



OUR Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. (Matt 6:9-13)

Does The Lord tempt us to sin? NEVER! Does He allow our sinful desires to take us into the way of temptation? CERTAINLY! He may even make that way accessible to us, but it is the Devil who tempts and not the Lord.

In recent days, the Roman Pontiff arrogantly suggested that the wisdom and understanding of the early church may not have known as well as he how to translate the Lord's Prayer. He pointed out that the traditional Greek text of the New Testament does not transmit the intent of God as well as himself – supposedly a modern marvel of spiritual and academic enlightenment. He, of course, is wrong in this case just as he has been in his muddled understanding of social morality.

The Lord certainly may cause us to confront temptations that are self-imposed according to our own wicked desires. Righteousness is attained by causing the love of God and His Word to grow stronger in our souls than the will to sin. In reality, we can have no native righteousness anyway – the only righteousness to which we can truly claim is the IMPUTED righteousness of Christ. If we love God and His Word, our desires to live according to His Commandments grow stronger than our will to sin. But the will to sin lies dormant in our souls and may emerge again if we lend fuel to them. Righteousness is imputed by our taking on the Will of God as the Sovereign Will of our lives and surrendering the old will of depravity of the unsaved. That depraved will was never free, but in bondage to Satan and the world.

Perhaps Pope Francis will decide that the following powerful passage of Scripture is likewise wrong in translation: *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already*

work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. AND FOR THIS CAUSE GOD SHALL SEND THEM STRONG DELUSION delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (2 Thess 2:3-12)

It seems Francis has received an early serving of that ‘strong delusion.’

The Roman Church has a long history of manipulating the Word of God to suit the whims of the papacy. One strong example is the altering of the Ten Commandments to disregard that of making and worshipping graven images. The Roman Church simply omits that Commandment and divides the last into two parts so that the omission will not seem so blatant. Even their own official Bible, which is fairly faithful to the original manuscripts, provide for that omitted Commandment. Here is the rendering from the official Douay- Rheims Catholic Bible: *“Thou shalt not make to thyself a graven thing, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, nor of those things that are in the waters under the earth Thou shalt not adore them, nor serve them: I am the Lord thy God, mighty, jealous, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me:”* (Exodus 20:4,5) Do you wonder why this particular Commandment is not included on the tables of stone of the Roman Catholic Church? Might it be because they love to pray to stone images of the saints? But a quick glance at the Ten Commandments in any Roman church will reveal the omission of this one salient Commandment against idolatry.

At the beginning of His ministry, our Lord Jesus Christ was driven by the Spirit into the Wilderness to be tempted of the Devil. *“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.”* (Matt 4:1) If I am not mistaken, it was God (the Holy Spirit) that drove Christ into the Wilderness to be tempted – not by God – but by the Devil! If we place our feet in the way of temptation,. The Lord will allow the Devil to tempt us. It is what we deserve and may be the means by which we are drawn to repentance.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is a great Rock of Refuge. He is also a great Magnet that draws men to Him. No one comes to Him except the Father sends him. *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”* (John 6:44) Our Lord truly is a great Magnet; but sin is likewise a magnet to draw us away if we drift too far from the Rock of our Refuge. I am reminded of an Arab fable that is taken from the One Thousand and One Nights translated by 1850 translation by Burton:

“There is the Arab legend (recounted in One Thousand and One Nights) that a magnetic mountain could pull all the nails out of a ship, causing the ship to fall apart and founder. Excerpted from 1850 Burton translation: We slept not that night, and in the morning we found ourselves much nearer the Loadstone Mountain, whither the waters drave us with a violent send. When the ships were close under its lea, they opened and the nails flew out and all the iron in them sought the Magnet Mountain and clove to it like a network, so that by the end of the day we were all struggling in the waves round about the mountain. The story passed to Europe and became part of several epics.” <http://www.sciencephoto.com/media/705407/view>

It should be noted that the draw of Christ will hold us in certain security because we remain in its force field by the power that draws us. But when our bark is not guided by that power and drifts too close to the Loadstone of Sin, we are ruined on the sea of life.

Unlike the Roman Church, the Protestant Church does not place its faith and hope in the hands of any man but upon the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word! We do not believe man has the authority to amend the Word of God even if, to him, it seems a bit inconvenient. I prefer to trust in God rather than any presumptuous tin-horned saint. I invite two witnesses to the bar: *"We ought to obey God rather than men."* (Acts 5:29) and *"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."* (Psalm 118:8)

Here are the Words of Son of God that was made man and dwelt among us: *"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."* (John 12:32) *"This is my beloved Son: hear him."* (Luke 9:35)

Let me see: we have two voices – one of Christ, the other of a pope. Which shall we hear? You choose!