



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

*The Lord Jesus said:
"Do not judge
according to
appearance, but
judge with righteous
judgment."
(John 7:24)*

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Three Fatal Errors Common Among False Teachers

Since we are now living in the age of religious tolerance and ecumenical unity, there are some people who will immediately call this article unloving and divisive. Others will ask "What right do you have to judge another religion?" The answer is given in Scripture. All God-fearing people are called to make right judgments, judgments that have already been established by the objective principles of God's word (John 7:24). There may be nothing more important than warning people who are being deceived about their eternal destiny. If we do not lovingly confront them with God's Gospel, they may never know how to escape the eternal fire of God's punishment. Clearly, the most unloving thing we can do is to ignore them and let them continue down the road to destruction. For this reason, I am always willing to offend people with the offense and exclusivity of the Gospel in the hopes that God may grant some of them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth (2 Tim. 2: 25). Let us look at three fatal errors of false prophets and how to handle them.

False Teachers Usurp the Authority of God

The supreme authority of the Bible is established both by its divine origin and inspiration (2 Pet. 1:21). It is the infallible word of God and it will accomplish God's purpose (Isaiah 55:11). It is the very foundation upon which all Christian truths rest. For followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible is the final court of appeal in all matters pertaining to faith and godliness. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:15). The divine authority of Scripture corrects and rebukes all false teaching because there is no higher authority or infallible source in which to appeal. It is the Word

of God who cannot lie, cannot break His promise and cannot deceive.

People fall into serious error and sin when they exalt their own authority over God's authority or when they suppress the truth of God's word to promote their own self-serving agendas. The Roman Catholic religion has done this by establishing its traditions and teachings to be equal in authority with Scripture (Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC] para. 82). In doing so, they have usurped the supreme authority of our sovereign God who alone has the right to rule and determine the eternal destinies of men. This fatal error has opened the flood gates to numerous other deadly heresies including: the preaching of another gospel, the worship of a counterfeit Jesus, the buying and selling of God's grace through indulgences, the creation of a fictitious place called purgatory, the establishment of other mediators and praying to and for the dead. These errors are fatal because anyone who is embracing them when they take their last breath will experience eternal death.

Catholics who are being deceived by these fatal errors must be told that the world has known only one infallible teacher. He is the Lord Jesus Christ, who was the personification of truth and every word He spoke was truth (John 14:6, 17:17). Those who are seeking the truth need to look only to Christ and His Word. The Catholic religion has become corrupt the same way Judaism became corrupt - by following the traditions of men instead of the Word of God (Mark 7:13). The Pharisees taught much truth, but by mixing it with error that they "made the word of God of no effect." We must never forget that

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the Bible is what God says and religion is what *man says* God says.

False Teachers Distort the Person of Christ

Jesus Christ is God's perfect man and man's perfect God. He is the perfect High Priest who offered Himself - the perfect sacrifice - once for the sins of His people. This one sin offering has perfected for all time those who are sanctified (Heb. 10:14). For this reason there are no more offerings for sin (Heb. 10:18). The believer's eternal sin debt was paid in full and their redemption was secured when God raised Jesus Christ from the dead (Rom. 4:25). Would there be false teachers who would deny this and steal away the honor and glory of our Savior?

Yes, Paul even warned us that some would come preaching another Jesus. They will offer a counterfeit Jesus "whom we [the apostles] have not preached" (2 Cor. 11:4). Many of these false teachers are Roman Catholics who preach a "Jesus" who does not save sinners completely and forever. They say Catholics must do their part by expiating and making satisfaction for the own sins through penance (CCC, 1459). In this way they attain their own salvation through good works (CCC, 1477). The Catholic Jesus offers conditional life, not eternal life (CCC, 1035). This counterfeit Christ is said to return physically to Catholic altars over 200,000 times each day to be a sin offering for the living and the dead.

Catholics must be warned of the consequences for not knowing and believing the true Jesus. This was made this clear by Jesus when He said: "unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). Whenever religion rejects God's authority, it creates "another Jesus" which always leads to "another gospel." Why? Because whenever the sufficiency of Christ is denied, another gospel must be concocted to instruct people what they must do to be saved.

False Teachers Pervert the Gospel of Christ

The Gospel is the joyous proclamation of God's redeeming work through Jesus Christ which saves His people from the punishment, power and ultimately, the presence of sin. It is the one and only message of redemption and the same message for every generation (Eph. 4:4-6, Rev. 14:6). Since the Gospel is about one Savior, it is exclusive and thus declares that all other faiths and religions are false (John 14:6; Mat. 7:13-14). This glo-

rious Gospel declares that salvation is entirely of grace and those who add anything to it stand condemned (Gal. 1:6-9). It comes as no surprise that the most popular perversion of the Gospel is the fatal lie that good works are necessary to appease a holy and righteous God. Every religion in the world has perpetrated this lie of the devil. His oldest and most deadly lie is coupled with that one. "If you are good enough, "You surely shall not die" (Gen. 3:4).

