

of history or the facts of God's creation. What -- We believe that there was a very wonderful Christian k light in the great mass of the Christian church for many centuries. Then abuses began to come in. These abuses particularly resulted from a wrong idea of God.

From the idea that God was keeping a balance sheet, from the idea that God would weight what you did and put the good here and the bad here and the results would be weighed from it. I don't believe there were many Christian writers who actually admitted in their writings that was what they believed. That has never been the stated belief of the Roman Catholic Church. The RC church has said that through the death of Christ anyone who is baptized has all the guilt of his sins washed away. Just as we hold (?) But they go on to say that after baptism, sins that are committed have to be punished. Now we believe that sins past, present, and future are forgiven through Christ when we believe in Him. We do not believe that God carries a balance sheet in which we have to offset what we do that is bad, by what we do that is good, or by merits of * other human beings. We believe that Christ paid it all. So we believe that our faith is in the grace of God and that alone. It is through God's grace that we are saved.

But the idea gradually developed that human nature isn't so bad after all. Scripture teaches that man is lost in sin and that it is only through the grace of Christ we are saved, but the idea which was called Pelagianism in the 5th century A.D. taught that after all man needs God's grace but man can by his own efforts reach God's standards. To this the Bible clearly says, No. That man is lost in sin, and it's only through God's grace we can be saved.

Then the idea of the balance sheet developed. We must watch