

*"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

*Jesus said, "I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."  
(John 10:28)*

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## Catholic Apologist Initiates Debate on Eternal Security

**T**he Lord Jesus promises eternal life to those who repent and believe His Gospel of grace. Yet, there are many professing Christians who deny the promises of the Gospel and believe eternal life can be lost. One such person is Tim Staples, the Director of Apologetics at *Catholic Answers* who has challenged me to a debate on the topic, "Once Saved, Always Saved." Staples is one of many former Protestants who have departed from the Christian faith to join the Roman Catholic religion. He was raised Southern Baptist, went to Jimmy Swaggart Bible College and then became a youth minister in an Assembly of God church. He has been a Catholic since 1988 and has been defending the Catholic religion as an apologist since 1994.

The debate will be in writing and published in *This Rock*, the monthly magazine of *Catholic Answers*, which is the largest lay-run apologetics organization of its kind. It will be comprised of ten 350-word presentations by each writer. Following are the first four presentations.

### Mike Gendron's First Affirmation

God promises eternal life to those who repent and believe the glorious Gospel of Grace. When He gives spiritual life to those who are dead in their sins, He does not place them on probation or give them conditional life. Eternal life is given by grace through faith so that the divine promise can be guaranteed (Rom. 4:16). God's promise is upheld by His holy character, unlimited power and sovereign purpose. Listen to the Lord's promise: "He who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and

does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life" (John 5:24).

Jesus declared that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16). The Good Shepherd protects all the sheep who were given to Him by the Father with these words of assurance: "I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28). Eternal life is a free gift of God that is irrevocable (Rom. 6:23; 11:29). Believers can know right here and now that they have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

The word that describes a believer's eternal salvation is the same "eternal" that describes the eternal triune God (Rom. 16:26). The word means everlasting, forever and never ending. Not once does it ever mean "temporary" or "conditional". According to God's eternal purpose, every believer has been saved from eternal judgment, eternal destruction and eternal punishment (Eph. 3:11; Heb. 6:2; 2 Thes. 1:9; Mat. 25:46). Believers possess eternal redemption through the eternal Spirit who guarantees an eternal inheritance (Heb. 9:12-15; Eph. 1:14). The eternal Gospel promises every believer eternal life and eternal glory in His eternal kingdom (Rev. 14:6; 1 John 5:13; 1 Pet. 5:10; 2 Pet. 1:11). The eternal King calls salvation eternal and He has given believers eternal comfort (Heb. 5:9; Mark 16:20; 2 Thes. 2:16).

### Tim Staples' First Rebuttal

The Catholic agrees that God gives what Scripture calls over and over again "eternal life" to all who believe in Jesus Christ (John 3:16; 5:24, etc.). We agree that "no one can  
(See Debate, page 2)

(Debate from page 1)

snatch [followers of Christ] out of [Jesus'] hand" (John 10:29-30). And we also agree that we are kept by the power of Christ who is "able to keep [us] from falling and to present [us] without blemish before the presence of his glory..." (Jude 24; cf. Eph. 1:14) However, none of these texts or others cited above tell us that faith is all we need in order to be saved. Jesus and the New Testament repeatedly tell us we must also be baptized to be saved (Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-4), we must continue to abide in Christ in order to remain in him and receive the promise of eternal life (I John 2:23-25), we must be obedient (Matt. 19:16; Romans 6:16; Heb. 5:8-9; Acts 5:29-32) and we must endure until the end to be saved (Matt. 10:22; Rev. 2:10).

Moreover, none of those texts cited deny that followers of Christ can choose to walk away from him. The Catholic Church teaches we can "know we have eternal life" as long as we understand "knowledge" as St. John does in I John 5:13. He refers to this "knowledge" as a "confidence" analogous to the "knowledge" we have of our receiving what we petition God for in prayer. We use the term similarly in English when we say, "I know I am going to get an A on that exam tomorrow." We know this confident assurance is not absolute because St. John gives conditions for our attaining eternal life in this same epistle (I John 1:7-9, 2:23-25; 3:15).

