Denominational Doctrines – Part 5
Catholic Doctrines

Introduction:
A. As we get to doctrines or specific groups will only notice 3 or 4 basic doctrines of each group.
B. This lesson will involve 4 basic doctrines of Catholicism

Discussion:

I. The Scriptures.
A. The Catholic doctrine that church tradition and Papal authority are on par with the Bible.
   1. The faith was once for all delivered to the saints in the first century. (Jude 3).
   2. The Scriptures are sufficient (2 Tim. 3:15, 16).
B. The Catholic doctrine that only the church can interpret the scriptures.
   2. Context shows that “no private interpretation” was not the prophet’s own interpretation (v. 21)

II. The Papacy.
A. The doctrine that Peter was the first Pope.
   1. Peter was a “fellow” elder, not the head elder (1 Pet. 5:1).
   2. Peter was married, popes cannot be married (1 Cor. 9:5)
B. The doctrine that Peter founded the church at Rome and the church was built upon him.
   1. Paul longed to go to Rome to impart some spiritual gift (Rom. 1:10, 11).
      a. Only the Apostles could impart spiritual gifts. (Acts 8:12-18)
      b. If Peter had founded the church, he would have already done this.
      c. If any apostle had founded the church at Rome they would have had spiritual gifts.
   2. Church built up Christ and all the apostles (Eph. 2:20-22).
C. First pope was not until 6th century.

III. The Priesthood.
A. The doctrine that the sinner accesses God through the priest.
   1. Jesus is our High Priest and mediator in heaven (1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 4:14-16)
   2. Each Christian is a priest on earth (1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:5, 6).
B. The practice of calling the priest “Father.” (Matt. 23:9, 10).
C. The doctrine that the priest can absolve sins.
   1. Only God can forgive sins (Mark 2:6-12)
   2. Jesus is our advocate with the Father to forgive sins (1 John 1:9; 2:1)

IV. The Worship.
A. The practice of praying to saints and angels.
   1. Angel worship is forbidden in Scriptures (Col. 2:18).
   2. New Testaments knows nothing of praying to either.
B. The practice of worshiping Mary.
   1. Catholic teach that Mary “is immaculate, the Mother of God, spouse of the Holy Spirit, Propitiary of the world and the Gate of Heaven.”
      a. Bible does not call her by such names.
      b. Bible tells of worshiping the Babe, not the mother.
   2. Catholics teach that Mary was a perpetual virgin.
      a. Only a virgin until she brought forth here first born. (Matt. 1:25).
      b. Mary had other children (Matt. 13:55-56; Gal. 1:19).

Conclusion:
A. Many other Doctrines the Catholics teach, but these are enough to show the fallacy of Catholicism.