Said the Jesuit cook we must teach our people the church as truly universal. We’ve got to rid them of the tenancy they have to think of the church of Christ only in the Latin or the Roman Catholic forms alone. To think of Christianity as an Occidental reality. A western reality. We must be careful we don’t view other liturgies, other ways of worshiping god, other forms of expressing Christian belief as mere variations of our Latin expression. Which he says we assume is the best. He went on to say that one of the gravest problems facing this kind of activity in the task of reunion is the lack of common vocabulary. Don’t speak the same language. Common categories of religious thought. And he says another need that were going to have to face as we go on toward reunion is that our people shall understand the church as a historically developing reality, not something finished. He said if our educated Catholics are not conscious of the way in which the church existed in former times. And hear this. If they do not see that a fair amount of the externals of the church as we now know her are somewhat accidental. My dear friends, if this Jesuit father had said this 50 years ago, he probably would have been stoned. But he says our people if they do not see that a fair amount of the externals, the trappings of the church as we now know it are somewhat accidental, it will be impossible for them to assess to evaluate the historical problems connected with the ecumenical discussion. What about the viewpoint of Protestants. Not all even in liberal protestant circles are happy over the prospects. For instance, in religion in life, riding on the problem of church union, the Methodist bishop, Bishop Gerald Kennedy said from my own limited experience I’ve found that many people will shout hosanna to the vision but before long they will cry out crucify it when they see what it costs. He said
that’s one of the most unlovely aspects of the ecumenical movements. He calls the ecumenists the ecumaniacs. What are the problems that Bishop Gerald Kennedy points out? He says first of all, problems to decide what is the goal of the ecumenical movement? What are we after? How far are we going to go? You mean all protestant churches in one? Wouldn’t there be some temptations to grasp after power? There is pressure in the world council of churches and in the national council of churches for one organization. Now there are men like Gerald Kennedy bishop Kennedy who are federalists. They want families of churches. Reunited but not a union of all Protestants. He said I dare to offer the opinion that while protestant laymen are through once and for all with the silly competition that once cursed denominational relations, there are a vast number of them who take a dim view of merging our denominations into one organization said bishop Kennedy. Then he points out another problem. Not only what is the goal of the ecumenical movement but what about apostolic succession? you see there are some churches that feel that men are only truly ordained if they are ordained by those who have come all the way down from peter. Ordaining certain ones in the popes and so on and in the Episcopal church the episcopal bishops. Now that means a great deal to apostolic succession not only the Roman Catholic church but to protestant episcopal church. But what about other groups? Are there other groups that are interested in the same thing? Presbyterians? No. Baptist? No. Congregationalists? No. disciples of Christ? No. they’re not interested in apostolic succession. Then a third problem is polity. How to run the church. How to run the church. How is new church, this new church to be organized? Well the folk who are in the forefront of the movement are very vague about this. What about the infallibility of the bishop of Rome? That’s at the very heart of Roman Catholicism. What about eastern orthodoxies liturgies. Rather intricate type and certainly no subject to the manipulation that goes on in other areas and other churches. What about the
episcopate bishops? What about Presbyterian polity. Will the Presbyterian churches want to give up rule by elders? Ruling elders? Teaching elders? What about congregational independence that very near and dear to numbers of churches. Among them of course the independent churches, Baptist churches, the Christian churches or the churches of Christ. What about immersion where there all types of approach to the matter of baptism. Well the Baptists will not give up immersion. Are you going to force this on the Roman Catholic Church which baptizes infants? And what about Christ’s body in the Eucharist? According to Roman Catholic theology, which holds to transubstantiation the moment the priest utters the words of consecration, the bread becomes actually the body of our lord and the cup of wine becomes the blood of our lord. And what about the Lutheran view on the Eucharist where they say the bread remains bread and the wine remains wine, but alongside of it are the body and the blood of our lord Jesus. That’s called consubstantiation. What about the Trinitarian statement in the Nicene Creed about father son and Holy Spirit? Some have been opposed to that in past years. You see monolithic structures contain their own seeds of destruction. It’s fairly clear that bigness said Bishop Kennedy is not an automatic solution of our human problems. He said I would hope that we might recall that unity is of the spirit, and it may exist in the midst of a variety or a multiplicity of church forms. Well we’ve seen something of the scriptural basis friends, for this ecumenical movement. We’re trying to fair it out, trying to be fair. Trying to discuss it from the question of whether it is of god, is it of man or is it of Satan. I would say thus far, scripture is very clear that it is not of god. Because it does not rest fairly and squarely on god revealed truths. So it cannot be of god because it bypasses basic guidelines set down in the word of god. Basic rules of truth that are given to us. Norms of truth, standards of truth. It’s not of god. It is of man. Well-meaning men and some that are not so well meaning. It is of men. Could it be of Satan? It will be in a coming
day. Read revelation chapter 17 and 18. And I believe in the deepest recesses of my heart that
here scripture testimony indicated how this ecumenical movement is going to wind up. Here in
revelation 17 and 18 you have Babylon which meets confusion. The book of revelation uses
names figuratively. Like Jezebel used in the early chapters. Jezebel the queen dead centuries
before. But her spirit, her type of activity carries over into the church in subsequent ages. then we
find in revelation 11 that place that is called spiritually Sodom and Egypt were also their lord, the
lord of the two witnesses was crucified. Means Jerusalem. Jerusalem is used as a name
figuratively. A New Jerusalem. Not the old Jerusalem or earthly Jerusalem, but New Jerusalem.