This leads us to our final point. The eternal life that we can "know" we possess and that is promised to us who believe can be lost through our own fault. "Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off" (Romans 11:22; Matt. 24:45-51, John 15:1-6, Heb. 12:14-15, 2 Peter 1:2-4, 2:20-22).

### Mike's Second Response

Scripture speaks of two groups of professing Christians - those who have been born-again and those who have not. Those born-again are born by the will of God, not by the will of man (John 1:12-13). It is the will of God that Jesus will not lose even one (John 6:39). At the moment of spiritual birth, the justified believer, now sealed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, begins walking by faith and doing the works God has prepared for him to walk in (Eph. 1:13-14; 2:10). They persevere

in the faith, abiding in Christ and His Word, because of God's faithfulness and His discipline as a loving Father (John 8:32, 15:7, Heb. 12:7). Paul declared our assurance: "I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6). The work started "when we were dead in our trespasses...He made us alive together with Christ...and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places" (Eph. 2:4-7). This is such unshakable assurance that, positionally, they are already seen in heaven as trophies of God's grace. Clearly, it is impossible for those who have been born-again of imperishable seed to ever perish. Their inheritance is reserved in heaven and protected by the power of God (1 Pet. 1:3-5; 23).

Professing Christians, who have not been born-again, are victims of distorted gospels or faulty methods of conversion. They say they have faith, but have no works, no evidence of spiritual life and have never departed from iniquity (Jas 2:26; Mat. 7:21-23, Titus 1:16). Since the Holy Spirit does not indwell them, their faith is dead and they do not abide in Christ. Many fall away as apostates because they never received the gift of eternal life (1 Tim. 4:1). Those who "choose to walk away" from Christ are giving evidence of their false conversion.

Finally, water baptism does not cause, nor is it the instrument, of the new birth, but it is an act of obedience for those who have received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:47).

### Tim Staples' Second Response

God knows with infallible certainty those who will persevere until the end, but Scripture makes clear that we don't (apart from a private revelation); thus, even in the above-cited case of Jesus declaring "[he] should lose nothing of all that [the Father] has given [him]," he later makes an exception with Judas, saying "I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled" (John 17:12). Though Judas was "guarded" by Jesus, he chose to walk away from him.

The Catholic acknowledges that he cannot will his way to heaven by his own power. We will only be saved because it was and is the will of God to save us and keep us by his grace (Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:12-13; Eph. 1:14). Indeed, we can know that God is faithful to

complete what he has begun in us (Phil. 1:6). However, the Bible is also very clear that we must allow him to do so. "Working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain" (2 Cor. 6:1). "You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace...You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth" (Gal. 5:4-7).

The Catholic Church also agrees that Christians are seated "with [God] in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:7). In fact, Scripture says Christians have "become partakers of the Holy Spirit...tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the world to come" and yet, that same text says these same Christians can "commit apostasy" and fall away from Christ (cf. Heb. 6:4-6). Though Scripture does speak of some who are rejected by Christ in the end as perhaps never having had a real relationship with him (cf. Matt. 7:21-23), Scripture also reveals some who will have known him and even "escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of... Jesus Christ," and yet they will have fallen away from him (II Peter 2:20-22; cf. 1:2-4).

It is difficult to see how Scripture could be any plainer with regard to baptism saving us, washing away our sins, and incorporating us into Christ, than to say, "baptism... now saves you" (I Peter 3:21), "wash[es] away your sins" (Acts 22:16), and "baptiz[es us] into Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:3).

### Mike's Comments

It is interesting that Tim Staples thinks Jesus failed at His attempt to guard Judas from falling away. The fact that Judas became an apostate was no surprise to Jesus. In fact, when Jesus chose the twelve apostles, He knew Judas was a devil and would betray him (John 6:67-71). Clearly, Judas never had justifying faith but only the faith of demons, which caused him to shudder and commit suicide (Jas 2:19).

