Pope Sings Along with Jiminy Cricket

*by Harry Osborne*

Years ago as a child, I remember seeing the Disney movie, Pinocchio. Years afterward, I remember getting the video tape and letting our boys watch the movie when they were young children. The movie conveys a good moral about the destructive effects of lying as Pinocchio’s nose grows with every lie he tells. As he gets in trouble with his falsehoods, Jiminy Cricket gives him good advice by encouraging him to tell the truth. However, that good advice is blended with an incorrect message in song as that advice states a general rule for proper behavior that is at variance with the Bible. In the well-known song, he encourages:

*When you get in trouble and you don't know right from wrong…*

*Give a little whistle! Give a little whistle!*

*When you meet temptation and the urge is very strong,*

*Give a little whistle! Give a little whistle!*

*Not just a little squeak, pucker up and blow*

*And if your whistle's weak, yell, ‘Jiminy Cricket,’ Right!*

*Take the straight and narrow path, and if you start to slide,*

*Give a little whistle! Give a little whistle!*

*And always let your conscience be your guide.*

The song goes on to repeat that mantra several times: “Let your conscience be your guide.” The world generally agrees with that rule, exonerating one of wrong if the person acts in agreement with his or her conscience. However, the Bible clearly shows the fallacy of that viewpoint:

*“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death”* (Prov. 14:12; 16:25).

*“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps”* (Jer. 10:23).

*“Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them”* (Acts 26:9-10).

The idea that one is approved in God’s sight, regardless of what he believes and does, as long as he is sincere, is patently false. That concept is manifestly demonstrated in the “choose the church of your choice” plea as well as its equivalents. The justification for modern denominationalism is based on a religious tolerance that sees all doctrines and practices as acceptable to God if one (***a***) believes in God and (***b***) is sincere. But wait a minute! Has the “let your conscience be your guide” sentiment really drawn the line at those conditions? Enter the present pope of the Roman Catholic Church…

In the brief time since he was appointed to the papacy, Pope Francis has made it his point to show his greater tolerance for or acceptance of a growing number of things historically denounced as “heresy” by Catholic teaching. His predecessors had people tortured, burned at the stake or otherwise brutally murdered in the Inquisition which was ordered by the Roman Catholic hierarchy, including the pope. When that was no longer possible, they continued to use whatever power they could to enforce Catholic dogma. They continue to maintain that ordinary (“lay”) people may be led astray by the Bible, thus needing the guidance of the Roman Catholic priests to guide them to the “truth” which they claim is in the Roman Catholic Church, not the Bible (compare 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Any obedience to the plain teaching of Scripture which conflicted with Catholic doctrine has continued to be grounds for open condemnation in the Roman Catholic Church we have seen in our time. However, in his most recent attempts to show the new and improved Roman Catholic Church, Pope Francis has left Catholic dogma and sided with Jiminy Cricket. Why do I say that? Please read the following article from *The Independent* (September 11, 2013):

**Pope Francis assures atheists: You don’t have to believe in God to go to heaven**

In comments likely to enhance his progressive reputation, Pope Francis has written a long, open letter to the founder of *La Repubblica* newspaper, Eugenio Scalfari, stating that non-believers would be forgiven by God if they followed their consciences.

Responding to a list of questions published in the paper by Mr. Scalfari, who is not a Roman Catholic, Francis wrote: “You ask me if the God of the Christians forgives those who don’t believe and who don’t seek the faith. I start by saying – and this is the fundamental thing – that God’s mercy has no limits if you go to him with a sincere and contrite heart. The issue for those who do not believe in God is to obey their conscience.

“Sin, even for those who have no faith, exists when people disobey their conscience.”

Robert Mickens, the Vatican correspondent for the Catholic journal *The Tablet*, said the pontiff’s comments were further evidence of his attempts to shake off the Catholic Church’s fusty image, reinforced by his extremely conservative predecessor Benedict XVI. “Francis is a still a conservative,” said Mr. Mickens. “But what this is all about is him seeking to have a more meaningful dialogue with the world.”

In a welcoming response to the letter, Mr. Scalfari said the Pope’s comments were “further evidence of his ability and desire to overcome barriers in dialogue with all.”

In July, Francis signalled (sic) a more progressive attitude on sexuality, asking: “If someone is gay and is looking for the Lord, who am I to judge him?”

If there was ever a question as to how far the Roman Catholic popes have gone away from the truth of God, this should remove any remaining doubt! How can one get the idea that God will save an atheist that abides in his unbelief and rejection of God? The inspired word of God teaches, ***“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”*** (Heb. 11:6). The choice is clear: Believe God or believe the Catholic pope who blatantly contradicts the word of God! It is telling that the pope, who falsely claims to “sit on Peter’s throne” as the “Universal Bishop” (a claim obviously refuted by Peter’s own hand, 1 Pet. 5:1-2), is in open rebellion to Peter’s inspired instruction: *“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God”* (1 Pet. 4:11). Instead of letting his conscience be his guide, the Catholic pope and all other unbelievers would do far better to let the word of God be their guide (Psa. 119:10-12, 105, 127-128, 130, 142, 160; Col.3:16-17; 2 Jn. 9).