

Sunday October 29th sermon: "An Unauthorized and Usurping Priesthood -- The God of All Comforts (Pt 39)"

Preached at the Lord's Table at Grace Bible Church in Greenwood, MS,
by John Pittman Hey

Hebrews 10:1-18; John 19:14-30

God comforts us by the oath He made to Christ, appointing Him our high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

No perversion is more wide-spread and destructive than that of the Roman Catholic false religion. They appoint priests other than Christ, who sacrifice the Mass, which blasphemes the Lord Jesus' death.

The Romanists falsely claim that their so-called priests transform the bread and the wine into Christ's body and blood, and that the Mass continues to work our redemption, propitiate God for our crimes, and cleanse us of our sins.

Because the Mass claims to repeat those things that Christ has already finished, the Mass denies the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice. As Hebrews put it, where there is forgiveness of sin, there is no more offering for sin!

Rome's sacrifice of the Mass denies the imputation of the righteousness of Christ. It teaches that men are justified by becoming righteous in themselves by keeping the law. Thus, when men sin, they lose their righteousness and justification, and it must be restored by the Mass, being repeatedly "re-presented" to God to take away their sins again.

Under that system, there can be no peace with God, and believers in Christ can end up in hell in the end, because the Romanists deny that Christ's sacrifice actually justifies and redeems men with any finality.

But the Bible nowhere teaches a concept of a liturgical priesthood in the church! Nowhere is a priest appointed to offer sacrifices for sin other than Christ!

Apostles, prophets, pastors, elders – none are ever authorized to represent Christ's body and blood before God for the forgiveness of sin.

Christ alone has already presented His body and blood unto God, and taken away our sins forever.

That truth destroys the evil grip of false religion from off the people, returning their loyalty to Christ, and not the usurping, false priests imposed by wicked prelates and false popes.

The Roman Catholic catechism claims that Christ died to institute their blasphemous priesthood, so that we might have priests with us, now that Christ has died! But Hebrews declares that Christ is our high priest forever, and serves even now in glory on our behalf.

They claim that Christ meant to leave us a visible sacrifice in the Mass, because the nature of man requires it. What utter rubbish!

They claim the Mass is a propitiatory sacrifice for our sin, when Christ has already taken away our sin by His sacrifice once for all.

Many Roman Catholic clerics have made blasphemous statements about their so-called priests. Rev. James O'Brien, in his book "Faith of Millions," claims that their so-called priests "bring Christ down from His throne, and place Him upon our altar to be offered up again for the sins of man. The priest speaks, and lo, Christ the eternal and omnipotent God, bows his head in humble obedience to the priest's command."

O'Brien concludes that their priests are "another Christ!"

But Alphonsus Ligouri is far worse. Named a "saint" and "doctor of the church" by Pope Gregory XVI in 1839, his books are veritable cesspools of blasphemous claims about their so-called priests. He claims, for example, that Christ didn't have to die to save mankind, but rather did so in order to institute their priesthood!

Ligouri goes on and on about the power of the priests over the body of Jesus Christ, Who places Himself in their hands, and at their disposal! Christ "has obliged Himself to obey" the priests! They "move Him about as they please, they shut Him up in the tabernacle."

He claims, that God Himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of His priests. The priests are called the "parents of Jesus Christ," and thus they may be called "the creator of their Creator!" When the priest consecrates the bread, "he creates, as it were, Jesus in the Sacrament, and produces Him as a victim to be offered to the eternal Father."

Ligouri claims that priests "hold Christ's place on earth." A priest, he says, performs the office of the Holy Ghost in the sanctification of souls.

The Romanists actually claim that their so-called priests share with Christ the priesthood of Melchizedek, even though, as Hebrews tells us, Jesus "is able to save us to the uttermost, since He ever lives to make intercession for us!"

This is why the Pope is so reluctant to defrock any of their priests for gross wickedness against little children. They have supposedly given their priests the very power of salvation itself. To defrock a priest would undermine the very means by which that apostate religion controls salvation instead of Christ, and dispenses its poisonous false works gospel to poor lost souls seeking peace with God.

Instead of salvation, the Romanists enslave their people to an endless cycle of enmity with God, and ritual sacrifices of the Mass to take away their sin. There can be no permanent peace with God under such demonic doctrines.

Hebrews makes it clear: any sacrifice that must be repeated, does not take away our sin!

Moreover, a repeated sacrifice that does not purge the sinner forever, serves only as a constant reminder of unforgiven sin.

But at our Lord's Table, we are not reminding God or ourselves of our sin, for God has forgiven our sin for all time, for those who trust in Christ's one-time sacrifice.

Instead, we are celebrating, giving thanks, and worshiping Him Whose sacrifice at once and for all time has saved us!

No wonder we are greatly comforted by God's solemn oath to Christ, to make Him our priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Let nobody seek to shoehorn themselves or their so-called sacrifice in the exalted place of our Lord Jesus!