Stay tuned for the next six responses of the debate. It is indeed a great privilege to point people, who have no assurance, to the glorious Gospel of grace. It contains the divine promise of eternal, everlasting life with our great God and Savior. Please pray that our Sovereign Lord will use the clarity of His Word to glorify Himself and accomplish His purpose through this debate.

## Proclaiming the Gospel Newsletters Will Now Be Sent By E-Mail

Beginning next year our quarterly newsletter will change to a seasonal newsletter and be mailed only two or three times each year. Many of you have expressed a preference for our monthly newsletter, which has been going out via e-mail for the past year. The monthly newsletter provides more current updates, news articles and upcoming speaking engagements along with four-color graphics and links to other sites.

For those of you who have not been getting our monthly e-newsletters, you have two options. You can sign up to receive them on our website ([www.pro-gospel.org](http://www.pro-gospel.org)) or, if you don't have access to e-mail, you can call us (972-495-0485) to order hard copies of our monthly updates.

## A Solemn Reality

I am often overwhelmed by the solemn reality of bowing before my Lord and Savior when my work on earth is finished. I rest in the assurance that nothing can separate me from His unconditional love. However, He is not only my Redeemer, He is also my Creator to whom I must give an account of what I have done with the brief life He has committed to my use (2 Cor. 5:10). Thankfully, I am assured that God "shall wipe away all tears" and the tears will give way to the eternal joy being in the presence of my great God and Savior (Rev 7:17; 21:4).

## Where Mike is Speaking

- Oct. 1-8 Teaching Ministry  
Various Cities Southeast Asia
- Oct. 15-16 **First Baptist Church**  
Clarkston, WA (509) 758-7701
- Oct. 21 **Worldview Weekend Conf.**  
Milwaukee, WI (573) 216-9400
- Nov. 5-14 Ministry in Europe  
Rome, Naples, Athens
- Feb. 11 Stealing the Mind Conf.  
Spokane, WA (800) 977-2177

*To schedule Mike Gendron or Jason Hauser to speak, contact them:*

Phone: (972) 495-0485  
e-mail: [ptg@pro-gospel.org](mailto:ptg@pro-gospel.org)

## Can Born-Again Christians Remain in the Roman Catholic Church?

This is a question that comes up often as we minister to people in the Catholic religion. Our first response is to ask, "Why would anyone want to stay in a religion that deceives people about where they will spend eternity?" When a Roman Catholic hears the true Gospel revealed in Scripture, he/she must repent (change their mind) concerning the false gospel that they were embracing in order to believe the truth. So there must be a recognition that the Catholic religion was leading them down the broad road to destruction. They must change their faith to get on the narrow road that leads to eternal life.

Secondly, born-again Christians must recognize that they are accursed by the Roman Catholic Church by its many anathemas. "If anyone says that baptism is ...not necessary for salvation, let them be anathema" (Council of Trent, Session 7). Another one states, "If any one says, that, after the grace of Justification has been received, to every penitent sinner the guilt is remitted, and the debt of eternal punishment is blotted out in such wise, that there remains not any debt of temporal punishment to be discharged either in this world, or in the next in Purgatory, before the entrance to the kingdom of heaven can be opened to him; let him be anathema" (Council of Trent, Session 6).

Still another anathema states, "If anyone denies that in the sacrament of the most holy Eucharist, the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really and substantially contained...let them be anathema (Council of Trent, Session 12). Regarding the Mass, "If anyone says that the sacrifice of the Mass... is not a propitiatory sacrifice...offered for the living and the dead, for sins, punishments, satisfaction and other necessities, let them be anathema" (Trent, Session 12). Why would anyone want to remain in a church that curses him or her?

Born-gain Christians are called to walk according to the truth and worship God in Spirit and Truth. This is impossible to do in the Roman Catholic religion. Christians must turn away from every falsehood and embrace the doctrines of Christ. No one can honor God by remaining in fellowship with a religion that embraces so many false doctrines.

