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Editor - Evangelist Mike Gendron

"Woe to you...
hypocrites! For you
shut up the kindom
of heaven against
men...[and don't]
allow those who are
entering to go in."
(Mat. 23:13)

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Proclaim ng he Gospel

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

Exchanging Religion for an Eternal Relationship with God

ineteen years ago we began inviting all the Roman Catholics we knew into our home to watch a video called Roman Catholicism: Crisis of Faith. The video explains the difference between belonging to a religion and having an intimate relationship with God. Former priests and nuns shared how our Sovereign Lord opened their eyes to see and believe the Gospel of grace. Every Tuesday night we had a different group of Catholics watch the video. Their responses varied from one extreme to the other. Some stormed out of the house very upset and offended, but others stayed to ask questions. We invited the truth seekers to return on Wednesday nights for a Bible study on the Gospel of grace. Within three months we witnessed 17 Catholics exchange their religion for an eternal relationship of peace with their all-sufficient Savior. God was glorified as His Spirit and His Word brought forth new disciples for His Son!

The Exchange of Religion

The apostle Paul not only exchanged his religion for an everlasting relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, he considered all his religious accomplishments worthless rubbish. If anyone had reason to boast and be proud of his religious status, it was Paul, "a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless" (Phil. 3:5-6). Yet, he considered all this contemptible compared to changing his relationship with God from one of enmity and hostility to one of peace and harmony (Phil. 3:7-11; Col. 1:20). The notable religious credentials, which he once thought profitable, were actually worthless and damning to his soul (Luke 18:9-14).

The Bondage of Religion

True disciples of Jesus are those who have been set free by the truth as they abide in His Word (John 8:31-32). Those who do not know the truth will continue to be enslaved to the bondage of religion. Throughout history, the goal of every religion has been to control people. This has been accomplished with religious traditions, legalism, pride and deception. One example of this fierce religious loyalty is a comment we hear so often from Roman Catholics: "I was born a Catholic, and I will die a Catholic." Yet, true conversion can only take place if they confess: "I was born a sinner and will die a saint." And what a way to die! By God's amazing grace, saints are elected in Christ (Eph. 1:4), called to Christ (1 Cor. 1:9), have believed the truth about Christ (Rom. 10:14-17), have turned to Christ in repentance (1 Pet. 2:25), are justified by the blood of Christ (Rom. 5:9), are united with Christ (Gal. 2:20), are being transformed into the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18), are being kept and preserved by Christ (1 John 5:18) and will one day gain the glory of Christ (2 Thes. 2:14). Why would anyone chose to be enslaved to religion when they can become a blessed and privileged slave of the Lord Jesus?

The End of Religion

The Lord Jesus Christ never came to start a religion, in fact He put an end to the only religion God ever ordained. Ironically, the rulers of this God-ordained religion had become so corrupt they plotted to murder their Messiah (John 11:53). There was no more need for religion after Jesus, the perfect and eternal High Priest offered Himself, the perfect sacrifice, to a perfect God who demands perfection. The veil that once separated sin-

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(Religion from page 1)

ners from their holy God was torn open from top to bottom (Mat. 27:51). The one mediator between God and man provides access to the Father (1 Tim. 2:5). By faith in the shed blood of Jesus, repentant sinners can enter into the presence of God with confidence (Heb. 10:19-20). No more religion, no more priests offering sacrifices for sin and no more religious rituals or ceremonies. In place of religion, the risen Savior mediates a relationship with God through faith in His one sacrifice for all sin, for all time (Heb. 10:10-18).

Christianity in its purest form is not a religion but a Spirit-sealed relationship with the God of all creation. Catholicism is Christianity in its most debased form. It became corrupt when it denied the finished and all-sufficient work of Jesus and perverted His Gospel. This warped Gos-

pel of works leads people to a Christless eternity. To avoid deception, Christianity instructs people to study the Bible and

believe what God says. Religion, on the other hand, requires people to believe what *man says* God says. When people without discernment, submit to men who are naturally prone to error, they are easily deceived. Catholicism tries to overcome this by declaring its popes are infallible in matters of faith. Christianity is when God's children follow the Lord Jesus, the only one who is immune from error. I will never forget what my uncle, a Catholic priest of 58 years, said after I read to him Scriptures refuting Catholic traditions. He said, "God doesn't mean what He says there; let me tell you what He really means."

The Deception of Religion

When you ask most religious people what they are trusting to gain entrance into heaven, they rarely mention the name of Jesus. That's because their religion is ultimately the object of their faith. They trust their self righteous clergy and their religious works and rituals to keep them heaven bound. Tragically, they cannot see the glory and sufficiency of Christ Jesus. They have been blinded from the truth of the Gospel by religious indoctrination, a most effective tool of Satan (2 Cor. 4:4). His primary goal is to confuse people by corrupting and mangling truth as much as possible. Many victims of religious indoctrination are content to blindly trust their unregenerate spiritual rulers, who are willfully ignorant of biblical doctrine and Page 2

are more interested in holding onto their power than seeking the truth. We have found that indoctrination is so powerful that many Catholics refuse to engage in conversations about spiritual issues with non-Catholics. I recall, as a young indoctrinated Catholic, how "lucky" and proud I was to be born into what I was told to be the one true church. I felt sorry for Protestants who were not as "lucky" as I was. So blinded by Catholic traditions, I did not realize my zeal was misdirected. I was honoring God with my lips, but I was submitting to another Lord - a pope.

