



Proclaiming the Gospel

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." - Romans 1:16

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Editor - Evangelist Mike Gendron

*"You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image...nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God."
(Lev. 26:1)*

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God's Clear Commands Against Idolatry Are Ignored

Many Roman Catholic traditions find their origin in paganism, but none as obvious as the use of statues, icons, relics, and images in worship. Historians report that statues of the Egyptian goddess Isis, with her child Horus, were re-named Mary and Jesus by pagan Rome. Today, shrines of the *Black Madonna and Child* are the holiest shrines in Catholic Europe. It should not surprise us that some of the titles and honor given to Mary by the Vatican such as: "Our Lady", "Eternal Virgin" and "Madonna", were the same titles attributed to Isis. Whether the idolatry is pagan or religious, the principle is the same. The worship and honor that is due to God alone is turned away from Him, and given to that which is not God.

On a missionary trip to Mexico several years ago, I went into the Cathedral of Acapulco to share the Gospel with Catholics. The idolatry I witnessed there was so nauseating that it has grieved me to this day. In a transparent glass coffin there was a statue of Jesus lying face up with wads of pesos in his hands. In front of the coffin was an offering box with the words in Spanish: "For the holy burial of Jesus." I wept as I watched poor Mexican peasants kneel down and offer what little money they had so that Jesus could be buried (again).

The first two commandments of God clearly forbid two things: 1) creating and worshipping an image of the true God and 2) worshipping anyone other than God ([Exodus 20:1-5](#)). In other words, our worship must be directed only to the true God and not through any object. Thus to worship, venerate, kiss, adore, lift up, pray to, speak to, or make religious use of man-made images of God and

saints is a sin of the most serious kind. God could not have made this any clearer when He commanded: "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God" ([Exodus 20:4-5](#)). Yet the Roman Catholic Church has laid aside this commandment of God, teaching instead the traditions of men ([Mark 7:8](#)). This is a most deliberate and willful defiance of God's holy law. The one who refuses to listen to the law must know this: "Even his prayer is an abomination" ([Proverbs 28:9](#)). God has made it clear that those who continue in the sin of idolatry will not inherit His kingdom. ([1 Cor. 6:9-10](#)). "Their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" ([Rev. 21:8](#)).

Almighty God is never to be worshipped using man-made images because it is impossible for images to capture or display His divine attributes. How could man ever create an image that displays God's transcendence, holiness, majesty, eternality, sovereignty and His glory which fills the earth? To portray God in the form of an idol crafted by man reduces the Creator to the substance of creation. No wonder the infinitely glorious, all-powerful and omnipresent God of heaven and earth, hates being approached by worshippers who distort His character with flawed images crafted by mortal men.

True and False Worship

Jesus said, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" ([John 4:24](#)). One does not have to formally deny the Triune God in order to be an

(see Idolatry on page 2)

(**Idolatry** from page 1)

idolater. Reverence for the God of the Bible and the ungodly sin of idolatry are common place. The Israelites never renounced God when they fashioned a golden calf. Instead they said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt." Afterwards Aaron built an altar in front of the idol and proclaimed: "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord" ([Exodus 32:4, 5](#)). The Lord, who is a consuming fire and a jealous God, did not let this wicked sin of idolatry go unpunished. He ordered those who helped create this god of gold, and who did not repent, be put to death ([Exodus 32:26-28](#)). About three thousand idolaters were slain.

Lessons From History

You would think the Roman Catholic Church would learn from biblical history and flee from idolatry, but instead Rome creates a god of flour and water to be worshipped as the resurrected and glorified Son of God. It is idolatry to call what man's hands have made "God", and then worship it as deity. Like the Israelites, Catholics also build altars to celebrate (Eucharistic) feasts to the Lord. Can Catholics not see that there is little difference between worshipping a golden calf as the true God and worshipping the Eucharist as the Son of God? Both religions appear to have had the same objectives in creating their idols. It is the desire to give worshippers a sense of the physical presence of God in order to make use of His power and blessings. Both religions are guilty of the sin of idolatry which will bring down the most severe judgments of God.

