

“There is no one who does not sin” (1 Kg 8:46)

✠ Lecture V: The Alleged Papal Infallibility ✠

The Roman Church teaches that the Pope of Roman is Infallible at least in the issues pertaining to the doctrine and dogmas of the Church. This teaching has no biblical foundation but in fact contradicts Holy Scriptures. In what follows, we shall, by the grace of God, mention the holy verses that contradict this false teaching:

- “What is man, that he could be pure? And he who is born of a woman, that he could be righteous? If God puts no trust in His saints, and the heavens are not pure in His sight, how much less man who is abominable and filthy, who drinks iniquity like water!” (**Job 15:14-16**)
- “Who can say, ‘I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin’?” (**Prov 20:9**)
- “There is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin.” (**Eccl 7:20**)
- “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (**1 Jn 1:8**)
- “We all stumble in many things” (**James 3:2**)

→ The following verses are significant because they mention the faults of St. Peter and even though we have concluded that the Pope of Rome is the successor of St. Paul, the Roman church does not believe so and insists that their “infallible” Pope is the successor of St. Peter.

St. Paul said, “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, **because he was to be blamed**, for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also **played the hypocrite with him** [St. Peter], so that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that **they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel**, I said to Peter before them all, ‘If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?’” (**Gal 2:11-14**)

→ St. Paul said that St. Peter was to be blamed, was playing the hypocrite, was not straightforward about the truth of the gospel.

→ Now, if St. Peter the great apostle were far from being infallible, would the Pope of Rome be considered infallible?

→ **No one is Infallible except God.**

* This lecture is adapted from ‘*The Orthodox Rock*’ by Archdeacon Habib Guirgess.