Why would any religious leader want to distort the glorious Gospel of grace? The primary reason is to control people by holding them captive in legalistic bondage. It is for this reason the Lord Jesus gave the mark of a true disciple. He said, "If you abide in My word...and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). People in religious bondage can only be set free when they come to a knowledge of the truth found in Scripture.

Roman Catholicism is not alone in perverting the Gospel of God. There are many cults and Protestant sects which do the same. Catholicism, however, not only deceives its people with a false gospel, but foolishly condemns those who believe the true Gospel. Over 100 condemnations from Catholic councils are pronounced on Christians who believe the Lord Jesus is sufficient to save sinners completely and forever. The Catholic "gospel" emphasizes what man must DO to be saved instead of what Christ has DONE. This would include the necessity of doing good works (CCC, 2016), receiving sacraments (1129), attending meritorious masses (1405), keeping the law (2068), buying indulgences (1498) and purgatory (1030).

False Teachers Must Be Confronted

We must never let doctrinal error go unabated because it dishonors God and deceives the unsuspecting. It defiles the conscience, corrupts the heart and destroys the soul. According to Scripture that which flows from the lips of false teachers includes: "strange doctrines," "commandments of men," "doctrines of devils," "damnable heresies," "traditions of men," "lies," "falsehood," "vain deceit" and "deceptive philosophy." Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord at all times and in all cases (Prov. 12:22). Knowing the fruit of false teachers we must earnestly contend against them. Peter and Paul said false teachers cause believers to fall from their steadfastness and pure devo-

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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 grace clearly and completely; 2) equipping and encouraging the Body of Christ to be faithful ambassadors to the King of kings; 3) providing resources with biblical integrity; 4) exposing any doctrines that oppose or nullify the Gospel of grace so that people can discern truth from error and avoid being deceived; 5) contending earnestly for the faith against the agents of compromise who suppress doctrinal truth for the sake of ecumenical unity; and 6) supporting former Catholics who may be feeling a sense of guilt, ostracism or persecution from their family for leaving the Catholic religion and culture.

OUR METHOD

In a spirit of love and compassion, we teach evangelistic seminars and conferences to encourage Christians to be effective witnesses to Catholics and others who may be lost in their religion. We offer DVDs, books and Gospel tracts to equip those who labor in this huge mission field. We also extend the ministry through our web site, radio and TV appearances and short-term missions' trips.

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 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.

"Understanding the Times" 2008 Bible Conference

Join us for another great conference presented by Jan Markel and *Olive Tree Ministries*, Sept. 26-27 at Grace Church in Eden, Minnesota. This two day event will help you understand the times, contend for the faith and be a watchman on the wall. Featured speakers for this year's conference will be Dr. David Reagan of *Lamb and Lion Ministries*; Bill Koenig, White House Correspondent and author of the book "Eye to Eye: Facing the Consequences of Dividing Israel"; Nonie Darwish, a former Muslim who converted to Christianity and author of the book, "Now They Call Me Infidel"; and Mike Gendron of *Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry*. The conference is free. For more information call 763-493-3010 or visit the web site: www.olivetreeviews.org.

Born-Again Catholics?

More and more Christians are telling us they are meeting "born-again Catholics." When we ask them how do you know they are born-again, their response goes something like this. "Well, they really love Jesus" or "they are so sincere in their faith." If they really loved the true Jesus they would obey His word and "flee from idolatry" (1 Cor. 10:14; 1 John 4:3). Furthermore, if Jesus were the only object of their faith they would renounce the religion that deceives a billion people with a false gospel. Catholics who have repented and believed the true Gospel will be led by the Holy Spirit out of Catholicism's spiritual darkness into the glorious light of Jesus. If they do not come out by the Spirit's prompting, they will soon be asked to leave by the priests. Why? Because no priest would want anyone in their church proclaiming the true Gospel and setting other Catholics free.

What would Paul say to these so-called born-again Catholics? The same thing he tells any professing Christian: "you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart...be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and...put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:17-24). God's word leaves no middle ground!