The Cause of Idolatry

The cause of all idolatry is the corruption of man's heart and his need for some kind of a religion. The evidence of this is seen in the many false views of God and false ways of worship throughout the world. Ignorance of God, including a diminished understanding of His attributes and commands, characterize the religion of natural man. Man is eager to bring God down to his level, which leads him to create an image of God he can see, feel, and touch. Man desires to worship in the flesh with all of his senses instead of with a humble and contrite spirit ([Isaiah 66:2](#)).

Unbelievers Must See to Believe

Unbelievers, who are blinded by their religion, say you must see to believe. Their eyes cannot see the glory of Christ because they are blinded by the prince of this world ([2 Cor.](#)

[4:4](#)). The unbelieving Jews, not seeing Jesus's glory, mocked Him with: "Let this Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may *see and believe!*" ([Mark 15:32](#)). Earlier Jesus had told them: "Unless you people *see signs and wonders*, you simply will not believe" ([John 4:48](#)).

Roman Catholic leaders also say you must see to believe. They teach Catholics to have faith in visible things for the appropriation of spiritual power and blessings. Catholics *see* and worship their god in the Eucharist *believing* it has the power to wipe away their sins ([Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1394](#)). They *see* and eat the Eucharist *believing* they have consumed the physical body and blood of Jesus ([CCC, 1377](#)). They *see* and confess to their priest *believing* he has the power to forgive sins ([CCC, 1461](#)). They *see* and bow down to statues *believing* the saints, who are represented, will intercede for them ([CCC, 2683](#)). They *see* and feel rosary beads *believing* their repetitious prayers to Mary will remit punishment for sin ([CCC, 1471](#)). These are just a few examples of how "seeing signs and wonders" is an undeniable part of the Catholic faith. Rather than worshipping by faith in things not seen, Catholics worship what they can see. They defend their practice by saying they are not worshipping Mary and the saints when they bow down and pray to them, they are merely venerating them. But according to Webster's Dictionary, [veneration](#) is a form of [worship](#) and [reverence](#). This practice, along with prayer, is reserved for God alone.

God's Elect Must Believe to See

The Lord said you must first believe before you can see the glory of God ([John 11:40](#)). Genuine faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen ([Heb. 11:1](#)). Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" ([John 20:29](#)). So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal ([2 Cor. 4:18](#)). Faith does not come from things that are seen (the Eucharist) but from things that are not seen (the Lord Jesus at the right hand of God). Born-again Christians walk by faith not by sight ([2 Cor. 5:7](#)). This faith comes, not from seeing something, but from hearing the word of God ([Rom. 10:17](#)). The natural man cannot see because there is a veil that covers his heart and will remain until he turns to the Lord Jesus in faith ([2 Cor. 3:16](#)) When God removes the veil he

(See [Idolatry](#) on page 8)

The Ministry of Proclaiming the Gospel

OUR PURPOSE

The ministry was established in 1991 and is incorporated in the State of Texas as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation for the purposes of: 1) glorifying, honoring and serving the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming His Gospel of man's redemption with clarity, conviction and consistency; 2) providing evangelistic training and resources with an emphasis on biblical integrity; 3) exposing any doctrines that oppose or nullify the Gospel of grace so that people can discern truth from error, avoid deception and come to a knowledge of truth; 4) contending earnestly for the faith against the agents of compromise who suppress doctrinal truth for the sake of ecumenical unity; 5) encouraging and supporting former Roman Catholics who may be feeling a sense of guilt, ostracism or persecution from their family or friends for leaving the Catholic religion and culture.

OUR METHOD

In a spirit of love and humility, we teach evangelistic seminars, conferences and workshops to train and encourage Christians to be effective witnesses to Roman Catholics and others who may be lost in their religion. We also offer resources designed to teach, equip and encourage others to labor in this huge mission field.

