

## William Tyndale

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**William Tyndale** (1490-1536) was an English scholar. He was the first to translate the Bible from the original languages into English. For this crime, his Bibles were collected and burned, and Tyndale himself was betrayed and then burned at the stake at the instigation of the Roman Catholic Church.

In the following quote, Tyndale wrote against the Catholic theologian, Thomas More, in condemning Roman Catholicism and defending his translation of the Bible. In this section, he was arguing that the Catholic teaching on purgatory and prayers to the saints were based on the pagan concept of the “immortality of the soul.”

*“The true Faith putteth [forth] the Resurrection, which we be warned to look for every hour. The heathen philosophers, denying that, did put [forth] that the souls did ever live. And the pope joineth the spiritual doctrine of Christ and the fleshly doctrine of philosophers together; things so contrary that they cannot agree, no more than the spirit and the flesh do in a Christian man. And because the fleshly-minded pope consenteth unto heathen doctrine, therefore he corrupteth the Scripture to stablish it.”*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> An Answer to Sir Thomas More’s Dialogue, p. 180