Quick Quotes

"Let us ask the Virgin Mary to obtain a renewed Pentecost for the Church again today, a Pentecost that will spread in everyone the joy of living and witnessing to the Gospel." Pope Benedict (Zenit, 5/11/08)

"The 'big bang' theory seems the most plausible, and it does not contradict the Bible. We cannot ask the Bible for a scientific answer." Fr. José Funes, Director of Vatican's Observatory (CNA, 5/13/08)

"Fix our gaze on the holy Host: and thus on God. This is the beauty of true Christianity: The Creator and Lord of all things was made a grain of wheat in order to be sown on our earth. He was made bread to be broken, shared, eaten; he was made our food to give us his own divine life."
Pope Benedict (CNA, 5/25/08)

Through our Baptism, through our sacraments and, in particular, through the Holy Eucharist, we now abide in God. Keith Fournier (Catholic Online, 5/24/08)

Where Mike Is Speaking

- July 13 **Calvary Bible Church**
Wrightsville, PA (717) 252-2046
- July 14-18 **Baptists for World Evangelism**
Harrisburg, PA (717) 774-7000
- July 26 **Evangelism Training**
Garland, TX (972) 495-0485
- Aug. 9 & 23 **Evangelism Training**
Garland, TX (972) 495-0485
- Sep. 12-14 **Discern Conference**
Calvary Chapel
Santa Fe, NM (505) 988-3291
- Sep. 26-27 **Understanding the Times Conf.**
Grace Church
Eden Prairie, MN (763) 493-3010
- Oct. 10-12 **Calvary Chapel**
Redding, CA (530) 243-8200
- Oct. 18 **Steeling the Mind Conference**
Couer d'Alene, ID (800) 977-2177
- Nov. 13-15 **The Master's Academy Int'l**
M.E.D.A.
Siguatepecque, Honduras
- Dec. 8-10 **Pre-Trib Rapture Conference**
Dallas, TX (434) 582-7725

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

Have You Considered This?

Worldly sorrow looks on the evil which comes as a result of sin, while godly sorrow looks on the evil which is sin. Sin is the greatest evil in the world in that it wrongs God; it wounds Christ; it grieves the Holy Spirit and it damns a precious soul.

A true witness delivers souls but a deceitful witness speaks lies. (Prov. 14:25)

Roman Catholic bishops in 177 out of 179 dioceses were found culpable in courts of law for protecting their clergy of child molesting. (Moriel 3/21/08)

The tax collector in Luke 18 was **justified by God** when he cried out in faith for divine mercy (Luke 18: 14). Yet the Roman Catholic Church **condemns him with anathema?** Canon 12 of the Sixth Session of the Council of Trent reads: "if anyone says that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in divine mercy...let him be anathema."

Israel Tour and Missions Trip March 2009

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the trip of a lifetime! Mike and Jane Gendron of *Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry* will lead another exciting three-dimensional Bible Study and Mission Trip throughout the Holy Land March 16 through March 25. Visit the ministry web site at www.pro-gospel.org for the trip itinerary and additional information. Make your reservations now by calling 972-495-0485.

2008 Discern Conference

Mike Gendron, James White, Paul Scozzafava, Ron Rhodes and Rob Bowman will be featured speakers at the Discern Conference at Calvary Chapel in Santa Fe, NM, Sept. 12 -14, 2008. To register call toll free: 877-871-9169 or visit calvarysantafe.org

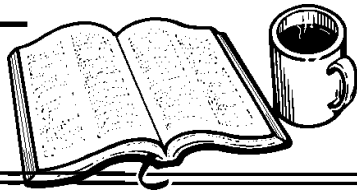
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Seeking His Truth

Letters to the Editor



I spent 3 months combing through the Bible and the Catechism before I found your web site. Your articles on the John Ankerberg web site have been outstanding. Being a life-long Catholic I was shocked to discover what I was a part of. At first, I must admit there was strong denial on my part, but I just kept going over and over what I read until it finally sunk in. All during that time span some incredible things happened that proved that God was revealing the truth to me. Now I realize I could have saved a lot of time by just reading your book *Preparing Catholics for Eternity*. My entire family and many of my friends are still Catholic and I am determined to continue giving them the true Gospel. Some have expressed interest on moving the discussion further. I plan on using materials from your ministry to hopefully complete their conversions, God willing. So I have been trying to devour as much information from your ministry as I can. As you know there is a lot of Catholic hostility towards you (especially on the Catholic Answers website). I know it cannot be easy for you and Jane. Know that we will be praying for you to keep up the faith and your great work for God.

V.R., Tampa, FL

Mike, come home to the Faith. Why are you so angry towards the Church? Why do you listen to others who don't have the truth? Go to the Real Presence website and read Father John Hardon, S.J. You are so confused about the Bible. You can't accept the New Testament unless you submit to the authority of the Catholic Church which determined which books are divinely inspired.