That comes out of heaven from god hovering over the earth. So you see this book uses names
figuratively. Uses Gog and Magog in revelation 20 because that huge army under Satan comes
against Christ from all four corners of the earth. And the Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38 and 39
are from the north of the holy land alone. So you see names are used figuratively. And the
description for instance in revelation 17:1 to 6. I’m going to read it. That’s true of Rome in their
political aspirations. And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven bowls, and
talked with me, saying unto me, come here; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great
harlot that sitteth upon many waters. I’m reading revelation 17:1 to 6. With whom the kings of
the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with
the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a
woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten
horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and bedecked with gold and
precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of
her fornication. And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The
Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth. And I saw the woman drunk with the blood
of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great wonder. Oh there’s a combination of political and religious power on a widespread scale. And you’ll notice in the 18th chapter. It is permeating and has permeated for centuries into the economic into the financial areas of the world so that in revelation chapter 18 verse 9, and through you have amazing heaping up of merchandise in the world. And the worst thing is at the end of the 13th verse released in 18 we find that this system traffics not only in sheep cattle horse’s chariots slaves but in the souls of men. The roman church has vast assets to make its will effective in negotiations. Some time ago I was in Hamilton Ontario Canada and was speaking on the book of the revelation and one of the attendants at the conference gave me this clipping from the Hamilton spectator. It is from the London express service and this is the title of it. The Vatican states wealth widely spread. Dateline Rome. When the queen of England went to the Vatican and met the pope she wasn’t just visiting a tiny independent state. 108 acres says this article. And meaning this, meaning the spiritual head of many millions of people. When she went there she wasn’t just visiting a tiny independent state and meeting the spiritual head of many millions of people. But she was meeting one of the heads, the head of one of the richest states for its size in the world. The Vatican, with the pope as its head. As its ruler. The pope rules some of the biggest kinds of business. The Vatican pursues that business with immense acumen and resource. The Vatican for instance plays the American stock market. The Vatican invests its funds in many centers all over the western world. It owns huge industrial enterprises in Italy. And its wealth is conservatively estimated into the billions of dollars. of course the main basis for that sizable sum was a financial settlement that was arrived at in 1929 when the pope at that time Pius XI negotiated with Mussolini an agreement called the Lateran treaty that ended a spute that had existed between the Italian government and the holy sea ever since 1870. By that
agreement alone, the Vatican received a lump sum. Some 21 million dollars. Through the years, that original steak has been increased through perfectly legitimate orthodox business methods. Regularly and methodically it has increased. Now today look at the holdings. If you think revelation 18 is overdrawn, watch it. Because using this wealth for power. We’re talking about this power that keeps pushing for church unity. The Vatican owns today a series of important famous banks. Including the bank of Rome. And amazingly enough they have a bank there. Banco di Santo spirito. We’ve seen the signs ourselves as we visited Rome. That’s the bank of the Holy Spirit. Banco di Santo spirito. And then there’s the credito entrada de lacio. they have a controlling interest the Vatican does in Italy’s biggest gas light water telephone public transport services, real estate concerns, hotel chains, insurance companies, a huge concern through which the Vatican makes deals and real estate’s railways cement. They have voluminous interest in countries like Great Britain, Switzerland, the United States. Their telephone company, one of Italy’s biggest, the Vatican owns. TETI like our AT&T they have TETI. And in the general imobiliare the church has the largest real estate company in the whole country. Now the Vatican’s great international bank is called charmingly enough says this article, the institute for religious good works. Istituto opere religiose. And so well does it operate that probably the next time you go to Rome you’ll find your travelers checks clear through the Vatican concern. It’s renown for giving you the most advantageous exchange rates for your money. Now the men who run this formidable financial empire on behalf of the pope have many advantages would make them the envy of any of their rivals or competitors in any other country. First of all, they have no taxes to worry about. Secondly, no balance sheet has ever been produced. You can find out how all Presbyterians of whatever shade of whatever name Presbyterians gave last year you can find out how much the Methodists gave the Lutherans the Episcopalians the Baptists the
