



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](#)

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...but join with me in suffering for the Gospel according to the power of God" (2 Tim. 1:8)

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Are We Using Biblical Integrity In Our Evangelism?

After 17 years in corporate sales, I found myself using similar marketing techniques to evangelize the lost as I had used to persuade clients to buy my computers. I would present the features, advantages and benefits of trusting Jesus as Savior and then use unbiblical methods to try and close the deal. When people refused to repeat a prayer or acted disinterested, I would keep going back over the Gospel presentation, trying to coerce them to believe. Whenever the Gospel was rejected, I felt like a failure, totally frustrated and defeated.

Little did I know at the time, that conversion is solely the work of our triune God. Unless the Father draws and the Spirit provides illumination and conviction there will be no conversions, no matter how clear the Gospel of Jesus has been presented ([John 6:44; 16:8-11; 1 Cor. 2:12-15](#)). Since then, I have come to know my responsibility as an ambassador for Jesus Christ is to live my life worthy of His calling and to deliver His message faithfully, accurately, completely and clearly. It is only God's sovereign power and grace that can bring forth new life as the imperishable seed is planted in the hearts of His elect. This has been so liberating for me! God's word corrected my man-centered approach to evangelism. As I sow the seed (God's Word), I now know only God can cause the growth ([1 Cor. 3:7](#)).

Over the last 100 years many unbiblical methods of evangelism have crept into the church and have produced many false converts. Many well meaning soul winners are using these methods today. I pray we would all evaluate our doctrine and methods so that

Jesus will be fully glorified and represented accurately in our witnessing. Our evangelistic efforts should be motivated, guided and controlled by Scripture, not by using "craftiness or adulterating the word of God" ([2 Cor. 4:2](#)). Only then will we see the great number of false conversions reduced. Only then will the number of unregenerate "professors of Christ" who bring shame and dishonor to the name of Jesus be minimized. And only then will the number of people living with a false hope of salvation be curtailed.

Make Disciples, Not Decisions

We must avoid using half truths and reducing the Gospel to nothing more than a fire escape in order to manipulate people into making a decision. Asking sinners to choose heaven over the everlasting torment of hell is easy. However, the goal of evangelism is not to make decisions but to make devoted disciples of Jesus Christ who will be conformed to His image and bear fruit ([Rom. 8:29; John 15:8](#)). As ambassadors for Christ, we must entreat sinners to be reconciled to their Holy God and Creator ([2 Cor. 5:20](#)). We do this by teaching them to observe all that Jesus commands ([Mat. 28:19-20](#)). Jesus calls sinners to bring and leave their sins at the cross, and follow Him in the newness of life ([1 Pet. 2:21](#)). Then, having been freed from the power of sin, they are to follow Him as slaves of righteousness ([Rom. 6:18](#)).

Call For Repentance

As Jesus began His earthly ministry His first command was: "Repent and believe the Gospel" ([Mark 1:15](#)). He came to call sinners to repentance ([Luke 5:32](#)). So, if we neglect calling sinners to repentance, we risk adding them to the group of "professing Christ" (see [Integrity on page 2](#))

(Integrity from page 1)

tians" who will meet Jesus at the Great White Throne. They will be stunned when they hear Him declare: "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who **practice lawlessness**" ([Mat. 7:23](#)). What an irreversible tragedy for these victims of "evangelists" who used unbiblical methods to convert them or who failed to communicate what it means to trust Jesus.

Christ-centered witnessing is calling people to trust the Lord Jesus, not only to be delivered from the punishment of sin but from sin itself ([Psalm 39:8](#)). Those who have no desire to be released from the bondage of sin are not candidates for conversion. Anyone who loves darkness because it hides their sin, will reject the light of the Gospel. For these we must pray that *God may grant them*

repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape

from the snare of the devil, who has held them captive ([2 Tim. 2:25-26](#)). When God grants repentance (Greek: metanoia), it effects a change of mind from error to truth. This change of mind will be evidenced by a change of behavior, a turning from dead religious works and sin to faith in Christ for forgiveness and deliverance ([1 Thes. 1:9](#)). Accordingly, Jesus said, "*repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name*" ([Luke 24:47](#)). Since it is God who grants repentance that leads to life, repentance is never a condition for salvation, but evidence that the sinner has received divine power to turn from sin ([Acts 11:18](#)).

Clearly, the grace of God that brings salvation instructs *us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds* ([Titus 2:11-14](#)). Salvation is by grace but grace does not give converts license and freedom to live in the flesh, but power and instruction to live in the Spirit. Jesus bore man's sins in his body on the cross *so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness* ([1 Pet. 2:24](#)). Those who hear the Gospel and do not repent must be warned. If they *go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of*

the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment ([Heb.10:26-27](#)).