The Attraction of Religion

The fiercest opponents of Jesus and

the most influential pawns of Satan

were the spiritual rulers of Judaism.

One of the primary attractions of a religion is its appeal to the flesh. The world tells us that "seeing is believing," that we must see before we can believe. This explains why it is so easy for religious people to believe what

> they can see or touch. Catholics worship and consume the Eucharist, a "god" they can see. They go to a priest they can see

to receive sacraments they can see to merit the graces necessary for salvation. They light votive candles as a visible sign of their offerings. And yes, they bow down and pray toward statues they can see.

Those who have a relationship with their Savior walk by faith not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). Since faith is the conviction of things not seen, 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 (Heb. 11:1; 2 Cor. 4:18). Jesus said only those who believe will see the glory of God (John 11:40).

All religions teach that you must do things to appease their god or gods. Every religion has a works-based system of righteousness that instructs its followers as to what they must do to achieve spiritual blessings. This checklist mentality appeals to the natural man, but man's best efforts are but filthy rags in the sight of a holy God (Isa. 64:6). Many do their good works because of their zeal for God but they are ignorant of what God's righteousness demands (Rom. 10:1-4). Christianity is set apart from all religions because its founder has done everything necessary for repenting sinners to have a right relationship with God. Spiritual blessings are available by God's grace to all who trust what Jesus Christ has accomplished through His

(See Religion, page 10)

The Ministry of Proclaiming the Gospel

OUR PURPOSE

The ministry was established in 1991 and is incorporated in the State of Texas as a nonprofit 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, 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.

The Manhattan Declaration

A coalition of 150 Catholic, Orthodox and evangelical leaders, calling themselves "Christians" and "fellow believers," have joined together in ecumenical unity to fight against abortion, same-sex marriage and anything that betrays their religious beliefs. On November 20th, a 4,700-word document called the *Manhattan Declaration: A Call of Christian Conscience* was released (http://manhattandeclaration.org/). The document was drafted by Chuck Colson and Princeton University professor Robert George, a Roman Catholic.

After reading the Manhattan Declaration, we believe it may have the same effect as The Manhattan Project of the 1940's, an atomic blast on Christian faith. Anytime born-again Christians link arms with unregenerate professing Christians, even for ostensibly moral purposes, they are impeding the Great Commission. The fallout from Chuck Colson's previous attempts to reverse the Reformation has been devastating to the evangelical church. He has influenced many evangelical leaders to embrace Roman Catholicism as a valid expression of biblical Christianity. According to the second Evangelicals and Catholics Together Accord (ECT II) that Colson drafted in 1997, the following differences should not divide Catholics and Evangelicals as "brothers and sisters in Christ": baptismal regeneration, the Eucharist, sacramental grace, justification by works, purgatory, indulgences, the role of Mary and the saints in salvation and salvation for those not evangelized.

Many of the signers of Colson's Evangelicals and Catholics Together Accord have given their name to this Declaration as well. Purposefully, the Gospel is never defined, explained or presented in the Manhattan Declaration. This is because the signatories embrace contradictory and opposing views on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The implication throughout the document is that Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant Evangelicals share a common faith. There is nothing that could be further from the truth. Evangelicals and Catholics submit to different authorities, read different Bibles, worship a different Jesus, believe a different Gospel, have a different view of sin and are on a different path to eternity. Furthermore we disagree on the necessity, sufficiency and efficacy of our Lord Jesus Christ in the salvation of sinners. There can never be unity between true Christianity and apostate or counterfeit Christianity. Believers and unbelievers are as distinctively different as light and darkness (2 Cor. 6:14-18). Have we forgotten the Reformers who were tortured and burned at the stake for refusing to compromise with Rome? The apostle Paul never signed unity accords with people who perverted the Gospel of Jesus Christ; he condemned them with anathema (Gal. 1:6-9). It was Paul's great fear that we would put up with counterfeit Christians who preach another Jesus and another gospel (2 Cor. 11:4). He warned us that these false apostles and deceitful workers, who disguise themselves as brothers in Christ, could corrupt our minds and lead us astray (2 Cor. 11:13). In these times of great deception and compromise we must heed his warnings. People who preach another gospel are not Christians; they have betrayed Christ. The true church ought to rise up against such persons and declare that they are not Christians. They are counterfeits who shame the name of Jesus.

Although it is good to unite as cobelligerents with one voice to fight moral and political issues, any accord that attempts to overlook, dismiss, nullify or compromise the Gospel is antithetical to the command for all Christians to earnestly contend for the faith. We can never deny the profound importance of protecting the life of every baby and the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman. We must earnestly contend against those who seek to destroy both (Jude 3). However, we must remember that this is a spiritual battle which can only be won through fervent prayer and the proclamation of the true Gospel, a Gospel that is denied by every Catholic priest when he offers the Eucharistic Christ upon his altar for the forgiveness of sins. If Evangelicals must put their names on accords, why not remain sanctified and set apart by drafting our own accords? We can start by declaring our unity was established when the Holy Spirit baptized us into one Body upon believing the one and only Gospel of grace (1 Cor. 12:13).

