

Does The Bible CONTRADICT Itself?

You might think so, from the variety of meanings people take from it today.

Divorce and remarriage, for example, is widely prevalent among Christians. And some try to justify it by Holy Scripture. Yet Jesus said: "What God has joined together let no man put asunder" (Mark 10: 2-12). And St. Paul tells us: "For the married woman is bound by law while her husband is alive... that a wife is not to depart from her husband; and if she departs she is to remain unmarried..." (Romans 7:2-3).

Confession to a priest is scoffed at by many Christians. "We confess our sins to God," they say. But if Jesus wanted us to confess directly and privately to God, why did He say to the Apostles: "Receive ye the Holy Ghost; whose sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose sins ye retain they are retained" (John 20: 21-23)?

The Bible says that Christ did establish a church. For He told his Apostle Simon: "...thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." But what church is it? Did Christ mean that just any church was His Church? Or did He give His Church marks by which men might recognize it?

All Christians agree that faith in Christ is absolutely essential to salvation. But some believe that faith is the *only* essential. Catholics believe the words of St. Paul that God "...will render to every man according to his deeds" (Romans 2:6)...and the words of Jesus: "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter

the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father" (Matthew 7:21).

Christians also take from the same words in the Bible, varied and often conflicting opinions on many things—for example: on the need for and effects of Baptism, and the real or symbolic Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Is it any wonder that sincere people, trying to understand what Christ meant to tell us, are confused?

Catholics are often accused of opposing the Bible. This, of course is ridiculous, for the Catholic Church is the mother of the Bible. And Catholic teachings are sometimes called "unscriptural," which will be found equally untrue by any one who takes the *trouble* to investigate.

We believe that a correct understanding of Catholic teaching will bring new joy and understanding to all who truly seek Christ's way. Our free pamphlet on several Bible questions commonly misunderstood by many will come to you in a plain wrapper and nobody will call on you. Write for Pamphlet No. FM-42.

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I WAS JUST
THINKING...



... WHEN I'M LAID LOW with every genus of germ between here and Outer Mongolia, my world goes crazy.

Old friends I hadn't seen since 1908 drop in for a long chat. Old enemies who hadn't been on speaking terms for even longer, call on the telephone. The postman delivers letters requesting immediate replies based on letters of inquiry I'd made six months ago.

Why is it my life is one long soporific spell when I'm well and, when I'm feeble as a beetle with the bends, I'm indispensable?

What bliss it could be to lie abed and suffer quietly. What ecstasy to wheeze and blow without the neighbor children ringing the doorbell and the dog barking at what must be no less than a parcel of penguins on the front lawn.

Yesterday the flu and I joined forces in a grand misalliance of sneezing, coughing, chills, and fever. The single silver lining in cloudland was the anticipation of a morning with weak tea and toast served over the counterpane. And then the luxury of a long nap interspersed with the reading I never have time for when I'm feeling fine.

But neither rain nor sleet nor double pneumonia daunts my destiny. By morning the family was howling to be fed. The oil burner did likewise. The car had a flat tire. A story needed rewriting and an emergency meeting was called for the benefit of indigent antelopes.

An entire family drove 50 miles to arrive just at lunchtime. When the soft-water service wasn't knocking at the back door, the minister knocked at the front. By the time my bathrobe and slippers looked more worn than I, I gave up and got up.

How I long to entertain the flu with what it and I have every right to expect, but I'm too busy entertaining the rest of the world.

If the flu doesn't know when it's licked, I do.

The only way I can get a little peace and quiet is to get well.

Betty Johnson

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