Proclaim Jesus As The Only Hope

As I interact with people throughout each day, I ask them about heaven and how they hope to get there. Would you be surprised to know that four out of every five responders never mention the name of Jesus Christ? Most people believe their good works will qualify them for heaven. Others trust sacraments, baptism, repeating a prayer or their religious activity. These facts appear inconceivable in a country where 86% of the population profess Christianity. How can there be so much ignorance concerning the Gospel? The answer is convicting! There are few Christians proclaiming it clearly and still fewer

contending against all the counterfeit gospels. Needless to say, the

The True Gospel exalts the Lord Jesus Christ and humbles man.

churches in America represent a huge mission field. There are many "professing Christians" who "accepted" Jesus but do not know what it means to trust Him. Others may have repeated a prayer without ever understanding the Gospel. True faith is not just *lip service*. Jesus condemned those who honored Him with their lips but not with their hearts and lives ([Mat. 15:7-9](#)). To trust Jesus for salvation is to forsake all efforts to save oneself and to have complete confidence in His finished work of redemption. This means to forsake any attempt to merit salvation by self-righteousness, good works, baptism, sacraments, indulgences, obeying the law or church membership. Grace is the only means by which God saves sinners. Sinners must come to Jesus with empty hands of faith.

Warn of False Teachers

The Apostle Paul, known as the greatest evangelist in the first century, is an excellent model for us to follow. He not only proclaimed the Gospel faithfully against relentless opposition, but he also warned of "professing Christians" who would *distort the truth and draw away disciples* ([Acts 20:30](#)). For this reason he taught antithetically, proclaiming what the Gospel *is*, as well as, what it *is not*. This technique is so important when witnessing to "professing Christians" who have been led astray by a perversion of the true Gospel. Paul's antithetical teaching declares salvation is by grace and not of works ([Eph. 2:8-9](#)), by God's mercy and not righ-

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

The Ministry of Proclaiming the Gospel

OUR PURPOSE

The ministry was established in 1991 and is incorporated in the State of Texas as a non-profit [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) corporation for the purposes of: 1) glorifying and serving Jesus Christ by proclaiming the Gospel of man's redemption; 2) establishing outreach and discipleship groups in evangelical churches for Roman Catholics to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ; 3) exposing any doctrines that oppose the Gospel so people will repent and come to a knowledge of truth.

OUR METHOD

In a spirit of love and humility, we teach evangelistic seminars, workshops and home Bible studies to train and encourage other Christians to be effective witnesses to Roman Catholics. We also offer resources designed to teach, equip and encourage others to labor in this huge mission field.

OUR NEWSLETTER

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

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

OUR PROVISION

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

OUR BOARD OF REFERENCE

[Kerby Anderson](#), President, [Probe Ministries](#); Dr. J. Ronald Blue, President, [CAM Int'l](#); John J. Dwyer, DFW Heritage; [John Maisel](#), Director, [East-West Int'l Ministries](#); [Chuck Missler](#), Founder, [Koinonia House](#); Pastor Tom Nelson, [Denton Bible Church](#); [Dr. David Reagan](#), Director, [Lamb & Lion Ministry](#).

Steeling the Mind, Aug. 22

Mark your calendars and plan to attend America's #1 Bible Conference at the World Arena in beautiful Colorado Springs, August 22-23. Thirteen speakers including Erwin Lutzer, Kent Hovind, Zola Levitt, Chuck Missler, Jobe Martin, Mike Gendron and Frank Peretti will cover many of the critical issues affecting the church. For information and reservations call 1-800-977-2177.

Idolatrous View of Pope

Mother Angelica's Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) demonstrates just how idolatrous their view of the pope is with the [following tribute](#):

Long live the Pope!

His praises sound again and yet again,
His rule is over space and time,
His throne the heart of men,
All hail! The Shepherd Pope of Rome,
Let all the earth his glory sing,
And heav'n the strain prolong.
Beleaguered by the foes of earth,
Beset by hosts of hell,
He guards the loyal flock of Christ,
A watchful sentinel,
And yet, amid the din and strife,
The clash of mace and sword,
He bears alone the Shepherd Staff,
The champion of the Lord.
Then raise the chant with heart and voice,
"Long live the Pope of Rome!"
Almighty Father bless his work,
Protect him in his ways,
Receive his prayer, fulfill his hopes,
And grant him length of days!