## 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 the knowledge of truth; 4) contending earnestly for the faith against the agents of compromise who suppress doctrinal truth for the sake of ecumenical unity; and 5) encouraging and supporting former 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 quarterly 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 for over 34 years.

### OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

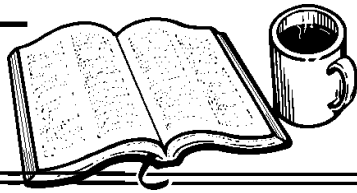
Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, satisfied the righteous justice of God by paying the complete penalty for sin when He died as man's substitute on Calvary's cross. Any person, who repents and receives Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior by grace through faith in His life, death and resurrection, ceasing to trust in anything else for salvation, 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 those who are perishing. We recognize the sacrifices God's people make to sustain our work and pledge to use these resources effectively and efficiently. Donations (except for resources) are tax deductible.

## Seeking His Truth

### Letters of Rebuke, Affirmation and Encouragement



Can Catholics be saved and continue to participate in the Mass and various other things they do as well as pray the rosary? Why would they continue to sit under false teaching and practice the sacraments when they know they are lies? I don't believe they can according to the Word of God, but like you said "we are not to judge except for their fruit." A friend of mine who was Catholic put up a good fight until the Lord saved him and now he attends Founders Baptist Church with us.

C.B., Tomball, TX

*This letter prompted me to write the article on page 3 as an answer to her question.*

I have reviewed your newsletters and am aware of your concerted effort to discredit the Catholic Church and to "save Catholics." My greatest concern is for your soul, Mike, because, it is one thing to be dissatisfied with the Catholic Church and excommunicate yourself, but it is all together a different thing to defame the Church and actively steal her sheep. Bible believing preachers should be careful not to interpret Scripture as to when Jesus spoke figuratively, symbolically, literally or indifferently. It is a criticism of the Lord whenever anyone infers that the Church Jesus Christ built, somehow got corrupted by popes. No intelligent, logical, Spirit-filled Christian would dare say that Bible believing churches became the true church when they broke free from the evil grip of Catholicism. There is absolutely no truth to what you say in your newsletter and, to propagate lies against Catholicism, this is a sin! When people refuse to read Church History written by the Early Church Fathers and writings of the contemporary, non-Christians who support the existence of the Early Church as the Catholic Church, they are burying their heads in the sand!

Suzanne, Internet

*You accuse me of sheep stealing, yet I am merely proclaiming the voice of the Good Shepherd to lost sheep. When lost sheep within the Catholic Church hear His voice they will follow Him because He gives them*

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*something they never had in the Catholic religion, and that is eternal life (John 10:27-28). As the Good Shepherd, Jesus protects them from the wolves who try to destroy them with fatal lies and deadly deception. It appears that you do not believe the Good Shepherd because you are not His Sheep (John 10:26). Instead you chose to follow a stranger who could care less about your soul. Nothing has changed in 2000 years. The Word of God has no place in people like you because of your religious pride (John 8:37). Your only hope is to humble yourself under the sovereign hand of God because He opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).*

I just had to share this good news. There is someone who I've been talking with about the falsehood of the Catholic religion. Today we talked again and she has been delivered out of darkness and is a born again Christian. Months ago, I gave her one of your tracts contrasting what the Bible says with what the Catholic Church says. That particular tract is such a helpful guide. I think her conversion occurred while reading it. I was asked to visit her today and we had this wonderful time going over everything. You've experienced this more times than I have; this was the first time for me. I cried when I got home, I was so happy. I'm sure you know the feeling! She may not have much time left and people are still visiting her from the Catholic Church, bringing holy water, which she now understands, is just water. She is totally at peace about where she is going and not afraid to die. Thanks so much for your discipleship in these matters and your help in knowing how to approach them. When I started out, I didn't even realize the mission field of Catholicism and all the various deceptions they embrace.

