

\$10,000 Reward Offered For Proof of Charges In Chick Publications

Huntington, Ind. (RNS) — Our Sunday Visitor, the national Catholic weekly paper, is offering \$10,000 for the proof of any one of 14 allegations about Catholics made in comic books published by Jack T. Chick.

Chick, whose firm is based in Chino, Calif., has drawn fire from the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights for a comic book entitled "Alberto." The comic purports to tell the true story of Alberto Rivera, described as a Jesuit priest who was ordained in Spain and assigned to infiltrate and destroy Protestant churches.

The league has asked the California Attorney General to investigate Chick on the basis that he has been involved in "a program of deceptive advertising" by promoting the comic as factual when he has failed to document the allegations.

Our Sunday Visitor found other anti-Catholic allegations in some other comics published by Chick.

In an article in the newspaper's March 1 issue, Richard McMunn, executive editor, wrote that "the sad thing is that Chick's lies are so hard to refuse. They are so huge and monstrous that Catholics can only respond that the charges are purely and simply false."

In an effort to "place the burden of proof where it belongs," OSV is offering \$10,000 to anyone who can prove any of 14 charges about Catholics made in Chick's publications.

The newspaper will have the evidence evaluated by a jury of three people: one selected by OSV, a second selected by the claimant, and the third to be agreed on by both parties.

The charges include allegations that the pope interferes in American politics, Catholics worship images and statues, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln was a Catholic plot, and the OSV is the American publishing arm of the Holy Office.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Knowledge But No Experience

Dear Father Hohman,

I read with interest your answer to "Being Saved," (Courier-Journal, 1/28/81). I read it again and again, and I detect a note of sadness. Apparently you have knowledge of salvation but no real experience of salvation.

Being saved is being "born again." "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3) When one is "born again," he begins to live a new life — eternal life. At once our sins are forgiven; our guilt is gone. We are at peace with God; we have new goals and attitudes. And at death we enter a still higher life of joy. Eternal living is true living — forever!

Tell people that it is not enough to belong to the church, but (1) "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3) (2) "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved and thy house." (Acts 16:31) (3) "As many as received Him, to them have the power to become the sons (children) of God." (John 1:12) (4) "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) (5) "These are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:31)

Scriptures are our only authoritative guide. Use them.

Saved by His grace,
(Signed) FWM

Dear FWM,

I read with interest your detection of a note of sadness in my writing. I can assure you I am not sad but rather am filled with joy. It seems strange that you should come to the conclusion that I have no real experience of salvation. Is there implicit a desire on your part to be different and to have experienced something that other people haven't?

The paragraph in which you describe being born again I agree with wholeheartedly; and I can hardly deny the scriptural quotations you give.

However, I for one do not believe that scriptures are our only authoritative guide. Tradition must necessarily be an authoritative guide since the New Testament was not entirely written until the end of the first century and not entirely put together until some time after that. Tradition was absolutely necessary in carrying on of the faith.

When you say it is not enough to belong to the Church I believe that is true if belonging to the Church is merely an external action. But if it is real, then it includes belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and it includes receiving Him into our lives.

The only real problem I find with people like yourself is the tendency on your part to need to identify every other person's experience with your own.

Each person has a different route to salvation and you are trying to make it absolutely monolithic. However there is nothing terribly substantive that we disagree on. I think it is our way of saying things and our approaches to the question that differ, and therefore we are both "in Christ."



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