Throughout the history of the church Satan has unleashed his fiery darts against the Christian faith. He has been most successful when God's children lack discernment.

Charles Spurgeon said, "To pursue union at the expense of truth is treason to the Lord Jesus." Since we have been sanctified by the truth, we must remain separate for God's glory and purpose.

Have You Considered This?

Truth is the antidote for willful ignorance, but if ignorance remains after **truth** is revealed, it is no longer ignorance but stubborn pride that continues to reject the **truth**.

The greatest obstacle to learning the **truth** is to think you already know it all.

Failure to embrace and defend **truth** will always lead to deception. We who have been entrusted with the **truth** can never let a lie of the devil go unabated.

Quick Quotes

"Truth mixed with error is equivalent to all error, except that it is more innocent looking and therefore more dangerous. God hates such a mixture! Any truth and error mixture, calls for definite exposure and repudiation. To condone such is to be unfaithful to God and His Word and treacherous to imperiled souls for whom Christ died."

H. A. Ironside

Where Mike Is Speaking

Feb. 13 Steeling the Mind Bible Conf. Coeur d'Alene, ID (800) 977-2177

Feb. 14 <u>Candlelight Christian Fellowship</u> Coeur d'Alene, ID (208) 772-7755

Mar 1 Master's Academy Symposian 13248 Roscoe Blvd Sun Valley, CA (800) 225-5867

Mar. 7 Santa Clarita Baptist Church Santa Clarita, CA (661) 252-2282

Apr. 16-18 **Instituto Efeso** Toral Leon, Spain

June 25-26 <u>Lamb & Lion</u> Bible Conf. Allen, TX (972) 736-3567

Aug. 20-21 **Bible Conference** Laredo, TX (361) 586-4633

Sept. 5-11 **Keeping the Faith Conference** Kingscliffe, Australia

Sept. 18 Steeling the Mind Conf.
Denver, CO (800)- 977-2177

Oct. 9 <u>Understanding the Times Conf.</u> Eden Prarie, MN (763) 493-3010

Nov. 9, 11 The Master's Seminary 13248 Roscoe Blvd Sun Valley, CA (800) 225-5867

To schedule Mike Gendron or Jason Hauser to speak, contact them: phone: (972) 495-0485
e-mail: ptg@pro-gospel.org

Seeking His Truth

Letters to the Editor



A few years ago you and I had a running email "debate" after Scott Hahn persuaded me to rejoin the Catholic Church. Hahn was very convincing with tying Christ as an extension of the Old Testament sacrificial system rather than the end of it. He also pushed the idea that the "mandatory physical eating" of the Passover lamb proves that we must also eat Christ in the Eucharist. Catholic apologists can present some very convincing, yet deceptive arguments. I've found that being well grounded in the Word of God is the only thing that can combat the deception. Now after six years of soaking in Catholic apologetics, I simply can't get past Paul's warning to the Galatians and the problem of a "different" Gospel. I want to thank you for your work. I have since been visiting the Grace to You website and have been soaking in John MacArthur's teachings as well. I have been recently banned from the Catholic Answers website for asking some tough questions about Catholic practice and teaching. My entire family is Catholic so I would appreciate it if you would remember me in your prayers. Mike, thanks for your publications and keep up the good work.

M.M., Internet

What do you recommend for a husband who has an unbelieving wife? Our children are in Catholic school and I want to take them out. My wife is very committed to the RCC mostly because of her spiritual blindness and her mother's influence on her. She does not recognize my authority in the home. She has even made remarks about leaving me! The more I press the issues, the more my wife pulls away from me claiming that I'm pushing her away. I trust in the Lord and the power of His word.

Brendan, Internet

God has appointed you to be the spiritual leader of your family. He will hold you accountable for the spiritual nourishment and protection of your children. If you wife were to unknowingly put your children in physical danger, you would do everything in your power to protect them. If you allow her to keep the children in Catholic schools, you are exposing them to a fatal Page 4

and perverted gospel that damns people's souls. Her refusal to recognize your authority should have no bearing on you exercising it. You have to honor and please God and not compromise your God-given role just because she threatens to leave you. You cannot control the sinful behavior of others. Pray to our Sovereign Lord for her salvation and for a peaceful resolution.