Bill H., Internet

I am angry towards any religious institution that shuts the kingdom of heaven to those who want to enter (Mat. 23:13). If God puts you on the narrow road that leads to eternal life you will be angry as well. My theology is built on the solid foundation of God's word, not the opinions of men. I urge you to build your theology the same way and test the teachings of everyone, then reject everything that does not conform to Scripture. The Roman Catholic Church did

not exist when the canon was closed in the first century. How do we know? You cannot find any of the following Catholic traditions in the church of the apostles: priests offering sacrifices for sin, purgatory, indulgences, infallible popes, or Mary as a sinless mediatrix, etc. By the way it was God who determined the canon and which authors He would inspire to write the Scriptures (2 Pet. 1:21). I pray you will leave your religion and come to Jesus who is the author and perfecter of the true faith.

I wanted to give you a briefing on our witnessing efforts during the Pope's visit to Washington, D.C. We took a team of six to the stadium and handed out 5,000 of your tracts to the throngs of people entering. We expected to find some thrown away, but I am happy to report that we found very few on the ground and we re-used most of those! We had a few people tell us how wrong we were to try to lead people out of the Roman Catholic church. One fellow told us our efforts were very "disingenuous," and a couple of people persuaded us to return to the "mother church." We had opportunities to clarify the meaning of certain passages of Scripture like Matthew 16:18-19 (the rock upon which the church is built) and James 2:17 (dead faith contrasted with genuine faith). You may have to expand your website and be prepared for some interesting mail in coming days. Thank you for producing your great and informative tracts and for getting them to us in such a rushed way! We trust God will use them for His purposes and glory. We pray God's continued blessings on you and Jane!

Dr. S. H., Stevensville, MD

I still listen to your appearance on Catholic radio and praise God for blessing you with the boldness to never be shaken from the truth of His word. I felt Satan trying to prevent you from staying on track, but God enabled you to be strong and firm in presenting vital scriptures. Often you remind us not to let the opposition get us off the Gospel message. You truly demonstrated that very thing on Catholic radio. I pray for you and your ministry as well as for your

good health and safety as you continue in God's work and in His Will.

J.R. Pleasanton, TX

You obviously do not have the first clue as to what the two thousand year history of the Gospel in Catholic Tradition is all about. Instead you have been trained solely by Reformation thinking which is a repudiation of the accepted Gospel of Christ among the majority of all Christians world wide. For you to say the Gospel of the Catholic Church is not the Gospel of the Bible shows your absolute ignorance of the Gospel.

M.C., Internet

The Gospel of God revealed in the Bible is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone (Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 1:13). The Gospel of the Roman Catholic religion revealed in its Catechism declares that salvation is through baptism, receiving sacraments, doing good works, indulgences, purgatory, law keeping and participating in the on-going sacrifice of the Eucharist. How can you say there is no difference?

Thank you so much for speaking at L'Eglise Baptiste du Centre Paris. Your crystal-clear presentation of the difference between the simplicity of the Bible message of salvation on the one hand and the tangled confusion of man-made traditions on the other hand was excellent. Those of us who have the desire to share the Good News with the unsaved are now better equipped to do so, and the visitors who came with their doubts and questions were enlightened upon hearing you present the beautiful message of salvation. We were indeed blessed by your brief visit, and we hope you will have the opportunity to return in the near future. Encore, un tres grand merci!

J.T. Paris, France

My experience witnessing to Catholics has not been very good. They believe what they are taught by the Catholic Church. Even when you show them the Scriptures; they still believe the Catholic Church. They aren't looking for the truth, they are satisfied.

A.W. Sterrett, AL

We have copied your article, *Why Evangelize if God Has Already Chosen?* to share with those we hope will be convicted by Scripture. I've never seen that subject presented so well and so completely God-honoring, leaving no room for man to gloat! Thanks for your obedience. We took these

truths to our pastors and thought they would be ecstatic to learn of the great God we serve. Instead we were put out of teaching and worship and are now looking for a church that will hold up the Bible as truth.
J. & C. C. Mariaville, ME

Being a fan of Dave Hunt and having read *What Love Is This?* I devoured the article Mike wrote on Election. He was acknowledging God's knowledge of who would respond (election) but he also cited the individual's responsibility to respond. I really struggle with this issue more than any other. I have always believed that "God knows" who is going to respond but that we have the final choice. That satisfied me until I read Hunt's book which was vitriolic in some ways. I am one of his greatest admirers but I was uncomfortable reading that book and had a problem with it. I guess it is because our oldest son, a Wheaton graduate, and a fine urologist is so far into the Reformed movement. It is breaking our hearts. Of course, the five points of TULIP are the basis for much of his disdain for our position. Anyway, please send anything else Mike has that would help me get over the hurdle I have with election and free will.
J.T., Lexington, KY

