

“The Harvest Truly Is Plentiful”

Everyone with access to a television, radio, newspaper or the internet knows that the Catholic church has recently elected a new pope. Because of all of the media coverage about this election, everyone’s mind is focused on the Catholic church and their beliefs. This gives us a great opportunity to teach others about the true church, and what God expects from us. While we do not wish to be mean-spirited, we should take advantage of this opportunity to expose others to the church that our Lord died to purchase.

Many in the media have begun to ask about the changes that the new pope will make to the Catholic church. They say that the pope has all authority, and can make any new command that he wishes. However, we never read of anyone having this kind of authority other than Christ. The Bible makes it very clear that He is the head of the church (*Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18*). It is only Christ who has the authority to bind and loose on this earth. Even though the apostles were given this authority by Christ, they were simply teaching the things that Christ had taught them (*Mt. 28:20*). The point is that Christ is the authority that we should follow.

Also, the Catholic church teaches that Peter was the first pope. However, Peter, according to their own religion, was not eligible to be the pope. Only unmarried men in the Catholic church are eligible to be the pope. Yet, Peter was married. Jesus healed his mother-in-law (*Mt. 8:14-15*). Peter was an elder in the Lord’s church, a position which requires a man to be married (*I Pet. 5:1; Titus 1:6*). According to their own teaching, Peter was not qualified to be the pope.

On numerous occasions, the pope has also been called “the holy father.” This phrase is used to show his authority and preeminence in the Catholic church. However, Jesus made it very plain that we are to call no man our father; “*for One is your Father, He who is in heaven*” (*Mt. 23:9*). It is God whom we serve; and no earthly man can take that position.

The purpose of this article is not to condemn the Catholic church; but rather it is to encourage us to use this opportunity to teach them about the true church. For the next couple of weeks, many people will be thinking about religion. This may be the best time to approach them and teach them of the gospel of Christ. Again, we do not confront them in a mean-spirited manner, but we do try and teach them. It could very well be that “*the harvest truly is plentiful*” (*Mt. 10:37-38*). May we be the laborers in His harvest.