Christian church. You can find that out, but no one has yet seen a balance sheet from the Roman Catholic Church. In addition to being able to pursue their task without worrying about taxes, with their special administration they can operate all over the world outside of the iron curtain. They use the Vatican’s diplomatic privileges, they have a vast readymade army of agents everywhere in the shape of cardinals, bishops, catholic laymen. They have an information network that even the house of rechab couldn’t have matched in its pioneering. In its aggressive early days. Now is the Vatican wise to retain its asked the secrecy concerning its money? That just encourages people to gossip and to start whispering campaigns about the amazing expenditure of money in high places. On the waste and the lush living. No reasonable person could doubt that the Vatican’s expenses are enormous. And this article goes on with a rather humorous conclusion. There’s one rather modern touch in Saint Peters which may not be widely known said this writer. This morning I was taken inside saint peters and into the bar. Yes there is a bar in Saint Peters church. Everything there too from gin to scotch. And even including something that they call Australian rum, said the writer. I gave it a miss or I passed it by.

Friends. Is there genuine, is there genuine concern for a real unity? Well notice spite of all the concessions that many people have been made in Vatican council 2. In the closing address of Pope Paul VI at the third session, the last session of the Vatican council 2. He said, and please notice it. I am quoting. Nothing is really changed in the doctrine of the church. What the church taught for centuries, we teach also. I’m going to repeat that. It’s in the closing address of pope Paul VI at the third session of Vatican 2. Nothing is really changed in the doctrine of the church. What the church taught for centuries, we teach also. You can find these things in your look magazine for July 21st 1959. Oh my friends, coupled with a cry for a unified world government comes now the demand for a unified world religion. And exactly as foretold by the word of the
living god. Friends, ours are momentous times. God alone is sufficient for these things. Unless you and I who know the truth of god can indicate to folk that this movement is not of god, that it is now of men and will yet be of Satan. How are they going to evaluate, for instance, let’s just get very very practical. How are they going to evaluate an article like this that I have in my hands here. What chance Christian unity in look magazine I mentioned pope johns call for a counsel and saw it. How are they going to view that? How are they going to view a statement for instance like this? A clipping from the newspaper? A new kind of church emerging, US news and world report. Fordham University, a catholic school and a protestant run union theological seminary have agreed to exchange teachers. In Texas a catholic church has joined the state wide council of churches. In New York, the synagogue counsel recently installed new offices with the participation of representatives from the national catholic welfare conference and the national council of churches. A catholic priest took charge of the regular service of the monteith Presbyterian Church in Detroit. What a grouping of catholic Jewish and protestants. Void of all convictions in the matter. So we have these coming off the press. Again Catholics told to avoid certain joint services for the present. And again and again the newspapers have been full of items. Here’s another one from the Los Angeles times. Modified Catholicism called a future religion. Think of that. Here’s a cleric who predicts the death of all great faiths before the roman doctrine reemerges. So you see were not so far afield in what were not at all afield in our interpretation of the book of the revelation the 17th and 18th chapters. Now let’s get even more practical for the moment with these things in view. You say well what should we do? What is the line of activity that god would have us pursue as bible believers. Should I write to my senators? Shall I write to my legislators, state and national? In fact in my own capital in my state or in Washington DC, no. Shall I alert my minister to these things? Perhaps he is better
acquainted with them than you are. Shall I alert others? First of all friends, I would make sure that I was in the household of faith myself. Trusting Christ as savior as redeemers. Do you know you’re saved? That’s the important thing. Then take the word of god for yourself. Re read these passages like john 17 and Ephesians 4. Read revelation 17 and 18. Read the portions on what god wants in the body of Christ. How it’s to conduct itself. How it’s to be inaugurated. How it is to safeguard doctrine. What it’s to do here on earth. What its goal is. All these things. Watch carefully. Check that out in your bible. And then pray that the lord will give you stability. And where the occasion arises and where others may come in don’t make a fetish out of it. Don’t go around preaching this alone. Share Christ first of all, and if others are ensnared or ask to indicate to them that according to your understanding of the word, this will not suffice. And if some would