I just want you to know what a blessing you are to Christians all over the country who are searching for tools and wisdom in standing for truth and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in boldness. I've been reading your newsletters for 5 years and your book Preparing Catholics for Eternity. I often include your tracts in cards and pass them out at Catholic Pro-Life functions. Your website is excellent! May God grant you ever-increasing wisdom for dealing with challenges and confrontations you surely face through this ministry. May He continue to receive all glory in all your service. I have some Catholics who live in my neighborhood, and I mailed them a copy of your last newsletter yesterday. We'll see what God does. Thank you again for your labor of love and passion for providing us with tools for witnessing to the lost with the true biblical Gospel. Much love to you in the name and for the sake of the risen and exalted Christ! C.B., Paris, KY

You are so sadly mistaken with your misunderstandings' of the Catholic faith. In 2006, I suffered the loss of my mother (may she rest in peace). In my deep pain and praying the rosary, I pictured in my mind, our Blessed Mother (The Virgin Mary) placing her powerful hands on my head and afterwards embracing me while I sobbed on her gown. Her message to my heart was: "I'm here for you, I've always been here, I'm your other Mother." From that day, the rosary has taken on a real and profound meaning, becoming a means of peace and guidance. Mike, you don't even know if you're saved, much less anyone else! Father John Conapi has it right in saying, "I'll tell you when I'm saved - after I'm in heaven and deemed worthy of being in the presence of the Almighty." There can

only be "one truth, one faith and one spirit"... which is it? Yours or mine? *E.C.*, *Amarillo*, *TX*

Anyone who is trusting what they must DO to be worthy of heaven can never know if they have done enough. One day they will find out that there is only One who is worthy and that is God's perfect Man - the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who trust what He has DONE can know, right here and now, they have eternal, everlasting life with Him (1 John 5:13). Your faith is in what you must DO and mine is in what has been DONE by the all-sufficient Savior for my salvation. Please consider two questions: 1) How can a finite person pay an eternal sin debt? and 2) how can an imperfect person, obtain the perfect righteousness that God's righteousness requires for entrance into heaven? With man this is impossible, which is why God sent His eternal Son. God imputes the sin of all believers to His Son and imputes the Son's righteousness to all believers. (2 Cor. 5:21). May God give you the grace to repent and believe His Son.

In your last news letter, you said, "the majority of Christians believe they can lose their salvation." I am one of them; so in all due respect, why did Paul write: "I make known to you, brethren, the Gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the Word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain" (1 Cor. 15:1-2). These are verses that keep us on our spiritual toes. We all need to do our part. I believe God saved us and saves us, but we can fall from grace if we get into unbelief and rebellion. Have a blessed day and may God richly bless you and your ministry.

C.D., Buena Vista, VA

When Paul wrote his letters to different churches, he was aware that there is always the possibility of false converts or tares in churches, just as there is today. Remember, only God knows the heart and who He has saved. Therefore Paul's exhortation to "hold fast the Word" is to contrast true believers from false converts. Any professing Christian, who once embraced orthodox doctrine, but later departed from the faith, was never born of the Spirit. He had a dead spurious faith and was never saved. Jesus spoke of many such false professors who even called Him Lord and performed religious works in His name. (Mat.

7:21-23). Those who have a living Godgiven faith will persevere and continue to "hold fast the Word." It is only by God's power that sinners are saved and only by His power that they are kept from falling away (Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:3-5). As you "keep on your spiritual toes" remember it is God's promise and power that will keep you from falling!

I attended the Steeling the Mind Bible Conference in Kennewick, WA in October and heard Mike Gendron speak and then purchased his DVD: Which Gospel? and Catholics & Evangelicals: How Different Are We? While watching the DVD, I couldn't take notes fast enough and continually hit the pause button. I learned so much about Catholicism, and the message of salvation was cleared up in my own mind. I had a sense of urgency to call my son who is dating a devout Catholic girl and tell him what I learned from the DVD. He said, "I knew there was something not right about the Catholic religion, but I never could figure it out." He immediately called his girlfriend and said to her point blank, "I won't become a Catholic, and I don't want my future children to become Catholic. How do you feel about that? Would you leave your religion?" She was stunned with his question and said, "No." He told her he didn't believe Catholic teaching such as purgatory, doing works to be saved, going to the priest to confess sins, signing a document promising to bring children up as Catholics, the bread and wine becoming the actual blood and body of Jesus, believing you have to be baptized to be saved, etc. She admitted that she didn't know enough about her religion to debate him. He told her that this is a deal breaker for getting married because their religious differences are too great. She cried and professed her love and devotion and said she didn't want to lose him. So she agreed to watch the DVD. Please pray!

J.G., Kennewick, WA

A few months ago I spoke to you about going back to the Catholic Church. I have now left but the priest has been after me. He asked if I would read an apologetics book. The book relies heavily on emotions and I'm feeling the pull. I have wept and prayed and prayed again, and God gave me the strength to hold my position and not go back. I listened to both broadcasts on your website and was encouraged and strengthened. Now I need to talk to the priest upon returning the book. Needless to say, it feels

like a daunting process, especially when I know that priests have a way of trapping true believers. I respect you for how you stood for the truth under the stress of what I call badgering. It seems that we live in perilous times and staying in the Word is vital. I realized that in the interview you did on Catholic Radio. I feel so blessed that God pursued me and revealed Himself to me. Otherwise I would be going through the wide gate following the devil in front of me.