Our Christian neighbor called the other morning, while we were going over some things in your book, *Preparing Catholics for Eternity*. She told us she is working with some nuns in the area (who she believes are Christians) who help people in need. We started sharing with her one thing after another from your book. All she could say was, Wow, Wow... Well, just about an hour ago the local librarian (who is our daughter) called and said our neighbor was there wanting your book. We praise God who knows how all this new information we are getting from your materials will lead us.
R. & J. D., Loon Lake, WA

Your DVD, *Catholicism vs. Evangelical Christianity* was a very informative and well produced documentary. Dr. Reagan was great interviewing you on the important issues on which Catholics are uniformed and spiritually blinded by the clergy. Catholics seem to be more concerned about subjects like the early church fathers, how Peter became the "first pope" and their traditions, instead of the very words of God contained in Scripture. They do not realize they are under the influence of Satan because to them, their religious system is handed down

from one generation to the next. That is why Catholics will continue to be defensive about their spiritual blindness.
J.G., Slatington, PA

It really increases our confidence in witnessing to know that we have excellent resources to put in someone's hands. We just saw a man return to the Catholic church after coming to a Bible-believing church for a year! I want to start giving out your CD's and will keep a stack in my car. Another friend who gave some evidence of being converted just sent me an email with praying hands clutching rosary beads. She will be getting a CD! Anyway, your ministry is a great blessing to equip us and we are eternally grateful. There is no way that someone like me could begin to engage a person trapped in Catholicism or to understand its heretical teachings without someone explaining it clearly.
P.S., Winchester, MA

In reading your tract *Have You Ever Been Deceived?* I was filled with joy to read your words: "Adam and Eve shifted their faith from God to the deceiver when they believed his lie." At last I see a person who really knows the cause of Adam's fall! Always during my 87 years I've always heard from preachers that Adam rebelled in eating the forbidden fruit. It was not rebellion. It was a failure to believe what God said; instead they believed what Satan said. God desires, first and foremost, faith in Him and His Word.
V.G., Onaga, KS

We often share your resources with others and a former Catholic said she had no idea Catholicism taught the literal body and blood of Jesus was in the Eucharist. No doubt she now realizes the bondage she was once captive to! We've made it a habit to ask Catholics what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception teaches. They always think it has to do with Christ's conception. They are in shock when we tell them it is about Mary. We find this is an effective way to challenge false doctrines without Catholics getting defensive. (They're usually too startled). Thank you for contending for the faith that was once deposited to the saints!
P. & V.E., Granger, IN

We met after you spoke at the *Midnight Call Prophecy Conference* where I purchased many of your resources for our ministry at the *Genesis Pregnancy Care Center*. Your DVDs are extremely useful for training new volunteers and my Board of Directors. It is

now mandatory for all our volunteers to view your seven DVDs that deal with evangelism God's way, the growing apostasy and the compromise of the Gospel. We are also handing out your tracts to our Catholic clients. Needless to say, the Purpose-Driven, seeker-friendly churches have produced a huge crop of false converts. Fifteen years ago, when I became Director, we rarely saw Christians coming through our doors, but now 65-75% of our clients say they are "Christians." Some have had four or more abortions; others are having their third or fourth child out of wedlock. Most are living with boyfriends and have not read a Bible or attended church since they repeated the "magic prayer." Trying to reach these women with the truth of the Scriptures is like pulling teeth! They believe themselves to be saved and that's the end of the discussion. When confronted with their sin, they often become angry and defensive, sometimes to the point of leaving. Yet, when someone does repent and believe the Gospel, it is awesome! Evangelism is the #1 goal in our ministry; secondly, we desire to prevent young women from having an abortion which will likely begin a downward progression of sin in their life. All our counseling is 100% Biblical, no psychology, no nonsense! Many of our volunteers are now seeing problems in their own churches because of your resources and now they can better relate to clients who are victims of the "Gushy Gospel" in a purpose driven church. Our goal is to send them to one of the few "Bible-driven" churches in our area. As I speak in various churches I am observing the growing apostasy of the church. When Rick Warren started promoting his *Purpose Driven Life*, I knew we were headed for tough times. This book is the most blatantly unbiblical publication I've seen, yet virtually every church in our area is embracing it. Thank you for your many educational resources that are so firmly grounded in Scripture. You have provided me with valuable training materials for the Lord's ministry to young women.
Dianne Pomon, RN, Executive Director, Genesis Pregnancy Care Center Pottstown, PA