P.C., Franklin, TN

We just wanted to let you know that your message on Sunday was wonderful. I don't think the juxtaposition of your in depth teaching (after the fluff from the pastor) will be lost on those who truly love Christ and His truth. We are seeing how people can be so dedicated to a church or a denomination

that they miss the truth of the Gospel. Their loyalty and trust are misplaced; instead of trusting in Christ and His word, they are instead trusting in an institution or a tradition of some sort. We saw that in some of the people in the audience. Instead of wholeheartedly embracing biblical truth, some walked out on it, some slept through it, some fidgeted and seemed distracted. (a man next to us fidgeted with his empty Styrofoam cup and at times it was so loud that we had troubling hearing). Still others were alarmed, not at the damnable error in Roman Catholicism, but at the prospect of ruffled feathers! I am so thankful that we went! It was real eye-opener for both of us. I knew the church in America was sick, but this was another vivid reminder of just how anemic it is. We are so thankful for your ministry and how God is working His purposes through you and Jane.

J. P, McKinney, TX

Sometimes, having been a former Catholic, I still wrestle with whether the RCC is proactively being deceptive to achieve their grand plan (being intentionally evil) or if they are just pridefully thinking their interpretation of Scripture is absolutely correct. Do they truly think they are serving Jesus, or is there a sinister plan to use Jesus as a figure head to accomplish their selfish, heretical goals? Either way, they are deceiving a billion people, so perhaps this question is moot? Ironically, because of their claim to be the one true church, the RCC has become the antithesis of the church that Jesus founded 2000 years ago. The RCC is strangely similar to the Jewish hierarchy of Pharisees and Sadducees of the 1st century.

A. K., Oconomowoc, WI

Thank you sooo much for your web site and speaking ministry. The Lord has called us to a very Catholic area near Quebec in eastern Canada. A couple years ago I didn't know much about the Catholic faith, I always thought that Catholics were Christians, just a little heavy on Mary. Then oh my goodness, through a set of circumstances, including marrying a former Catholic and working privately for an elderly devout Catholic woman, I have come to learn more about Catholicism than I ever thought I would. It is definitely the synagogue of Satan, and millions of people are so deceived by the subtle and sometimes blatant deception within that religious system. Our hearts' desire and passion is to reach out with the truth of God's Word to these folks, to set

them free from the bondage of a false religious system. All this is to say that the Lord led me to hear your message, *The Coming One World Religion* on YouTube and then to your website where I ordered your Evangelism package. So thank you so much for all you are doing and for helping us get better prepared to witness. I have a concern for fellow believers who are naive about the lies and deceptions of Catholicism. A Christian missionary told me, "Leave the Catholics alone they are basically on the right track." Oh my goodness I told her some of the things I learned from you and she had to agree that she was ignorant of it all. So I am praying that Christians will learn about your ministry and come to know the truth about Catholicism and begin to wake up and get involved in tearing down the strongholds of Satan and his lies and falsehoods. Joy and Peace to you Mike. May our great God bless you mightily!  
*E. and J. B., Quebec, Canada*

First of all, let me thank you for all you do for the Gospel of Jesus Christ! I just finished reading your book *Preparing for Eternity* and I must say it was very well written. I appreciate your thorough use of the Word of God to refute the Catholic dogmas, traditions and their false teachings - excellent work! Now to my point for contacting you. I have written to Brannon Howse and now to you to seek advice on my situation. Should I continue my work in the pro-life arena with Roman Catholics? My conscious is "being pricked" the more I see them reject the Truth of God's Word (John 17:17). Also, please pray for me as I make a decision on this issue. Thanks again for your work in spreading the Truth of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
*Shane M., Internet*