R.G., Victoria, Canada

Thank you for presenting the truth in a fearless manner. There are a lot of Christians who think you and I should leave Catholics alone because they believe in "Jesus." What they believe about Jesus is important because even the demons believe without repentance. I don't know of anyone else who presents the truth in such a gentle manner as you do. I regret to say I went to a Bible College that taught a class on false religions but never dealt with Catholicism. It's important to speak the truth but sometimes people can't get past the fear.

D.C., Alma Center, WI

I think of you often. Our son who almost became RC, is now a doctor and he and his wife teach Sunday school. Thank you for your kind investment of truth in his life several years ago down in Dularge, LA. He listened, and God moved. Thank you also for being such a loyal defender of the faith! October's article on repentance was the most comprehensive I have read in my 20-year walk with the Lord. Would love to see that as an individual tract to remind today's church of the bride's need for righteous garments.

D.A., Baton Rouge, LA

I am so grateful and thankful for your ministry and for your diligence and obedience to our Messiah Jesus! I was first saved in 1975, when I heard a priest say: "God's Word is either the truth...or it is not!" So I began reading the Word and the book of Hebrews enlightened me. It said Jesus died only *once*, which of course destroys the Sacrifice of the Mass, where he dies over and over again! The Lord truly set me free, and I began attending a Bible Church in San Diego! *D.N., Escondido, CA*

As I have been leading a Bible study, the Lord is calling the women not to walk in darkness but in the Spirit. But how? Then your last newsletter came and God gave the an-

swer. Repentance! I confess that I once again used your message in the class. God is the Teacher, and I stand in awe. Just think, God supplied His Word through His disciple in Texas at just the right time for His purposes in Iowa! I am so blessed.

R.H., Cedar Rapids, IA

The YouTube videos of you exposing teachers who distort the truth of the Gospel (as in Rick Warren and Joel Olsteen) are so well done. The Bible verses you used to confront error and expose wolves in sheep's clothing and their deadly doctrines of demons are seeds of truth that can bring people out of deceptive movements.

G.F., Murfreesboro, TN

The hardest thing in witnessing to Catholics is getting them to think or reason. A friend who was raised Catholic said to me, "At age 40 I have come to realize that during all my Catholic schooling, I was taught not to question or challenge the Catholic view. In fact I was taught not to think." W.O., Kingston, Australia

Your friend had the same experience I had. For many years I would check my brain at the church door and go through mindless religious rituals in ignorant bliss because I thought my religion could save me.

I gave your tract *Roman Catholicism: Scripture vs. Tradition* to a nurse during my hospitalization. She in turn showed it to her brother-in-law. He translated it in his language and will be taking 3000 with him when on a missions trip to visit his family in India. Pray God will use him in a mighty way. He is a former Catholic.

H.J., Elk Grove Villgage, IL

I am a former Catholic of 31 years when the grace of God led me to salvation through your tract *Roman Catholicism: Scripture vs. Tradition.* Now I want to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and share the good news with my friends and relatives. *E.C., Bohol, Philippines*

Please submit questions or comments to:

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Pope Invites Anglican Priests to Convert to His Religion

Pope Benedict XVI has paved the way for thousands of Anglicans who are disillusioned by the church's stance on female clergy and homosexuality to convert to Roman Catholicism. The stunning and historic move will allow Anglicans to enter into full communion with the Holy See and allow married Anglican clergy to be ordained as Catholic priests. The pope hopes that the Anglican faithful will find the opportunity to preserve the Anglican traditions that are precious to them and consistent with the Catholic faith. The many diverse traditions present in the Catholic Church today are all rooted in the principle articulated by Paul in his letter to the Ephesians: "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism." Anglican clergy who convert could be ordained as Catholic priests although they would not be allowed to become bishops. They have declared that they share the common Catholic faith as it is expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and accept the Petrine ministry as something Christ willed for the Church. A Catholic Cardinal rejected accusations that the new Anglican converts be described as dissenters. "Rather they are assenting to the movement of the Holy Spirit to be in union with Peter, with the Catholic Church." (CNA, 10/20/09)

Christian Book Publishers Promote Catholic Gospel

In a disturbing development, several evangelical publishers have released Roman Catholic versions of their Vacation Bible School (VBS) curriculum, using the same graphics and games, but substituting Catholic doctrine. *Gospel Light Publications*, which has Reformed roots, recently broadened its focus by establishing a relationship with *Ligouri Publications*, a Catholic pub-Page 6

lishing company run by a community of priests and contemplative nuns known for their devotion to Mary. Gary Greig, senior editor of theology for Gospel Light, said, "We're kind of radical in that we believe the Holy Spirit has a shot at bringing kids to salvation regardless of what language they use to describe the Gospel. We're going to work with any stream in the body of Christ." Gospel Light will develop the theme, basic outline, graphics and music, then the material is transferred to Ligouri for changes by Catholic Church officials. The rewritten material will include the sacramental experience, with a special focus on the Eucharist. Other evangelical publishers that are publishing Catholic publications include: Augsburg Fortress, Standard Publishing and Group Publishing. Critics once complained that Christian publishing had become all style and no substance. Now it has become all style and interchangeable substance, where virtually any content can be swapped between graphics, where art departments are rented out at will to the highest bidder. Christian education should be a careful program of discipleship, an essential part of spiritual development, a practical dose of theology that encourages children to become more like Christ. The Gospel cannot be victim to cutand-paste partnerships with publishers who hold different beliefs on fundamental truths. Any evangelical publisher who enters into an operating agreement with a Catholic publisher has a fundamental misunderstanding of the Gospel. (Baptist Bulletin, 10/30/09)

Can You Be Catholic and Evangelical?