make this their refuge, just get into the big church. And that’s all I need. Tell them the only safe refuge and harbor for the soul is in Christ. His word must lodge deeply consolingly in both heart and life. Of all concern not only in the pulpit but in the pew. Test everything by god’s word. We’re living in a day where scripture language is being used, yes. But how is it being used? Is it used in its proper and common sense meaning? Or is it being made to mean everything but what the bible meant. For instance, look at the way they’re using the word love. Scripture says god is love. But certainly the vile proliferation, the vile spread of lust in the world today that calls itself love is not the scripture of love. Takes more than calling it that for it to be that which god says is true love. Greater love hath no man than this that a man lays down his life for his friend. Here in his love, not that we loved god but that god loved us and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. Oh test everything by god’s word. The apostle john warned us that in the last times there would be so many many of these things coming to pass. That in the last times there would be those who would be in the business of leading us astray. And so in first
john 4, we read beloved believe not every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of god. Because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Well you say I haven’t had a theological training, how am I going to know how to test them? Very briefly. Very clearly. You can do it if you know how Christ. verse 2 of verse john 4 by this know ye the spirit of god every spirit that confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh of god and every spirit that confess if not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of god. This is that spirit of antichrist to which you’ve heard that it should come even now already is it in the world? What kind of a world church can it be friends if they talk about having dialogue with Buddhists and with atheists. With unbelievers. Oh friend test all by god’s word. We’re living in a day of spiritual religious hash. Everything goes, it’s a pulperie. Every man doing that which is right in his own eyes and god will not own this. He says test everything by my word. Hold fast to that which is good. Prove all things, test them. Don’t allow folk to make merchandise of you. Don’t be tossed about. That very warning that we read before where he talks about unity. The apostle Paul knew that some would want to sell out many many important things for the sake of unity. So he says don’t be like children tossed to and fro. Don’t let them kick you around as a football and don’t you be tossed to and fro as on this wave of enthusiasm and that wave of enthusiasm and this wave of doctrine. And that wind of belief carried about with every wind of doctrine by the cunning, by the hocus pocus of men. By the sleight S L E I G H T, not slight. By the craftiness of men. Cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive. Test everything only in this area. And this area alone can lie the wonderful wonderful security and safety and assurance that you and I need in these so desperately needy days. Confusion is the hallmark of our day. And when folks say you couldn’t possibly be against a movement like this. After all it’s religious. But don’t ever forget it. The devil is as religious a creature as any in the world. But he doesn’t have the religion of god.
He doesn’t have the faith that gives glory to god. No. the ecumenical movement is not of god, it’s of men. And were yet to be seen as dominated. It’s going to be taken over in prophetic times, in the last days. It’s going to be taken over mind you, by Satan himself. He’s going to make this ecumenical confused babylonie system. He’s going to make that his handmade just as the church, thank god, is the handmade and right of Christ. He will present the church, the lord Jesus will. He will present it, a glorious bride. A glorious church he presented unto himself. Not having any spot or wrinkle or any such things. Again I plead with you, be sure that you’re resting in the refuge for your soul in Christ. Be sure that you’re allowing the word of god to have its ample place, allowing it to lodge deeply, controllingly in your heart and life. Test everything by god’s word. Don’t be worried about whether the right reverend so and so one or another holds this. Check it out with the word of god. Only there will [inaudible] god this is my earnest prayer. May god preserve you from being entangled, ensnared in this system which is having such a wide acceptance today, but which is not of god. Which cannot be conducive in the ultimate to the glory of god. Our father in heaven how we thank thee that thou hast foreseen these things centuries ahead and thou hast given us ample warning. Lord may we hear may we head to our eternal good, to our profit, to our usefulness, to our greater and increased usefulness as we seek to snatch others who may be ensnared. And may be [inaudible] they may be on the way. There even now beginning to doubt some of the basic truths of the word. Saying they don’t matter really. They ought to get together at any price. Forbid that, our father. May we hold the truth of our word dear. May Christ be magnified. Keep us from these things. Not by our wisdom but by thy mighty power and grace we pray in Jesus blessed name, amen.