Please submit questions or comments to:

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Pope's Life Was A Sign of Christ's Resurrection

A memorial Mass was held April 2 in honor of Pope John Paul II, whose abiding memory continues to draw thousands of visitors every day to his tomb inside St. Peter's Basilica. Pope Benedict said that the life and pontificate, was as a whole and in many specific moments, "a sign and witness of the Resurrection of Christ." He said, "Indeed, we can read the entire life of my beloved predecessor, in particular his Petrine ministry, as a sign of the Risen Christ." Benedict XVI said, "His agony was beheld by all this day." Benedict continued to explain by saying, Pope John Paul decided to carry his cross together with Jesus, following in his footsteps. He did all of this through the unique mediation of Mary, Mother of the Church. Pope John Paul II's conformity to Christ lasted until the end of his life...the final sacrifice, the gift of self. John Paul II conformed himself to Christ, even physically, in the case of suffering and the complete confident abandonment in the arms of the Heavenly Father. (CNA, 4/2/2008)

Padre Pio's Body Exhumed for Veneration

The body of St Padre Pio, one of Italy's most popular saints, was exhumed for public veneration marking the 40th anniversary of his death and the 90th anniversary of the first appearance of stigmata on his hands and feet. Capuchin friars at the sanctuary where Padre Pio's tomb is visited by seven million pilgrims annually, said that "parts of the body" had been found to be "intact." The Archbishop said the body was in "surprisingly good condition. As soon as we got inside the tomb we could clearly make out the beard...the chin is perfect and the rest of the body is well preserved. The knees, hands, mittens and nails are clearly visible.

If Padre Pio allows me, I might say he looks as though he just had a manicure". The body is now in a glass covered coffin for veneration for several months. The exhumation was approved by the Vatican and the first time the tomb had been opened since Padre Pio's death in 1968. An Archbishop said the friar's body had been exhumed "to check on its state and to carry out all the necessary work to guarantee the best conditions for its conservation." Pope John XXIII, who died in 1963, had also been exhumed when he was beatified, the step before sainthood. The body was found to be unusually well preserved. An Italian historian, Sergio Luzzatto, recently caused controversy with a book on Padre Pio in which he claimed to have found documents in the Vatican archives suggesting that Padre Pio may have faked his stigmata, the marks of the wounds of Christ, with acid, and also had "intimate and incorrect relations with women". Followers of Padre Pio believe he had the gift of bilocation (being in two places at once), healed the sick and could prophesy the future. (TimesOnline, 3/3/08)

New Indulgence Granted

Benedict XVI will grant a plenary indulgence on the two-thousandth anniversary of the birth of St. Paul. Plenary indulgences remove all temporal punishments that afflict people as a result of their sins. The decree states that the Holy Father is granting the indulgences to provide the faithful with "spiritual treasures for their own sanctification" in honor of St. Paul. The faithful must "undertake a pious visit in the form of a pilgrimage to the papal basilica of St. Paul on Rome's Via Ostiense and pray in accordance with the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff" to be "granted and imparted Plenary Indulgence for the temporal punishment of their sins. Each person may obtain an indulgence for themselves or for anyone who is deceased

"as many times as the aforementioned acts are undertaken; however, a Plenary Indulgence may be obtained only once a day." (CNA, 5/12/2008)

Islam Overtakes Catholicism

Islam has overtaken Roman Catholicism as the biggest religion in the world. The Vatican's newly-released 2008 yearbook of statistics, said Muslims made up 19.2 percent of the world's population and Catholics 17.4 percent. "For the first time in history we are no longer at the top: the Muslims have overtaken us," according to a Vatican official. If all Christian groups were considered, including Orthodox churches, Anglicans and Protestants, then Christians made up 33 percent of the world's population -- or about 2 billion people. The Vatican recently put the number of Catholics in the world at 1.13 billion people. It did not provide a figure for Muslims, generally estimated at around 1.3 billion. The percentage of Muslims was growing faster because of higher birth rates. (Reuters, 3/30/08)

Divine Mercy is Key to Catholic-Muslim Dialogue

The rediscovery of divine mercy is key for interreligious dialogue, contended Cardinal Philippe Barbarin of France. Mercy is a "theme of primary importance in dialogue with Muslims." He said, "It is impressive to see that among the 99 divine names, the most used are precisely 'the Very Merciful' and the 'All-Merciful', always attributed to Allah." The Cardinal said, "These two names are repeated twice in the Fatiha which Muslims repeat 17 times every day during his five daily prayers." He stated, "We confirm that the notion of tolerance, ceaselessly used intentionally in interreligious dialogue, does not mean much; we must move from tolerance to mutual esteem, and if the Lord gives us the grace, to admiration." (Zenit, 4/3/08)

