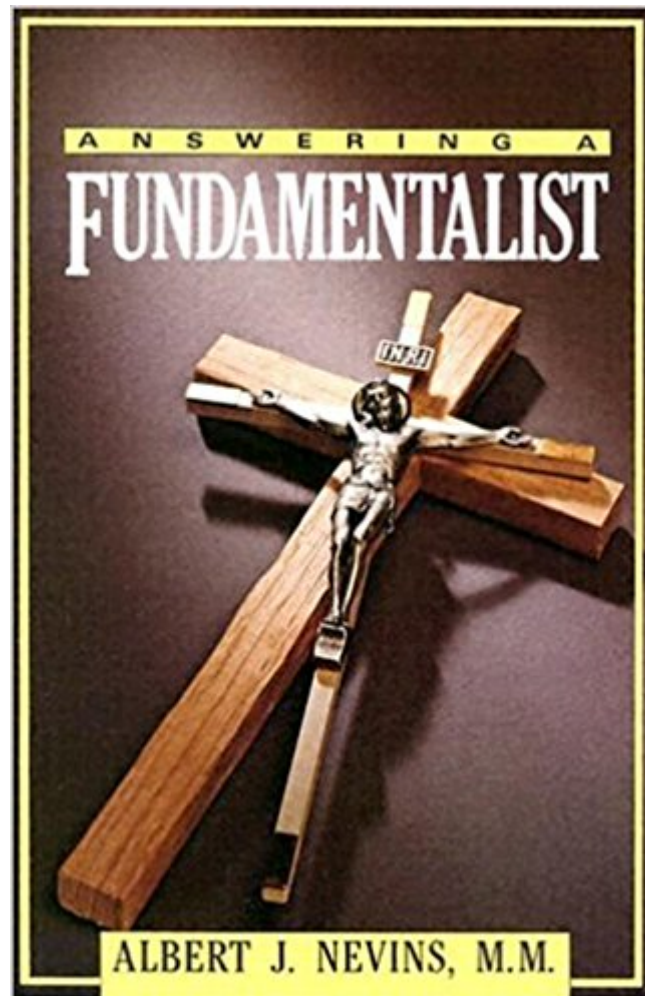




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Answering A Fundamentalist



Synopsis

If you have had a family member leave the Church for Fundamentalism or if you have ever been approached by a Fundamentalist at work or socially, you are acutely aware of the fervor in which Fundamentalists seek converts. At times their persistent methods may cause you to question your beliefs. Now there is a way to help you strengthen your Catholic Faith. *Answering A Fundamentalist* provides you with a more thorough understanding of a Fundamentalist's beliefs as well as replies to help you defend your Faith. Before each of the sixteen chapters, Father Nevins presents a common misunderstanding about the Catholic Faith. Then using logic and reasoning rooted in Scripture and Apostolic Tradition, he dispels the misconception. Father Nevins quotes heavily from the Revised Standard Version of the King James Bible most commonly used by Fundamentalists. He quotes Scripture to show that the

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Standard Version of the King James Bible most commonly used by Fundamentalists. He quotes Scripture to show that the

If anyone ever wondered where some of the beliefs and practices of Catholicism originated, this is the book to read. It gives a brief explanation of some widely held Catholic beliefs and practices in an easy to read book. It also explains some of the more controversial beliefs. He gives a good explanation of how these beliefs and practices originated and why they originated. The assumption of Mary into heaven is called "The Great Assumption". And what a great assumption it is. It is based on absolutely no facts. This book also contains several other great assumptions like purgatory and praying to saints. These are based on nothing other than assumptions. The author calls this Tradition. Some of these doctrines conflict with the writings of the apostles themselves (i.e. saints interceding for the living and calling someone "father"). The author admiringly admits this and proceeds to make excuses for the false doctrine. Many of the beliefs and practices of Catholicism are based on what the author calls Tradition. He gives an in-depth definition of what he calls "Tradition". This is acceptable to some extent. It is not acceptable when the doctrines based on Tradition are contrary to what is written in the scriptures. In this the author comes up short.

The book is rubbish! If you are wise you will do your homework and it will amaze you how much of history Rome has doctored and swept under the carpet. Not written by a theologian but by some poor soul bound in darkness that believes the lie. If you buy it then you have just wasted your money, go back and read the bible and see for yourself. I have seen better explanations on the movie "The Godfather" I think the other comments were written by Jesuits.

Fr. Albert Nevins has written other books such as "Strangers at Your Door: How to Respond to Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormons, Televangelists, Cults and More," "Called to Serve: A Guidebook for Altar Servers," "A Saint for Your Name: Saints for Boys," "A Saint for Your Name: Saints for Girls," etc. He wrote in the Preface to this 1990 book, "This book is written for modern fundamentalists, not for Protestant evangelicals who are already in dialogue with the Catholic Church and who spring from Pietist and Wesleyan traditions. Although fundamentalists and evangelicals have a great deal in common, particularly their view of the Bible, evangelicalism has developed a theology which today's fundamentalist lacks... What this work hopes to show is that there are some answers beyond the Bible; after all, the Church was in existence for many years before the New Testament was completed... It is also an entreaty to former Catholics who have left the Church for fundamentalism

to consider what they have departed. It is not the purpose of this book to delve into psychological or sociological reasons why they have left the faith of their fathers... but for this author... it was evident that they had never truly had faith in their Church or were never really educated in the Faith in which they were born, sometimes despite a Catholic-school education." (Pg. 7-8)He states, "When the Reformation came, the newly-formed Protestant churches broke away from the Catholic Church and thus lost this apostolic succession. It remained for a time in the Anglican Church, but when Michael Parker became head of the Anglican hierarchy in 1559, this succession was broken because a new rite for ordination was substantially defective both in form and content. Not all who went into schism from the Catholic Church lost apostolic succession---the Old Catholic and the Orthodox Churches still possess it." (Pg. 36)He observes, "Peter's presence in Rome is confirmed by [the Bible]. In his first epistle Peter closes by saying, 'She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings...' (5:13). 'She who is chosen' refers to the Church in Rome. 'Babylon' is a Christian code word for Rome and the Roman Empire... The clinching argument, however, for the presence of Peter in Rome has been the discovery of his original tomb and bones, directly under the main altar of St. Peter's Basilica." (Pg. 46-47)He explains, "The Catholic Church recognizes non-Catholic baptisms that use the proper matter and form. This includes the baptism of the Orthodox churches, Old Catholics, Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists, Mennonites, Moravians, Seventh Day Adventists, among others. Mormon and Jehovah's Witnesses baptisms are not valid for lack of belief in the Christian Trinity... Persons legitimately baptized in a non-Catholic religion are not rebaptized if they enter the Catholic Church. Baptism puts a permanent imprint on the soul of the baptized, marking that person as belonging to Christ, and thus is not repeated." (Pg. 64)He argues, "If these brothers and sisters of Jesus were not children of Mary, who were their parents? Some have suggested that they were children of Joseph by an earlier marriage... There is no indication of this in Scripture. Although the perpetual virginity of Joseph has never been defined by the Church, it is Church tradition that he was always a virgin. The Church's explanation has always been that James and the others were cousins of Jesus... It is not clear who were the parents of these cousins." (Pg. 102)He points out, "Fundamentalists love to quote Mt 23:9... 'Call no man your father on earth...' Is the Bible then disobeying Jesus in mark 9:14-29 (and elsewhere) when it uses the word father in a number of places to describe the man who brought his son to Jesus, hoping for a miracle?... Jesus did not mean that you shouldn't call your dad your father or not refer to your teacher in school as your teacher. To affirm this is to destroy the whole point Jesus is making." (Pg. 112-113)He admits in his discussion of Galileo, "The cosmology of the Old Testament was very primitive, imagining the earth as a flat plain set in an endless sea of water on columns of the earth. Beneath the earth was sheol,

the place of the dead. Rising from the earth were floodgates, a great wall below which was the firmament of the sky with the sun, moon, and stars, and above it, beneath heaven, waters which rained down upon earth when God opened the floodgates. This cosmology... was basically Ptolemaic---in which the sun was the center of the universe and the sun moved around the earth." (Pg. 121) Nevins' book will be of keen interest to anyone studying Catholic apologetics.

This book provides some quick answers to some common objections against the faith by fundamentalist protestants, and in doing so gives a short overview of most sections of catholic doctrine. This book is not technical scriptural exegesis or an in depth look at church teaching, but is a short surface level look. The sections on the teaching authority of the church and especially the sacraments are great food for thought. This book would give a fundamentalist a lot to think about and is a good refresher for Catholics to remind them of what the faith teaches. One of the downsides however, is that the book contains not a single word on the catholic teaching of justification.

Fr. Nevins has crafted an incredible weapon of Biblical truth. It is a powerful refutation to the silly, and sometimes outrageous misrepresentations hurled at the Catholic faith. This book asks and answers questions most Protestants never bother to contemplate... Who decided on the 26 books of the New Testament? And when? What did the Church do before the Bible was assembled? Where is "sola scriptura" in the Bible? It is a treasure chest of truth. I recommend it highly!!!!

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