miller died in 1849.

II. Beginning of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

/William Miller predicted the return of Jesus, but his prediction was wrong. /There were followers of Miller. Among them were Joseph Bates, James White and his wife Ellen G. White.

/Most of the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church were predictions made by Ellen G. White. /The headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was built in Battle Creek, Michigan in 1855. /The Seventh-day Adventist Church was founded in 1863.

III. Ellen G. White

/White was born in Portland, Maine in 1827. /She became a follower after hearing a sermon by William Miller in 1842. /She saw a vision in December of 1844. /She claimed that she saw over a hundred visions in twenty-three years. /She died in 1915. /The Seventh-day Adventist Church believes in the predictions of Ellen G. White.

IV. Main Doctrines

/1. Doctrine of Revelation

/Ellen G. White claimed that all who did not listen to her warnings and rebuke blasphemed against the Holy Spirit. /The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes Ellen G. White as a prophet of Christianity, just like a prophet of the Old Testament.

/Criticism: The standard revelation of the Bible ended with the Book of Revelation. / Revelation 1:2 /22:18-19. /However, the Seventh-day Adventist Church sees the revelations of Ellen G. White as equal to the Bible. /They also claim that the Bible is with error.

/2. Doctrine of Man

/They say, "Death comes when breath is separated from the flesh, and the soul disappears." They base this on Genesis 2:7.

/Criticism: This is annihilations and conditional immortality. According to the Bible, the soul of man will never die. John 11:25, 26.

/3. Christology

/They say, “Jesus had a false nature as well as a human nature.” /“Jesus took on a contaminated human nature upon His incarnation.”

/Criticism: Hebrews 4:15 says that Jesus is without sin.

/4. Soteriology

/① They say, “We do not acknowledge that the atonement of Christ was completed on the cross.”

/Criticism: They deny that Jesus completed atonement once and for all. Hebrews 9:12.

/② They say, “One must observe the laws in order to enter heaven and receive ultimate salvation.”

/Criticism: No one in this world is saved by observing the laws. /Galatians 2:16. /The laws help us recognize our sins. /Romans 3:20-22. /We are saved through faith in Jesus.

/5. Ecclesiology

/The Seventh-day Adventist Church says that the seventh day must be kept as the Sabbath just as in the Old Testament times. They say that one is saved only when he keeps the seventh day as the Sabbath.

/Criticism: The date changed in the New Testament period. /The rituals of the Old Testament were abolished. /Colossians 2:14 /Now in the New Testament times, the first day must be kept as the Sabbath. /Sunday, the Lord’s Day, must be kept as the Sabbath. /Jesus resurrected on the Lord’s Day. /It is the day the Holy Spirit came at the Pentecost. /Therefore, we must keep the Lord’s Day holy.

/6. 2,300 Evenings and Mornings

/They calculate the 2,300 evenings and mornings in Daniel 8:14 as 2,300 years. /Based on this belief, they claimed that Jesus would return in 1843. /However, Jesus did not return, and they claimed that Jesus did come, only he did not come to this earth but to the sanctuary in heaven. /They say that Jesus is investigating and judging in the heavenly sanctuary in order to make humanity clean.

/They further claim that Jesus entered the sanctuary on October 22, 1844. /They say that Jesus is examining the acts of humans so that He would save only those who are without faults and blemishes.

/Criticism: We do not know the day or time when Jesus will return. /Matthew 24:35 /These calculations cannot tell when Jesus will return. /Jesus did not return to this earth, and hence, they deceive people by telling them that Jesus went to a

heavenly sanctuary that cannot be seen with the eyes.

/7. Food

/They say that they must not eat food that Leviticus 11 says is unclean.

/Criticism: We can eat such food in the New Testament times. /We can eat pork today. /We can eat mudfish. /This is because the rituals of the Old Testament have been abolished. /Colossians 2:16-17 /Hebrews 13:9 /Romans 14:14 /We must follow the truth. /The shell of the laws have been abolished. /Jesus came and completed the laws. /Today we do not slaughter oxen for sacrifice. /Today we do not go to Jerusalem to give sacrifice offerings.

/8. Health Laws

/They say that they must not eat meat.

/Criticism: The Bible says that it is all right to eat meat. /The priests of the Old Testament ate meat. /Leviticus 6:26 /Jesus ate meat. /Luke 24:42 /John 21:9-10.

V. Conclusion

/They give more authority to the visions of Ellen G. White than the Bible. /They say that they are saved by actions. /They set a low value on the redemption of Jesus. /They say that keeping the seventh day as the Sabbath is a condition for salvation. /They say that they must not eat meat.

/Many heretic groups came out from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. /The “Elijah Gospel Missionary,” the “Doalnara Restoration Society,” and the “World Mission Society Church of God” all came out from the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

/Here we will conclude the fifth lecture on Comparative Religion. /Thank you.