*I commend you for your most important work in trying to save precious lives in the pro-life movement. I would continue working with Roman Catholics with two conditions. One, that you make our Lord's last command your first concern. In other words, your first priority must be to rescue Catholics from their pending 2nd death in the eternal lake of fire. Share the Gospel with them and call them to repentance and faith in the all-Sufficient Savior. After you have done this, and they still want to work with you, focus on rescuing babies from the horrors of abortion. As you know, both are important missions, but the first has eternal consequences. Catholics need to hear*

*the pure Gospel of grace and repent from all they are doing to save themselves. This will undoubtedly cause division and conflict but you are there not to seek the approval of men, but of God. Secondly you should not pray with them since God is not the Father of unconverted Catholics. Let us know how we can serve you with Gospel tracts to reach Catholics.*

We have a friend from Eritrea, Africa who was imprisoned for his Christian faith and escaped to the US. He cannot understand the division here in our churches, because where he comes from, true Christians die for their faith and the counterfeit ones drop out of the fight. The deception is incredible here, and he has had a difficult time leading his wife and two precious children in discerning truth from error since it is so subtle here. He said it is actually easier to be a Christian in Eritrea than here.  
*T. & B. W., Ellensburg, WA*

I really feel sad for you and I will be praying for you as I attend my Catholic Church. It is sad that after 37 years of practicing your faith as a Catholic that a demon has entered your mind and caused you to leave your faith. Do not worry, God understands and will hopefully take you back into his arms when the time comes. Thank you for strengthening my faith as a Catholic by your misinterpretation of truth. Please don't leave your messages on the windshield of my vehicle, it is a cheap way of luring people away from their faith, you should come face to face and meet with the people you are trying to mislead or perhaps you may not have the strength or guts to do it.  
*Gene, Internet*

Mike, your article that says Catholics and Protestants can never have unity is trash. I admonish you to educate yourself on the Catholic faith, because you are seriously injuring Christ and his Church through your misinformation. There is absolutely nothing unchristian about the Catholic faith. By your very words, you do not understand the teachings of the Catholic Church. Why do you feel qualified to inform others about it? You are sowing hatred and discord among Christians, and digging your own hole.  
*M. D., Minneapolis*

*You must not be talking about unity as defined in Scripture. Paul, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit said, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you*

*were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all (Eph. 4:4-6). The only way to be placed into the Body of Christ is by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, not by a Roman Catholic priest (1 Cor. 12:13). Evangelicals and Catholics submit to different Lords, have different faiths and believe different Gospels. How can you call the facts I presented "trash" when your religion seeks unity under the threat of cursing people if they don't embrace Catholic dogmas and "infallible" popes?*

Is "lovingly proclaiming the true Gospel to Catholics" having your people shout Bible verses with a bullhorn while the Mass is ending? Seems to me you found a way to profit by creating your own religion for those who do not know the truth. So question? Why should anyone follow what you are saying? Is it because you finally found the truth to all the mysteries 2000 years later? Or is it that the Catholic truth, which you were closing your eyes to, was too hard to deal with? Is it that you couldn't lead your life the way you wanted to? Sure it is easier to just be saved once and then you don't have to do anything, because you've been saved. Remember the Catholic Church is infallible and no matter what you try to do, that will never change.  
*Anonymous, Internet*

I am currently leading a class of 30 women through Dr. David Jeremiah's, *"Escape the Coming Night,"* an in-depth look at the book of Revelation. We are going to be discussing the church of Pergamos with its warnings from our Lord. Since there are a few women from a Catholic background who still have family caught in the deceit of the RCC, I will point them to your wonderful ministry, to help in witnessing to their Catholics and also where they can learn a great deal about the Gospel. I have spent the day reading your articles and listening to your DVDs while taking copious notes and I will share them with the Bible study.  
*J.S., Uniontown, OH*

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# What in the World Is Going On???