Evangelicals and Catholics are not polar opposites but are both within the spectrum of the Christian faith, according to Southern Baptist leader Dr. Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School. He made the comment during an ecumenical dialogue Sept. 3

at Wheaton College. The topic of the dialogue was: "Can you be Catholic and Evangelical?" Debating the topic with George was Dr. Frances Beckwith, professor of philosophy at Baylor University and past president of the Evangelical Theological Society. Beckwith recently converted to Roman Catholicism because of his faith in the authority of the Catholic Magesterium and apostolic succession. George is a leading ecumenist who has been an integral part of the Evangelicals and Catholics Together Accords since 1994. Words cannot explain how repulsed and nauseated I was after hearing these two "theologically intelligent" men dismiss the damnable errors of a false religion that is leading a billion souls to destruction. Why is Wheaton College, once a bastion of conservative Christianity, now encouraging unity with deceivers of another gospel? Why has there not been an outcry from the Southern Baptist Convention? Where are the contenders of the faith? Who is taking a bold and courageous stand as the Reformers did? They were brutally beaten, tortured and murdered because they would not compromise the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (PTG, 9/3/09)

Priest Justifies Shoplifting

Father Tim Jones, parish priest of St. Lawrence and St. Hilda in York, England, said in a sermon that stealing from large national chains was sometimes the best option many vulnerable people had. He said: "I have never said it is OK to steal, but bigger companies suffer less harm from shoplifting than smaller businesses." And he accused the larger businesses of contributing a pitiful amount to charity. Talking about the situations of certain vulnerable people, Fr. Jones told his congregation on Sunday: "My advice, as a Christian priest, is to shoplift. I do not offer such advice because I think that stealing is a good thing, or because I think it is harmless, for it is neither. I would ask them not to take any more than they need." He added: "Let my words not be misrepresented as a simplistic call for people to shoplift." The observation that shoplifting is the best option that some people are left with is a grim indictment of who we are. (irishexaminer.com, 12/22/09)

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A new website will say your prayers for you for a fee. For \$3.95 per month, you get "the satisfaction of knowing that your prayers will always be said even if you wake up late or forget." Catholics can get multiple Hail Mary's at just 7 cents each. (DMN, 3/23/09)

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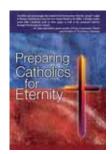
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Tell the Truth by Will Metzger. Many are saying this is the best training manual for effective witnessing ever written. If all Christians would follow these Scriptural guidelines for evangelism, there would be less false conversions in our churches. The manual includes an excellent study guide with charts and diagrams that contrast God's way with man's way of evangelism.

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Today's Gospel - Authentic or Synthetic? by Walter Chantry. This powerfully written book goes to the heart of the contemporary problem within Christianity today - the compromise of the Gospel and its promises. Code: BTODAY, Sug. Don. \$8

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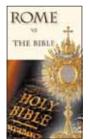
Catholicism: Scripture vs. Tradition. Everything you need to know to be an effective witness to the world's largest mission field is presented in this 16-panel booklet. It shows how the *New Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches another Gospel that deceives Catholics about life's most critical issue - What must I do to be saved? *Also in Spanish.*

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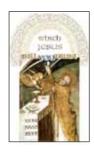
undeniable and objective differences between Catholicism and the Bible. A great tract to encourage Catholics to repent from the traditions of men and believe the Word of God.

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Which Jesus Will You Trust? A contrast



between the Eucharistic Jesus and the Jesus of Scripture. Most Catholics are unaware they are trusting a false Christ who is unable to save them completely and forever. Anyone who worships and trusts a counterfeit Christ must be warned in the spirit

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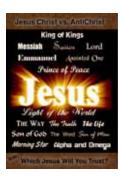
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between two Christs. Tragically there will be many deceived by the Antichrist because they do not know the true Christ. Share the glory and majesty of our Lord and the victory He won at the cross. Which Jesus Do You Trust? A message that contrasts

the Jesus of Roman Catholicism and the cults with the Jesus of Scripture. Objective facts from authoritative sources reveal the Jesus whom Catholics worship and trust is another Jesus whom the apostles never preached (2) Cor. 11:4). The Eucharistic Jesus is a false Christ that is leading a billion souls astray.

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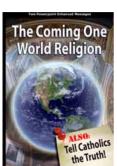
The Bible-Driven Church looks at the



Biblical characteristics of the true church contrasted with the marks of the post-modern emerging church. **Deception** and Apostasy explores the growing apostasy within the church and identifies some of the causes. Many say the church is

enjoying a great revival, but a closer look reveals a different story.

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The Coming One-World Religion reveals prophecies describing the last days' church along with the formation of Satan's global religion. Catalysts for ecumenical unity and the role of the Vatican are examined.