OUR NEWSLETTER

Proclaiming the Gospel's bi-monthly newsletter is designed to extend the purposes of the ministry throughout the world. The editor is [Evangelist Mike Gendron](#), a graduate of [Dallas Theological Seminary](#) and a former Roman Catholic of over 34 years.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, satisfied the righteous justice of God by paying the complete penalty for sin when He died as man's substitute on Calvary's cross. Any person who repents and receives Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior by grace through faith in His life, death and resurrection, ceasing to trust in anything else for salvation, becomes a child of God and receives the gift of eternal life, which can never be revoked.

OUR PROVISION

Everything we do is made possible through the prayers and financial support of those who share our burden for the lost. We recognize the sacrifices God's people make to sustain our work and pledge to use these resources effectively and efficiently. Donations (except for products) are tax deductible.

Where Is Jesus?

Keith Fournier, who is Dean of Evangelization at the Catholic Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio provides this report about his visit to EWTN. "Last year I spent a week at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Alabama, home of Mother Angelica's Eternal Word Television Network. Early one morning, a voice over the loudspeaker announced: 'Mother asks everyone to leave the chapel immediately.' Outside, Mother Angelica explained that a possible gas leak had been discovered in the building. As Mother talked she kept looking toward the chapel, finally inquiring, 'Where is Jesus? Where is Jesus?' Soon two sisters emerged from the chapel smiling, one carrying the Blessed Sacrament. 'We've got him, Mother!' she cried. 'Don't worry!'" (*Keith Fournier, New Evangelization 2000, Issue 8, page 7*)

Broadcast Our Newsletter

Send us your e-mail address if you would like to receive our bi-monthly newsletter via e-mail. This will enable you to broadcast it to your church leaders and friends. Our e-mail address is ptg@pro-gospel.org.

Heaven's Gift

When far from God and lost in sin,
I took God's book and looked within.
I found a gift from heaven's throne,
a righteousness from God made known

That gift Christ won at dreadful cost;
Propitiation for the lost.
My substitute, condemned he died
and turned God's wrath from me aside.

Now in Christ's righteousness alone,
I stand before God's awesome throne
and grasp what only God could do:
be just and justifier too.

Christ paid the price to set me free,
His blood poured out on Calvary's tree.
Now nothing as my own I'll call,
for all is Christ's and Christ my all.

All merit boasting set aside,
by faith alone I'm justified.
Before the throne I take my place
and rest in God's amazing grace.

by [James Montgomery Boice](#)

Bloodless Sacrifices

Cain and Abel both offered genuine sacrifices to God, but God rejected Cain's bloodless sacrifice ([Gen. 4:3-5](#)). For what reason did God reject Cain's bloodless sacrifice? Because "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" ([Heb. 9:22](#)). So what does Cain's sacrifice have in common with the Roman Catholic sacrifice of the Mass? It too is a bloodless sacrifice. Roman Catholics approach God the same way Cain did, with the unbloody sacrifice of the Eucharist. According to [paragraph 1367 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church](#): "The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice: The victim is one and the same... [in] this divine sacrifice which is celebrated in the Mass, the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross is contained and is offered in an *unbloody manner*. . . this sacrifice is truly *propitiatory*" (emphasis mine). How foolish to believe that God can be propitiated without blood. "Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain" ([Jude 11](#)).

God displayed Jesus publicly on the cross as a *propitiation in His blood* through faith... that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus ([Rom. 3:25-26](#)).

Mike's Travel Schedule

- Oct. 24 [Taylor Creek Church](#)
Maple Valley, WA (425) 432-0634
- Oct. 27 [Calvary Chapel South](#)
Kent, WA (253) 852-7030
- Oct. 30 [Steeling the Mind Bible Conf.](#)
Coeur d'Alene, ID (800) 977-2177
- Nov. 3 & 10 [McKinney Fellowship Bible](#)
McKinney, TX (972) 547-7029
- Nov. 13-14 [Providence Church](#)
Duluth, GA (770) 497-1309
- Nov. 15-16 [Faith Bible Church](#)
Sharpsburg, GA 770-631-9283
- Nov. 20 The Hearthstone Manor - Depew
Equipping the Saints Seminar
Buffalo, NY (716) 674-8458
- Dec. 6-8 Pre-Trib Rapture Study Conf.
Dallas, TX (972) 495-0485
- Jan. 9 [Grace Community Church](#)
Jacksonville, FL (904) 268-8854

To schedule Mike Gendron to speak at your church or event, contact him at:
phone: (972) 495-0485
e-mail: ptg@pro-gospel.org

Quick Quotes

"Grace is a provision for men who are so fallen that they cannot lift the axe of justice, so corrupt that they cannot change their own natures, so averse to God that they cannot turn to Him, so blind that they cannot see Him, so deaf that they cannot hear Him, so dead that He Himself must lift them into resurrection."

