


 "I used to be a Bible teacher."
 www.DYPK.org

TC's Thoughts for Discussion

www.DYPK.org

Constantine and his co-Emperor, Licinius, issued the Edict of Milan in 313, declaring tolerance of all religions. Seeking to unify his empire and to make Christianity more palatable to the predominately Pagan population, he "hybridized" the holy days and other religious practices of Christians and Pagans. "Sun Day" was the Pagan day of sun worship.

A life-long sun-worshiper, Constantine (while claiming Christianity for political gain), observed that the *church* at Rome was haphazardly organized and had gained little to no control over the widely scattered adherents to Christianity. Through his skillful manipulation of dialog at the Council of Nicea (A.D. 325), Constantine succeeded in convincing pompous would-be *church* leaders that they could benefit enormously from his well known financial and political savvy. He assured them that organizing for control would include the need for their followers to have some "\$kin" in the game.

Those churchmen were quickly lured by the very phenomenon Paul had warned of three centuries earlier: "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. BUT THOU, O MAN OF GOD, FLEE THESE THINGS..." [1 Timothy 6:10,11] What followed was that "The popes filled the place of the vacant emperors at Rome, inheriting their power, their prestige, and their titles from paganism." —Stanley's History, p. 40

It is unfortunate that, after the Reformation, Protestant groups quickly adopted and adapted the business model the Romans have used ever since that A.D. 325 Council of Nicea. Because "money talks," several of those Protestant organizations soon amassed political power, too. Like the Roman "church," accountable to no one, those Protestant "churches" have become a lot like the proverbial manufacturer of industrial lubricants that uses all or almost all of its output to lubricate the machinery with which it manufactures lubricants.

The Popes and their pompous parades of pious pretenders clearly patterned themselves after the 1st-Century scribes and Pharisees:

- > "But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, [even] Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no [man] your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven." —Jesus, at Matthew 23:5-8

A wonderful blessing of informed Christianity is the easy destruction of profoundly popular doctrines by beautiful Bible and historical facts.

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Post a comment or question or just read what others are saying: www.DYPK.org/apps/blog.

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.

I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.

Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches. "In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Mark Twain