**Spiritual Darkness Exposed by the Light of God's Word**

## **Pope Will Seek Ecumenical Cooperation at Luther's Home**

Pope Benedict will honor the 16th century Protestant reformer Martin Luther on his state visit to Germany, but Roman Catholic officials are warning Lutherans not to expect breakthroughs on issues dividing them. The German-born pontiff plans to stress ecumenical cooperation, meet Protestant leaders and tour a monastery in Erfurt where Luther once worked and prayed. The visit has prompted calls from Protestants for him to allow joint communion services and grant their churches full recognition. The tone is mostly positive; one theologian even suggested making the pope "honorary spokesman" for all Christianity. But senior Catholic clerics have begun warning Protestants not to get their hopes up too much. Rev. Hans Langendoerfer, secretary of the German Bishops Conference said, "Hopes about this visit have gone wild; there's talk Pope Benedict could grant the Protestants a new status or could just say 'OK, let's completely change those rules about communion services.'" It doesn't work that way. Catholic Bishop Joachim Wanke of Erfurt said that Benedict's meeting with Protestant leaders in the St Augustine Monastery could foster closer ties, but also ruled out any breakthroughs on basic differences. (Reuters, 8/29/11)

## **What Does It Mean to Be Saved?**

According to Roman Catholic Dr. Jeff Mirus of CatholicCulture.org, salvation is not by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He wrote: "Catholics have traditionally regarded salvation as coming through the Church, and sometimes believe that those who have not become formal members of the Church cannot be saved." Dr. Mirus continues: "The most important confusion in all this is that when the New Testament refers to the path to life, it is often referring not to heaven but to the Church; and when it talks

about "salvation" or being "saved", it can either refer to entering the Church or gaining heaven. (CatholicCulture.org, 9/1/11)

## **Mary Is Our Light and The Cause of Our Joy**

The homily of Pope Benedict XVI's Mass on the Feast of the Assumption reaffirmed Roman Catholicism's fascination with "The Virgin Mary." Many of the comments he made are not found in Scripture and rob the Lord Jesus Christ of His glory. The Pope said, "We are gathered to celebrate one of the most loved feasts dedicated to Mary Most Holy: the feast of her Assumption to the glory of heaven in soul and body. On contemplating the Virgin Mary we are given another grace: that of also being able to see our lives in depth. Yes, because our daily existence... receives light from the Mother of God, from her spiritual journey, from her destiny of glory: a journey and an end that can and must become, in some way, our own journey and our own end. The Bible tells us that the true ark of the covenant is the Virgin Mary. God does not dwell in a piece of furniture, God dwells in a person, in a heart: Mary, she who bore in her womb the Eternal Son of God made man, Jesus Our Lord and Savior. The greatness of Mary, Mother of God, full of grace, fully docile to the action of the Holy Spirit, now lives in God's heaven with her whole self, soul and body. It was necessary that she who had housed in her womb the divine Logos, was transformed into the tabernacle of her Son. It was necessary that the Bride that the Father chose, dwell in the nuptial room of heaven. Today the Church sings the immense love of God for this, He chose her as true "ark of the covenant," as she who continues to generate and to give Christ the Savior to humanity, as she who in heaven shares the fullness of glory and enjoys the very happiness of God. Mary is the new ark of the covenant, before whom the heart exults with joy, the Mother of God present in the world, who does not keep to herself this

divine presence, but offers it sharing the grace of God. And thus Mary is really the "cause of our joy," the "ark" in which the Savior is really present among us. In this solemnity of the Assumption we look at Mary: She opens us to hope, to a future full of joy and teaches us the way to reach it...Mary, the ark of the covenant that is in the sanctuary of heaven, points out to us with luminous clarity that we are on the way to our true Home, to communion of joy and peace with God. Amen! (Zenit.org, 8/16/11)

