



"Drowning in the Tiber (Part 1)"
Responding to Francis Beckwith's *Return to Rome:*
***Confessions of an Evangelical Catholic*"**

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Selected Scriptures



Introduction: An Audio Message by Greg Bahnsen -

Was the Protestant Reformation Necessary?

"I am going to preach a sermon to you . . . that in all honesty I never in all my life thought that I would do. I cannot imagine needing to preach this sermon. But I must. . . I must preach, and others as well must preach, about a problem we are facing in our day and age that really is quite unexpected." [Dr. Greg Bahnsen, 1992/93]

I. My Appreciation of what Bahnsen said (only 15 years later)

A. I also grew up in the Roman Catholic Church

B. Hebrews 6:4-8 -

4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame. 7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls upon it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; 8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

C. Several Ironies . . .

II. My Motivation

*I must preach, and others as well must preach,
about a problem we are facing in our day*

A. No animosity

B. Can someone be regenerate and yet in the Roman Catholic church?

III. Who is Francis Beckwith?

A. Who he is:

1. The Mixed Bag that is the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS)

IV. Plotting the Course - A Brief Overview of the Book

"The largest American Protestant denominations are either unbelieving or unknowing, priding themselves on their rejection of Scripture, their vacuous faith, or their limited knowledge. Many smaller denominations and independent churches are in little better condition. They are largely Arminian – which is semi-Romanist already, believing in man's free will; revivalist – which is informed by Roman Catholic experientialism; or charismatic – which continues Rome's theology of miracles and gifts. American "Protestantism" is mostly Roman Catholic already. Some of the more conservative churches have been led astray by Reconstructionism, by religiously cooperative efforts in the anti-abortion movement, by programs of social and political reform. Just when the preaching of the Gospel is most urgently needed, it is rarely heard in "Protestant" pulpits. It is doubtful that most graduates of the theological schools could give a clear and accurate summary of the Gospel.

The Roman Catholic church is by far the largest ecclesiastical organization in America with about 58 million subjects; it operates tens of thousands of churches, thousands of schools, and hundreds of colleges. Worldwide, it claims more than 950 million subjects. Its loyal American subjects are becoming more and more militant in every area. . . . Only the grace of God can save us from another Dark Age and the church that Luther recognized as the slaughterhouse of souls." [John Robbins, Trinity Foundation, "The Lost Soul of Scott Hahn"]

Conclusion: Quote by
Dr. John Robbins