Pope Prays for Unity With Armenian Apostolic Church

The Holy Father met with His Holiness Karekin II, the Patriarch of Armenian Apostolic Church and a group of 75 Armenian faithful and 18 bishops to celebrate Midday Prayer. The Pope spoke about the importance of striving for Christian unity. He prayed that ecumenical dialogue "will bring us closer to full and visible communion, and that the day will come when our unity in faith makes possible a common celebration of the Eucharist." (CNA, 5/9/08)

Roman Catholicism's Fatal Fascination with "Another Mary"

Knowing the wiles of the devil, the apostle Paul exhorts us to be purely devoted to Jesus Christ. He wrote: "just as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ" (2 Cor. 11:3). In Roman Catholicism, there are many diversions that lead Catholics away from Christ, but none so prevalent as their perversion of the biblical Mary. Following are some of their recent apostate activities relating to the "Catholic Mary".

Glorification of Mary through a Fifth Marian Dogma

An antidote to the challenges facing the Church and society today is the glorification of Mary through the proclamation of a fifth Marian dogma, says Cardinal Vithayathil of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church in India. The Church is made up of about 3.5 million of India's 16 million Catholics. Cardinal Vithayathil, is one of the five cardinals who sent a letter in January inviting prelates worldwide to join them in petitioning Benedict XVI to declare a fifth Marian dogma they said would "proclaim the full Christian truth about Mary." The petition asks the Pope to proclaim Mary as "the Spiritual Mother of All Humanity, the co-redemptrix with Jesus the redeemer, mediatrix of all graces and advocate with Jesus Christ on behalf of the human race." In the following interview, Cardinal Vithayathil comments on the effect the proclamation of the dogma could have on interreligious and ecumenical dialogue.

Q: Do Syro-Malabar Catholics have a particularly generous devotion to Our Lady?

Cardinal: Yes, we have a great tradition of intense devotion to Our Lady. There is a belief among us that the apostle St. Thomas, who first preached the Gospel to their ancestors, had brought with him a replica of the picture of the Blessed Virgin supposedly painted by the Evangelist Luke. Centuries before the Portuguese missionaries arrived, there were many churches dedicated to Our Lady in Malabar.

Pope John Paul II has asserted that the Syro-Malabar Catholics were never formally separated from the Sea of St. Peter during the 20 centuries of their existence. During the three centuries that the Latin Carmelite bishops from Europe ruled the Syro-Malabar Church,

there was a deepening of devotion to Our Lady. Practically every member of the community wore the brown Carmelite scapular and recited the family rosary everyday. I believe this Marian devotion is the reason why 70% of all missionaries in India are from this Church and why this Church ordains 250 priests every year.

Q: Why do you think the time is opportune for the declaration of a fifth Marian dogma?

Cardinal: Through private revelations at Lourdes and Fatima, Mary has made known that God wishes, as an antidote to the sad situations of the world today, the glorification of his mother through the recitation of the holy rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The fifth Marian dogma would certainly improve the world situation through the prayers of Mary to her divine Son. Many believe that the danger of Marxist Communism was averted by the apparitions of Mary at Lourdes and Fatima and the consequent increase in devotion to Mary.

Q: Do you think this Marian dogma would hurt the ecumenical cause for the Church?

Cardinal: Not only will it never hurt the ecumenical movement, but it will positively enhance it. I feel that it is God's will that we should honor Our Lady in a special way at this juncture of world history. Only good can come out of doing God's will. The Hindu communities in India are extremely open to the concept of "Mother," and they enthusiastically participate in the Marian devotions of the Catholic Church. The Orthodox Churches with whom we live together, already believe in this doctrine. It may sour Catholic-Protestant relations, but Our Lady knows how to heal this. An infallible definition by the Pope will help deepen the confidence of the people of God in Mary's role as co-redemptrix, mediatrix of all graces and advocate. (Zenit 5/21/08)

Pope Calls Catholics to Trust Mary

At a meeting with young people in the northern Italian city of Savona, Pope Benedict XVI invited them to trust in Mary. He recalled the words Mary spoke to shepherd Benedict Pareto in the year 1400 urging him to build a shrine at the place where she appeared. Pareto was worried because he did not know

how to respond to Mary's invitation. The Pope repeated the Virgin Mary's words to him: "trust in me! With me in your midst you will not fail. With my help everything will be easy. Only keep your will firm. Trust in me!"