## **Evangelicals Promote Unity with Roman Catholicism**

Sherwood Baptist Church, maker of the movies *Flywheel*, *Facing the Giants*, and *Fireproof*, promotes unity with Roman Catholicism for the purpose of bringing America back to God. Pastor Michael Catt doesn't believe what the Bible says about separation from heresy (Rom. 16:17; 2 Cor. 6:14; 2 Tim. 3:5). The church is aggressively seeking Catholic participation in the promotion of its new movie *Courageous* by sending them to their site for Catholics. Pastor Catt said: "When we go across the country and do these screenings, we meet people from every denomination, and we instantly have a fellowship and a brotherhood because we have one thing in common: we're family. We're family members because we are brother and sisters in Christ, and it doesn't matter what labels we put on." This confused Southern Baptist pastor obviously doesn't believe Jesus' warning that many who profess Christ as "Lord, Lord" are actually lost (Mat. 7:21-23). To imply that Baptists and Catholics share a common faith is a gross error. They don't share the same gospel, which is certainly a fundamental aspect of Christian orthodoxy. The Bible teaches that salvation is by grace alone through faith in Christ alone without works or sacraments, whereas at the Council of Trent Rome curses those who believe this gospel. Sherwood Baptist is doubtless sincerely trying to help America with its movies, but it is blind to the fact that it represents the very type of shallow, lukewarm Christianity that has gotten the country into the mess that it is in. (Wayoflife.org, 7/8/11)

## **Sermons Must Be Shorter**

Last year the Vatican told Catholic clergy to keep their sermons under eight minutes to cater to people who found it hard to concentrate for long periods. (telegraph.co.uk/news, 9/9/11)

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**The Death of Discernment** - We must learn how to discern God's truth from the error of religious leaders to avoid being swept away by every wind of doctrine. *Also: The Best Kept Secret in the Church* - Many Christians live without peace and assurance because they have never heard or understood this key doctrine in John's first epistle.

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Resources continued on next page Page 7

*"For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified."  
(Rom. 8:29-30)*

**The Coming One-World Religion** reveals prophecies describing the formation of Satan's global religion. Catalysts for ecumenical unity and the strategic role of the Vatican are examined. **Also: Tell Catholics the Truth** explains why we must tell Catholics there *is* only one supreme objective authority that can be trusted - the inspired Word of God. Code: DCOWR Sug. Donation \$20

**Satan's Attacks on the Christian Faith** reveals how the devil's legions of liars are assaulting *The Supremacy of God's Word, The Sufficiency of God's Son, The Singularity of God's Gospel, The Sovereignty of God's Grace, The Security of God's Children and the Sanctity of God's Church. Also: Are You Sure You Are a Christian? Tragically, there are many who profess Christ who have never been born again. Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5). Code: DSACF Sug. Donation \$20*

**Jesus Christ vs. Antichrist** reveals a compelling contrast between two Christs. Tragically, many will be deceived by the Antichrist because they do not know the true Christ. **Also: Which Jesus Do You Trust?** A convincing contrast between the Jesus of Roman Catholicism and the Jesus of Scripture. Code: DANTI Sug. Donation \$20

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**God and the Gushy Gospel** - A generic god who offers a gushy gospel of self-esteem is now prominent within professing Christianity. It has produced a generation of professing Christians who have never been converted and live with a false hope. **Also: Witnessing According to Paul** - Test and examine your methods of evangelism with the God-centered approach of Paul. Code: DGUSH Sug. Donation \$20

**Israel, Islam and The Vatican** examines the roles Catholicism and Islam may play in events leading up to Armageddon including the common spiritual bonds that unite them. **Also: Contending for the Faith** - A look at the epistle of Jude with a 21st century application against false teachers. Code: DIIV Sug. Donation \$20

**Hard Questions for Good Catholics** - When you ask Catholics these questions, they may be encouraged to examine their faith. **Also: Last Days for Catholics** objectively examines the world's 2nd largest religion through

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**Roman Catholicism vs. Evangelical Christianity** - Dr. David Reagan interviews Mike Gendron with sensitivity and compassion as they explore how Catholics have been led to trust a different authority, believe another gospel and worship another Christ. Code: DCVEC Sug. Donation \$16

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