[G.S. Bishop](#)

"If you were to pick two denominations who represent the extremes of the Christian spectrum, they would be Baptists and Catholics, but we're all part of the body of Christ. Catholics are our brothers and sisters in Christ and we want to project to our community that we are one."

Pastor Bob Bender, First Baptist Church, Black Forest, Colorado

"Only when the priest is there can we have our altar and our tabernacle and our Jesus. Only the priest can put Jesus there for us. This is why I love priests so much. We could never be what we are and do the things we do without priests who bring Jesus to us."

Mother Teresa, *Be Holy: God's First Call to Priests Today*, pp. 109, 111).

Catholic Churches Now Purpose Driven

Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Church Seminars* are now being hosted by Roman Catholic Churches. His marketing message on the seminar's logo reads: *"Implementing the Purpose Driven Church - Growth Without Compromising your Message or Mission."* Since we know the Roman Catholic Church can not, and never will, compromise its infallibly pronounced gospel of works and sacraments, we must wonder if the "Purpose Driven Seminar" gospel is indeed the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It should not surprise us that Roman Catholic Churches are participating in Rick Warren's seminars. He often quotes Roman Catholic leaders such as: Mother Teresa, Brennan Manning (Roman Catholic priest), Brother Lawrence (Carmelite monk), John Main (Benedictine monk), John of the Cross, and Henri Nouwen. Warren never warns his readers that these people promote a false gospel and worship a false Christ. Page 3

Seeking His Truth

Letters to the Editor



God blessed you with nerves of superior strength. Most of us could not deal with the hardships you experience as you seek to lead others to Christ. I thought of you when I read a commentary on [2 Tim. 4:1-5](#). Patience, courage, constancy and endurance are required in the face of opposition, hostility and indifference from many to whom the truth has been preached. George J. sent you one of the most vicious, offensive letters which distorts the truth ([Vol. 13, No. 4](#)). Obviously his knowledge of God's Word (not to mention history) is minimal and he doesn't want a response from you because he, like so many Catholics, are brainwashed and blinded from the truth. They won't listen, the Catholic Church is the church of popes who claim to be vicars of Christ. The church of our Lord consists of all born-again believers who may be found wherever the Word of God is proclaimed. The popes are clothed in gold and expensive silks. Jesus lived in poverty and renounced possessions. George said God is outraged at you. Why? For preaching His Word so Catholics will learn the truth? He said your tactics are similar to terrorists? What about the tactics of his Roman Catholic Church with all its murders, massacres, torture, tyranny, fraud, seduction and sex crimes, etc?

J.C., Pineville, PA

I gave [Preparing Catholics for Eternity](#) to my Catholic sister-in-law to read. I really feel like I should try to point out the truth to all my in-laws; not just wait for them to ask us. Other people say that we should wait to see if God is working in their hearts. I am a little confused about which is the correct way.

S. M., High Point, NC

*Some people use the "wait until they ask" as an excuse to justify their disobedience to the great commission. A good model for witnessing is the great evangelist of the first century, the Apostle Paul. He did not wait for people to ask him; he delivered the **good news of Jesus Christ** as he went from place to place. Unbelievers must know what they need to be saved from before they will ever*

ask how to be saved. Doctors do not give a cure before they first provide the true diagnosis. In the same way, we must give unbelievers the true diagnosis of the sin disease that they inherited from Adam. We must tell them this disease causes an eternity of suffering and has no human cure (i.e., good works, sacraments, indulgences, etc.). As we prove this to them from Scripture and as the Spirit brings conviction, they will realize their helpless and hopeless situation and ask questions. Then you can point them to their only hope, the divine cure for sin, the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Only when sinners are convinced of the disease will they appreciate the cure.