Tell Catholics the Truth answers the question: "What is the most trustworthy source for discovering God's truth?" We must tell Catholics there is only one supreme objective authority that can be trusted - the inspired, inerrant Word of God.

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Satan's Attacks on the Christian Faith reveals how the devil's legions of



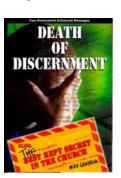
liars are assaulting the faith in six key areas: The Supremacy of God's Word, The Sufficiency of God's Son, The Singularity of God's Gospel, The Sovereignty of God's Grace, The Security of God's Children and the Sanctity of God's Church. The

Lord's army must defend the faith against the devil's schemes. (Eph. 6:10).

Are You Sure You Are a Christian? Paul gives an exhortation to "test yourselves to see if you are in the faith." The Bible gives us several ways we can do this. Share this message with professing Christians who may have never heard the true Gospel or have been evangelized by man's methods instead of God's. Tragically, there are many who profess Christ who are destined to hear the most terrifying words anyone could ever hear when Jesus says, "I never knew you, depart from Me" (Mat. 7:23).

Code: DSACF Sug. Donation \$20

The Death of Discernment - The Bible must be the rudder that guides the church through the stormy waters that have been stirred up by every wind of doctrine. If the Body of Christ does not start practicing discernment, we are headed for serious trouble because the enemies of the Gospel are more outspoken and numerous than we are. If



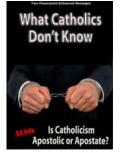
Christians cannot discern truth from error they will not know if they are following the Lord Jesus Christ or one of His adversaries. The name of Jesus Christ is fully glorified, honored and praised when His Truth is upheld!

The Best Kept Secret in the Church,

reveals man's greatest need - the need to be forgiven by a holy and righteous Judge. Many Christians live in a shadow of fear and without peace because they have never heard or understood this key doctrine in John's first epistle.

Code: DDOD Sug. Donation \$20

What Catholics Don't Know identifies the ten most important biblical truths Catholics will not hear from their clergy. We must obey the Great Commission and share



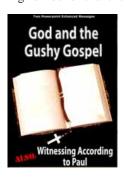
these Scriptural truths with Catholics for the glory of God and for the salvation of their souls.

Is Catholicism Apostolic **Apostate?** It is a provocative question because Catholics believe their church is the one true church of

the apostles. However, a close examination of its doctrines and dogmas tell another story. We must love Catholics enough to correct them in hopes that God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth.

Code: DWHAT Sug. Donation \$20

God and the Gushy Gospel - A growing number of churches are now preaching a



generic god with a gushy gospel in order to appeal to a larger segment of society. They measure success in numbers instead of faithfulness to God's Word. This message reveals the tragic consequences of a man-centered Gospel. The gushy

gospel has produced a generation of fessing Christians who have never been truly converted. These "victims" live with a false hope because they have embraced a gospel that is powerless to save sinners.

Witnessing According to Paul is a practical exhortation for overcoming the effects of the gushy Gospel. Learn from the greatest evangelist of the first century who

claimed the complete Gospel with clarity and conviction. Restore Biblical integrity to evangelism by proclaiming a Christ-centered Gospel that calls sinners to repentance! Be aware of unbiblical methods of evangelism. Test



and examine your methods of evangelism with Paul's outline for witness-

Code: DGUSH Sug. Donation \$20

Which Gospel?

- God's redemptive message is currently under attack

in three critical areas: 1) the Christ of the Gospel, 2) the Promises of the Gospel and 3) the Response to the Gospel. Those who have been misled by these distortions need to be evangelized with the true Gospel. Catholics and Evangelicals: How Different Are We? Seven major differences between Evangelicals and Catholics are examined. The two faiths submit to different authorities, read different Bibles, trust different Christs, believe opposing Gospels, teach different views of sin, confess different orders of salvation and most importantly, follow different paths to eternity.

Code: DGOSP Sug. Donation \$20

Israel, Islam and The Vatican exam-

ines the influence Catholicism and Islam may have leading up to Armageddon. These two religions share a common spiritual bond and



worship the same god, according to the papacy. Both have over one billion adherents with a history of anti-Semitism. Both esteem Mary as the most revered woman who ever lived. Learn more about these three monotheistic religions and Christ's re-

Contending for the Faith provides a comprehensive look at the epistle of Jude with a 21st century application. All Christians are called to earnestly defend the faith. Code: DIIV Sug. Donation \$20

Hard Questions for Good Catholics

is patterned after the hard questions Jesus asked of the corrupt Jewish leaders in the first century. In the same way, key questions are asked of Catholics to expose their religious errors and to encourage them to examine their faith. The questions are an exhortation to bring them to repentance.

Last Days for Catholics objectively ex-



Code: DQUES

amines the world's 2nd largest religion through the lens of Scripture. God's Word proves it to be a false religion, and Catholics need to be evangelized. Seven biblical principles are presented for effective witnessing to these precious souls. Sug. Donation \$20

Identifying and Opposing False Teachers - The Lord Jesus warned that these last days would be marked by many



false teachers who would revel in their deception and lead many away from the truth. Peter also warned there will be false teachers among you will secretly introduce destructive heresies. (2 Peter 2:1). Learn how we can identify these deceivers and expose their

lies so fewer people will be misled.