"Mary repeats this to us today," Pope Benedict said. "An ancient prayer, very dear in popular tradition, makes us turn in confidence to You with these confident words, that today we make our own: 'Remember, O Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, sought your help or implored your intercession was left abandoned.' It is with this certainty that we invoke the motherly care of Our Lady of the Guard on your community." (CNA, 5/18/08)

A New Prayer to Mary

Pope Benedict composed a prayer to Our Lady of Sheshan to celebrate the Day of Prayer for the Church in China. The pope expressed his hope that May 24, the memorial of Our Lady Help of Christians, who is venerated at the shrine of Sheshan in Shanghai, would become a day of prayer. The text of the pope's prayer follows:

"Virgin Most Holy, Mother of the Incarnate Word and our Mother, venerated in the Shrine of Sheshan under the title 'Help of Christians,' the entire Church in China looks to you with devout affection. We come before you today to implore your protection. Look upon the People of God and, with a mother's care, guide them along the paths of truth and love, so that they may always be a leaven of harmonious coexistence among all citizens. When you obediently said 'yes' in the house of Nazareth, you allowed God's eternal Son to take flesh in your virginal womb and thus to begin in history the work of our redemption. You willingly and generously co-operated in that work, allowing the sword of pain to pierce your soul, until the supreme hour of the Cross, when you kept watch on Calvary, standing beside your Son, who died that we might live. Our Lady of Sheshan, sustain all those in China, who, amid their daily trials, continue to believe, to hope, to love. In the statue overlooking the Shrine you lift your Son on high, offering him to the world with open arms in a gesture of love. Help Catholics always to be credible witnesses to this love, ever clinging to the rock of Peter on which the Church is built. Mother of China and all Asia, pray for us, now and for ever. Amen!"

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Proclaiming the Gospel

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*"We are destroying
speculations and
every lofty thing
raised up against the
knowledge of God,
and we are taking
every thought
captive to the
obedience of Christ"
(2 Cor. 10:5).*

Biblical Principles for Handling False Teachers

- Identify them by name and warn others of their error (2 Tim. 2:17-18).
- Mark and avoid them (Rom. 16:17,18).
- Be on your guard to avoid being carried away by their error (2 Pet. 3:17).
- Come out from among them (2 Cor. 6:14-18).
- Shun their babblings (2 Tim. 2:16,17).
- Turn away from them (2 Tim. 3:5).
- Reject them (Tit. 3:10).
- Do not receive them nor bid them God speed (2 Jn. 10-11).
- Expose their evil deeds (Eph. 5:11)
- Pray for them that God may grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth (2 Tim. 2:25).
- Test the veracity of every man's teaching using Scripture as your supreme authority (Acts 17:11).
- Test the spirits because many false prophets have gone out into the world (1John 4:1).

(from page 2)

tion to Christ (2 Pet. 3:17; 2 Cor. 11:3). They disagree with the words of Jesus and bring constant friction within the church (1 Tim. 6:4-5). They give rise to speculation and fruitless discussion which hinder the purposes of God (1 Tim. 1:4-6).

Many who profess Christ are no longer embracing sound doctrine because they want their ears tickled and are seeking teachers who will do just that (2 Tim. 4:2). Using the Word of God we must be ready to reprove, rebuke and exhort with great patience and instruction. Those who have been entrusted with the truth must take a stand against those who try to lead men astray. Even when Peter was not straightforward about the truth of the Gospel, Paul withstood him to the face, and rebuked him sharply (Gal. 2:11-14). Jude exhorted us to "earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). Those who refuse to defend God's truth are demonstrating their lack of passion for the truth. We must love the truth and hate every false way (Ps. 119:104). Let us never be intimidated by false teachers because "the fear of man brings a snare" (Prov. 29:25).

The Battle for Truth

Let us be mindful of the words of A.W. Tozer who wrote: "So skilled is error at imitating truth that the two are constantly being mistaken for each other. It is therefore critically important that the Christian take full advantage of every provision God has made to save him from delusion - prayer, faith, constant meditation of the Scriptures, obedience, humility and the illumination of the Holy Spirit" (That Incredible Christian).

We need to ask God for courage and boldness as we rely on the power of His Word. May we all become more like the apostles who were strong, bold, fearless, dogmatic, unaccommodating of error, courageous, intolerant of sin, inflexible concerning the Gospel, controversial, willing to die for the truth and fully devoted to Christ. We are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming (Eph. 4:14). During these times of great deception the Body of Christ must respond with a theological, biblical worldview that defends the glory and honor of our Lord Jesus Christ. We must protect the purity of His Gospel for the sake of His elect.