I am hugely grateful for your website. My wife has also read through the testimonies and now has a clearer understanding of the effects of my catholic upbringing. I feel a kindred attachment among the members.

D. F., Eagan, MN

Time and time again, people who read Scripture and claim it as their sole authority use it to tear down others, their faith and their Church. That is the very reason Christ only established one Church, and gave all authority to that Church. That authority was not given to you. Their shall be but one shepherd and one fold, and there was only one fold right up until the Reformation. How sad that you and others cannot see it.

D., Internet

Is it really "tearing down" someone to warn them that they are going the wrong way, following the wrong authority and racing towards an eternity of suffering and torment? Who told you that Jesus gave all authority to the church? He told the apostles not to be like the Gentiles who lord over people by exercising authority over them ([Mat. 20:25](#)). The supreme authority on earth is the Word of God. The "true" church founded by Jesus Christ submits to Scripture, not the teachings and traditions of men. Both Paul and Jesus wrote seven letters to seven churches. These fourteen letters, along with the other epistles and gospels, give commands and exhortations for

the church to obey along with rebukes and reproofs for the church to correct doctrine and practice. I have never declared any authority of my own. Instead, I submit to Scripture as my objective authority for discernment ([Mat. 22:29](#)). There has always been, and always will be only one fold for the Good Shepherd. All His sheep will follow Him into this fold when they hear His voice as His word is proclaimed ([John 10:16](#)). In fact, everyone who is of the truth hears His voice ([John 18:37](#)). Once His sheep are in the fold, the Shepherd will protect them and keep them from straying into apostasy ([Jude 24](#)).

Your article on [Seeking ex-Catholics \(Vol. 5, No. 1\)](#), was like an answer from God. I had a deep burning in my heart for my Catholic family and friends, but I never knew how to approach them. To be honest, I felt ill equipped to approach them. Through all the articles on your site I have learned how to become a witness to these lost and spiritually blind people. I am now on a mission; there are many priests and nuns in my family, and they hold all the power (if you know what I mean). Only by divine intervention will these people have their eyes opened to the truth. Please pray that God will always give me an answer to give to them. I witnessed to my father on his death bed. Only God knows where he is now.

J. M., Edmunton, Alberta

Thank you for putting yourself on the line of insults by blind Catholics, who don't know how terribly they are being deceived. Thank you for loving them and for your obedience as you follow Jesus Christ. Also for your example in always pointing to the truth of the Holy Scripture, which is the only true light in our darkened world.

L.S. Bishop, CA

Keep up the great work Mike! Your newsletter is a real encouragement with such clear, solid, biblically-based writing and reasoning! I especially enjoyed your [last article](#) on the responsibility and privilege of all Christians to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to the unsaved. After reading the article I was, once again, motivated to share the Gospel with my unsaved Catholic sister. Your article also motivated me to write a long letter to my Catholic father with a clear presentation of the Gospel.

F. M., Palm Harbor, FL

What basis do you have for claiming the

Catholic Church is wrong? Basically all you do is write insults to show Catholics how they should turn to your faith. What did they do to you that made you so mad? We are devout servants of God and stand up against evil. I just want to make sure you know that Catholic priests and our leaders are truly Holy. They stand for what is truly important, not for the specifics of religion but for the good of man. The people you are insulting truly deserve heaven, not you.
Jason, Internet

The basis for claiming the RCC is wrong about the Gospel is God's Holy Word, our final court of appeals for discerning truth from error (2 Tim. 3:16). You are right that I do not deserve heaven, but wrong that Catholic priests are holy, do you not believe the pedophile scandal that has rocked the church? Yes, I deserve to suffer God's eternal wrath for sinning against Him, but He demonstrated His love by sending His Son, as a substitute, to suffer and die in my place. He also opened my eyes to see this glorious truth and gave me the gifts of faith, His Son's righteousness, His Holy Spirit and eternal life. I pray you will trust the only Holy Priest who will never forsake you or abuse you (Heb. 7:25-27).

I'm one of 20 ex-nuns who wrote her testimony in the book, *The Truth Set Us Free*. Recently I was videotaped about convent life and the camera man provided me with some of your video tapes which have been such a blessing! You are so gentle in your presentation, and yet so strong in your message. Your messages, whether they are written or taped, are always supported with frequent reference to God's Word. Even when you are outspoken, controversial and intolerant of hypocrisy, you are gracious to your readers and listeners. That is why people listen to you. You speak the truth in love! Truly you have set a good example for me. I am sometimes impatient with my Catholic family and friends who put man-made tradition above God's Word. Please keep me on your mailing list forever.
M. A. P., Chisholm, MN

When I read those scathing replies people write to you because of the inability of the natural man to comprehend God's truth without His Holy Spirit, I have mixed emotions. First I am awed that a person can be so blasphemous. Then I experience the emotion of anger that our Lord, who loves us so much, is treated with such vile disdain. Also you,

the faithful servant who has their good in mind, is treated with such disregard. I have to keep reminding myself, "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." Then I come to the realization I was there once, although it's not my make-up to be that explosive. I encourage you, along with all your supporters to continue to work at this ministry the Lord has given you.
B.D. Syracuse, NY

I used to be a protestant and I too was very anti-Catholic. I used to believe in Salvation by "just" accepting Jesus into my heart as my personal Lord and Savior. But, God put me on a journey to come to know His Truth. I was led by God to "prove" the Church wrong and discovered I was wrong. I suggest you read the writings of the Early Church Fathers, that's how the Truth was revealed to me. You are where I was; convinced that I "knew" all the Truth, and refusing to hear anything that anyone had to say for fear of being deceived by the evil one. My children followed me into the Church and we have more peace now than we ever had as Protestants. You can know the Truth by saying this prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me please! Many claim to have the Truth. I will try to follow You wherever you direct me, just show me where Your Truth is to be found."

Name Withheld by Sender, Internet

I am always amazed when Catholics label me "anti-Catholic." I have dedicated my life to glorifying Jesus Christ through the proclamation of His Gospel to Catholics who are embracing another gospel. Would you call a doctor anti-patient for giving life saving care to someone who is near death? Part of your problem as a protestant was believing salvation comes from "accepting" Jesus into your heart. This is as wrong as believing you are saved by consuming Him into your stomach. Sinners can only be justified by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. I am wondering which early church fathers you would like me to read, the ones approved by your church or the ones whose teachings conformed to the Scriptures. You will find "fathers" on both sides of every issue. I have never been so foolish as to believe I know "all" truth. However, by the grace of God, I do know the Gospel which is according to Scripture and not according to the early church fathers or traditions

of men (1 Cor. 15:1-4). Unlike your experience, I continue to listen and learn from others in order to grow in the knowledge of Christ, but if their teachings do not conform to the Word of Christ, I reject them. The surest way to be deceived by the devil is to trust mediators other than Christ. Those who seek the truth need to look no further than Him for He is the truth, His word is truth and He came to testify to the truth (John 14:6; 17:17; 18:37). That is why your prayer is unnecessary. I know where to find the truth and now, so do you!

I left the RC Church 22 years ago and appreciate your clear exposition of God's word and exposing the contradictions that prevail in Catholic theology. I was bothered by many of their teachings even as a young Catholic. As an adult I began reading the Bible and eventually told the Lord I was sorry for sinning against Him and for living for me instead of Him. He heard my prayer, forgave me and filled me with His peace. I have such wonderful joy now and could never go back to that old way of hoping my efforts were good enough. Those who discredit you don't realize the bondage they're in and the blessings they're missing!
V.W. Washington, IL

I am greatly blessed by your newsletter and videos; thank you so very much! My prayer request is for my dad, a Roman Catholic deacon, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for a possible cure, but most of all, for my dad's salvation.
I.S., Walla Walla, WA

My prayers join yours at the throne of Grace for your dad. Six years ago I was also diagnosed with cancer and was inspired to write an article comparing the disease of sin with the disease of cancer. You may wish to download it from our web site and share it with your dad (Vol. 7, No. 3 from 1998). Please keep me posted on your dad's spiritual and physical condition. As he earnestly investigates a cure for his cancer, may he also investigate the Word of God for the only divine cure for his sin.

Please submit questions or comments to:

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Falling Crucifix Kills Woman

A woman was killed Wednesday when a 7-foot-tall metal crucifix fell on her head in a small town in southern Italy. Maddalena Camillo, 72, was walking in the main square in the village of Sant'Onofrio when the crucifix toppled from a monument being restored for a religious celebration. (AP, 9/22/04)

Pope Encourages Marian Devotion to Encounter God

John Paul II encouraged pastors that increased devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary will lead to an encounter with God. The Pope gave this instruction during the celebration of the coronation of Our Lady Aparecida as queen and patroness of Brazil. The Holy Father emphasized to the bishops, the importance of "assuming with a real pastoral spirit the very ancient Marian devotion of your people." John Paul II encouraged pastors to help the Brazilian faithful to "live their Marian devotion...which will manifest the identity of Catholics, against the danger of secularism and consumerism." The pope said: "This devotion will help to consolidate the bonds of communion [while] addressing the disintegration of the faith, instigated by the proselytism of sects." This Marian devotion in Brazil dates back to 1717, when three fishermen found a broken, 14 inch, terracotta figure of the Virgin of the Conception in their nets. One of the fishermen took the image home and placed it on a small altar. In 1745, a church was built to venerate the Blessed Virgin under the name Our Lady Aparecida. (Zenit, 9/9/04)

More Focus on the Eucharist

Pope John Paul II is going back to the basics with a renewed focus on the Eucharist. He has convened a special eucharistic year that begins in October. Last year he wrote an encyclical extolling the Eucharist as the

source and culmination of the church's life. And more frequently he speaks of the importance of the Eucharist in the life of each Catholic. The Eucharist has a "transforming power" that provides the courage to live the faith and to spread the Gospel, the pope said before leading a eucharistic procession through downtown Rome. The pope is focusing on the Eucharist as the special presence of Jesus Christ among us. But this is a mystery - the idea that Christ has given his own body for us to eat. Controversy was stirred in August when a New Jersey bishop said a local girl's first Communion was invalid because it used a no-gluten wafer made of rice instead of wheat. After reading blogs (internet web journals) full of people slamming the church on this issue, Father Williams said, "There's a lot of ignorance out there, and I think this will be a year of instruction." The world needs Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ comes to us in an exceptional way through the Eucharist. Archbishop Myers said that the more the Eucharist is integrated into parish life "the more fruitful the vocations, the more confessions are heard and the more the life of the church is enriched." In 1978, the Pope said the church "is building itself on the Eucharist and the nation's authorities cannot deny that truth." This is very much in keeping with the pastoral style of this pope, who has dedicated years to Mary and the rosary, among other things. "He just keeps throwing out the net, and every time these things affect a lot of people positively," a priest said. (CNS, 9/10/04)

The Vatican, A Sanctuary for Fugitive Priests

Pope John Paul II summoned U.S. cardinals to the Vatican two years ago, at the height of the church's sex abuse crisis, and made a stirring pronouncement: "People need to know, that there is no place in the priest-

hood and religious life for those who would harm the young." Yet today, one block from the Vatican, a fugitive priest lives in a church building with views of the pope's apartment. Father Joseph Henn has refused instructions to go back to Phoenix and face charges that he molested three boys. Father Barry Bossa, an ex-con and fugitive, has found similar sanctuary after his religious bosses hastily moved him out of the U. S. two years ago after new allegations began to emerge. Here in the heart of Catholicism, church leaders are giving refuge to priests who face allegations of sexual abuse in other countries. Some are stationed in the comfort of their religious orders' world headquarters. A former top administrator at a Catholic college near the Vatican said placing accused and fugitive priests in Rome was very detrimental. "Rome is the center of the church. People see it as a holy place. It is not a place for harboring criminals." (Dallas Morning News, 9/12/04)

Let the Angels Guide You

John Paul II recommended to believers that they allow their lives to be guided by angels. He said: "Experience the presence of the angels next to you and allow yourselves to be guided by them." (Zenit.org, 9/29/04)

TCU Divinity School Adds Catholic Woman Professor

Sister Carolyn Osiek, a past president of the Catholic Biblical Association, was inaugurated as a professor of the New Testament at Texas Christian University's Brite Divinity School. Toni Craven, the seminary's Old Testament professor, and also a Roman Catholic, said Osiek will help the institution become more ecumenical and make it "a hospitable place for Catholics." (Ft. Worth Star Telegram, 9/29/04)

Limbo Revisited

John Paul II asked Catholic theologians to study further a question that has stood for centuries: What is the fate of children who die without baptism? Although it was never defined as a dogma, the existence of limbo was posed as a possibility by some theologians wrestling with the question. Limbo was suggested as an intermediary place between heaven and hell, which spared the innocent who died without baptism from the punishments of hell. The pope asked the theologians: "to offer a theological synthesis that might serve as an aid for a more consistent and enlightened pastoral practice." (Zenit, 10/07/03)

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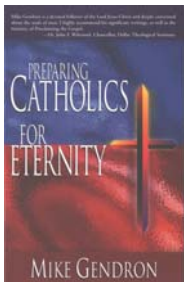
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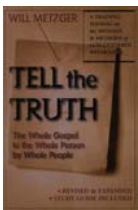
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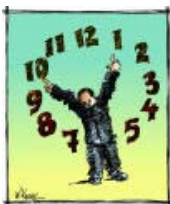


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*"I am the Lord, that is
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give My glory to an-
other, nor My praise
to graven images."
([Isaiah 42:8](#))*



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(**Idolatry** from page 2)

can see Jesus in every book of the Bible.

What does the Lord say about those who make statues and idols? "They are altogether stupid and foolish in their discipline of delusion - their idol is wood! Every man is stupid, devoid of knowledge; Every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols; for his molten images are deceitful, And there is no breath in them. They are worthless, a work of mockery. In the time of their punishment they will perish" ([Jeremiah 10:8,14,15](#)). "All mankind is stupid, devoid of knowledge...his molten images are deceitful, And there is no breath in them. They are worthless, a work of mockery. In the time of their punishment they will perish" ([Jeremiah 51:17-18](#)). "They have no knowledge, [those] who carry about their wooden idol, and pray to a god who cannot save" ([Isaiah 45:20](#)). The Levites, speaking for God in a loud voice, proclaimed: "Cursed is the man who makes an idol or a molten image, an abomination to the Lord" ([Deut. 27:15](#)). People who create and trust idols become like the idol they created, which can not see, speak or hear ([Psalms 135:15-18](#)). They cannot see the glory of God nor hear His Word, nor proclaim His Gospel.

What does the Word of God command? "Do not be idolaters" ([1 Corinthians 10:7](#)). "Flee from idolatry" ([1 Corinthians 10:14](#)). "Keep yourselves from idols" ([1 John 5:21](#)).

I pray Catholics will take these exhortations seriously and not participate in the sins of their church any longer. Even if, by the slimmest of chances, the Vatican were to remove all the objects of their idolatrous worship, it must still eradicate another form of idolatry. The idolatrous practice of making ordained priests mediators between men and God, which gives the priests an honor which the Apostles flatly repudiate. Furthermore, it robs Jesus Christ of His unique office ([1 Tim. 2:5](#)).

Hopefully our subscribers will be moved to share these important truths with Catholics in their circle of influence. You may be their only hope since most Catholics do not read the Scriptures nor do they have faithful ministers to instruct them. May God increase your love for Him and your compassion for those blinded by religious deception. When the Lord Jesus Christ is clearly proclaimed, rightly known, genuinely believed, gloriously exalted and truly loved, He will set captives free from religious bondage!