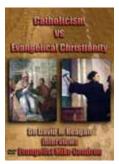
Why Evangelize if God Has Already **Chosen?** A biblical look at the doctrine of election and how it relates to the responsibility of every believer to sow the seeds of God's imperishable word. See how divine sovereignty and human responsibility work together in God's perfect plan of redemption. Code: DFALSE Sug. Donation \$20

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Tinkering with the Gospel - Two nationally televised programs with Dr. David Reagan and Mike Gendron.

Code: DTV Sug. Donation \$16

Roman Catholicism vs. Evangelical



Christianity - Dr. David Reagan interviews Mike Gendron on a subject with eternal consequences. With sensitivity and compassion, they explore how Catholics have been led to trust a different authority, believe another gospel and worship an-

other Christ who returns every day.

Sug. Donation \$16 Code: DCVEC

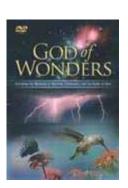
Catholicism: Crisis of Faith - Follow



the spiritual journey of former priests and nuns as they explain how they found the narrow road that leads to life. Discover the cause for the present global crisis in the Catholic Church. Many Catholics have left their church after watching this excellent DVD. Now available in English, Spanish, German,

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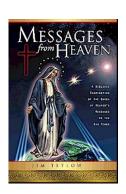
Code: DCATH Sug. Donation \$20 God of Wonders - A remarkable explora-



tion of the Creator's handiwork and what His majestic creation reveals about His holy character. Survey the unimaginable size of the universe and ponder the vast energy present in all matter. Be amazed at how great a God we serve. Enjoy this breathtaking tour of

God's awesome and glorious universe. Sug. Donation \$20 Code: DWOND

Messages From Heaven - Tens of millions of people have been flocking to appa-



rition sites around the world hoping to encounter the Virgin Mary. This DVD examines these visions in light of God's holy word. Excellent visual and sound effects accompany footage of various apparition sites and interviews with Marian devotees. The alluring power of these vi-

sions is drawing not only Catholics, but many Protestants and Muslims also. The DVD can be viewed in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Polish.

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"Many deceivers have gone out into the world...Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God"
(2 John 7-9)

Religion or Jesus

- ♦ Religion is man's futile attempt to become right with God. Jesus offers His righteousness as a gift of faith. (Rom. 5:17; 10:1-4)
- ◆ Religion places people under the law. Jesus fulfilled the law and offers salvation by grace apart from works of the law. (John 1:17; Rom 6:14)
- ◆ Religion opposes and nullifies the Word of God with its traditions. Jesus soundly rebuked religious leaders for doing so. (Mark 7:8-13)
- ◆ Religion is used by Satan to blind people from the Gospel and lead them away from a pure devotion to Jesus. (2 Cor. 4:4; 11:3)
- ♦ Religion says DO, Jesus says DONE.(John 19:30)
- ◆ Religion saves no one. Jesus is the only hope of salvation and the only access to the Father. (John 14:6)

(Religion from page 2)

sinless life, death and resurrection. All religions say "DO" but true Christianity says "DONE." Those who desire an eternal relationship with God must trust in what has been *done* by the Lord Jesus, apart from anything they *do* for Him (Ephesians 2:8-9).

The Loyalty of Religion

Religion stirs up a passionate loyalty to its rulers instead of to the Lord Jesus Christ. Who can forget the images of Pope John Paul II's funeral? Thousands of misguided Catholics stood in long lines for up to 18 hours to venerate a dead man with an unbiblical rosary in his hands and a twisted crucifix by his side. What a sharp contrast to those who have an everlasting relationship with the *only* Holy Father. They refuse to listen to the voice of robbers who are out to steal and destroy their souls. They flee from them and instead follow the voice of the Good Shepherd who gave His life for His sheep and calls them by name (John 10:3-11). They come to Him for eternal life mourning over the sins that nailed Him to the cross. They recognize their unworthiness to be in His presence, yet they rejoice in the hope they have in His Word (Psalm 130:5). Christ and His Word are so connected that one cannot have a relationship with Him apart from His Word (John 8:47).

Those who desire to have a relationship with the true God must seek Him from the only infallible source for truth. All religious teachings, including teachings in this article, must be tested for veracity by searching the Scriptures (Acts 17:11). Those who cling to religious teachings while rejecting God's Word will be condemned on the last day by the very Word they rejected (John 12:48). Conversely, those who believe the Scriptures have been born again through the incorruptible seed which is the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23). As children of God, it is their ambition to be pleasing to the one who set them free from the bondage of religion (2 Cor. 5:9-10).

In closing, we must take the same approach Jesus did by refuting religious error and opposing those who spread it. Religion can never save anyone, in fact it cuts them off from God and the saving power of the Gospel (Rom. 1:16; 4:2-8). Let us exhort those who are enslaved to their worthless and empty religions to become privileged slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ.