

# History of How the Catholic Church Tried (But Failed) To Keep Us from Having English Bibles

October 12, 2007

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: In our last Sunday Evening service we watched a video called "How We Got Our English Bible," which can be ordered at <http://www.logosresourcepages.org/WebStore/Heritage.htm>

The narrator, Dr. Ken Connolly, gave us the history about those who were willing to be tortured and killed rather than give up their efforts to get the Bible into the common person's hand and language. But what was not made clear in the video is why they were being tortured and killed, and who was behind the persecution.

John Wycliff, William Tyndale and thousands of others were being persecuted and/or killed by the Roman Catholic Church. Why? - because if their efforts to get the scriptures of the Old and New Testament into the language of the common man on the street became successful, then the Roman Popes and their surrogate Kings knew it would open the eyes of the common man to the fact that the Roman Catholic Church was lying to them about such things as Indulgences, Confession, Papal Supremacy, etc.

The Roman Catholic Church was getting rich by convincing people that their souls would be lost in hell forever unless they gave money to the church as payment for their sins. Anyone who has read the Bible knows that the scriptures do not teach this doctrine of "Indulgences" and if the people living in the dark ages of Europe were allowed to read the scriptures for themselves, the spiritual extortion game of the Roman Catholic Church would be over.

Praise God the Reformation Movement succeeded in getting the God-breathed scriptures of the Old and New Testament into the English language so that we can know the truth and turn away from those who have a history of lying and killing God's people.

Below are some of the early decrees made by the Popes of the Roman Catholic Church as they tried to stop the spread of the scriptures to the people.

Source of information:

<http://www.xanga.com/PaintingPictures/505737249/item.html>

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH COUNCIL OF TOULOUSE - 1229 A.D

After the death of Pope Innocent III (1216 AD), the Synod of Toulouse directed in 1229 its fourteenth canon against the misuse of Sacred Scripture on the part of the laity: "prohibemus, ne libros Veteris et Novi Testamenti laicis permittatur habere" (Hefele, "Concilgesch", Freiburg, 1863, V, 875).

"Canon 14. We prohibit also that the laity [common person – not educated in Latin] should be permitted to have the books of the Old or New Testament;  
...we **most strictly forbid** their having any translation of these books."

Heresy and Authority in Medieval Europe, Edited with an introduction by Edward Peters, Scholar Press, London, copyright 1980 by Edward Peters, ISBN 0-85967-621-8, pp. 194-195

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH COUNCIL OF TARRAGONA - 1234 A.D

The Council of Tarragona of 1234, in its second canon, ruled that: **"No one may possess the books of the Old and New Testaments** in the Romance language, and **if anyone possesses them he must turn them over to the local bishop within eight days after promulgation of this decree, so that they may be burned...."**

D. Lortsch, Historie de la Bible en France, 1910, p.14.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH COUNCIL OF TRENT

Pope Pius IV had a list of the forbidden books compiled and officially prohibited them in the Index of Trent (Index Librorum Prohibitorum) of 1559. This is an excerpt :

**"Whoever reads or has such a translation in his possession... cannot be absolved from his sins until he has turned in these Bibles...Books in the vernacular dealing with the controversies between Catholics and the heretics [Catholics branded anyone who was exposing the Catholic lies as, "heretics"] of our time are not to be generally permitted, but**

are to be handled in the **same way as Bible translations...**"

Rule IV & Rule VI Die Indices Librorum  
Prohibitorum des sechzehnten Jahrhunderts  
(Tübingen, 1886), page 246f. Source: The  
Reformation, by Hans J. Hillerbrand, copyright 1964  
by SCM Press Ltd and Harper and Row, Inc., Library  
of Congress Catalog Card Number 64-15480, pages  
474, 475.

*Note from Pastor Kevin Lea - In light of the above, I pray we will all  
appreciate those who made it possible to read God's Holy Word in English,  
and spend more time doing so.*