All Sins Forgiven

[The Roman Catholic Church has suspended confessions in Singapore](#) due to the spread of the deadly SARS virus, and priests will instead forgive all churchgoers for their sins. The Archbishop said a general absolution, or forgiveness, without one-on-one confessions only can be given in times of "grave necessity," according to the Bible. "This year in view of the SARS epidemic, I have obtained permission from Rome for our priests to grant a general absolution instead of individual confessions and absolution," Chia said in a letter to Singapore's 152,000 Catholics. Chia said churchgoers must resolve to confess their sins in due time for the general absolution to work. (Reuters, 4/10/04)

Satan's Opposition to God's Word

The devil and his loyal agents are determined to keep God's Word from accomplishing its purpose. He knows it is absolute truth and will correct man's thinking on critical issues relating to salvation. His primary objective is to do whatever is necessary to keep unbelievers from gaining access to the Bible. He knows the living and abiding Word of God is the imperishable seed that brings forth eternal life and sets sinners free from his snare ([1 Peter 1:23](#); [2 Tim. 2:25](#)). Satan also tries to distract believers from continuing in God's Word. He knows this will inhibit their effectiveness and spiritual growth ([Acts 20:32](#)). Please consider his ongoing strategy, then develop one of your own to continue in God's Word and proclaim it faithfully.

- Satan questions God's Word and causes doubt ([Gen. 3:1](#)).
- He denies the Word of God, thus calling God a liar ([Gen. 3:4](#)).
- He misuses the Word for his agenda and glory ([Mat. 4:6](#)).
- He blinds the minds of people from the light of the Gospel ([2 Cor. 4:4](#)).
- He snatches away the Word sown in hearts that do not understand ([Mat. 13:19](#)).
- He uses traditions of men to invalidate the Word ([Mat. 15:6](#)).
- He uses others to distort the Word to draw disciples away ([2 Pet. 3:16](#); [Acts 20:30](#)).
- He persuades men to suppress the truth or exchange it for a lie ([Rom. 1:18, 25](#)).

Where Mike Is Speaking

- April 29 [Red Mountain Comm. Church](#)
Mesa, AZ (480) 807-5868
- April 30-May 1 [Calvary Chapel](#)
L. Havasu City, AZ (928) 680-6808
- May 2-3 The Forbidden Book Symposium
Goodyear, AZ (623) 536-8614
- May 23-25 [Calvary Chapel](#)
Kennewick, WA (509) 586-8902
- Aug. 8-10 Church of Jesus
Port Neches, TX (409) 722-6959
- Aug. 22-23 [Steeling the Mind Bible Conf.](#)
Co. Springs, CO (800) 977-2177

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

A Great Price For Our Biblical Training Cruise

The *Defending the Faith* Cruise will depart Cape Canaveral, Florida, Dec. 6 and sail to St. Maarten, St. Thomas and Half Moon Cay (in the Bahamas) before returning Dec. 13. Prices start as low as \$349 on Holland America's *Zaandam*. Learn how to defend the faith against the world's two largest and most aggressive religions: Islam and Roman Catholicism. Also learn how to communicate the Gospel with clarity, power and conviction for the glory of our Savior.

Join Mike and Jane Gendron and other subscribers of *Proclaiming the Gospel* on this 7-day cruise. You will enjoy a special week of activities combining biblical training, Christ-centered witnessing, like-minded fellowship, sight-seeing, fine cuisine, fun and relaxation. For more information, visit our web site: www.pro-gospel.org or call us at 972-495-0485.



Quick Quotes

"The Lord will not save those whom He cannot command. He will not divide His offices. You cannot believe on a half-Christ. We take Him for what He is - the anointed Savior and Lord who is King of kings and Lord of all lords."

A. W. Tozer, "[I Call It Heresy](#)."

"I do not believe that any man can preach the Gospel who does not preach the Law. The Law is the needle, and you cannot draw the silken thread of the Gospel through a man's heart unless you first send the needle of the Law to make way for it."

[Charles Spurgeon](#)

"The Eucharist is truly a glimpse of heaven appearing on earth. It is a glorious ray of the heavenly Jerusalem which pierces the clouds of our history and lights up our journey. It is both the source and the summit of all evangelization, since its goal is the communion of mankind with Christ and in him with the Father and the Holy Spirit"

Pope John Paul II, [Ecclesia de Eucharistia](#)

Seeking His Truth

Letters to the Editor



Leaving the Catholic Church was not a spur of the moment decision. After 77 years it was not easy to do. Your newsletters, books, videos, etc. have been very helpful. Even dyed in the wool Catholics would have to admit something is wrong in the Catholic Church if they would read your publications.
J.C., Pineville, PA

Your article on *Questions About the Gospel to Ask Professing Christians* made me think. I am hoping that ignorance of eternal security does not affect salvation. Why isn't eternal security preached as part of the Gospel? Can we truly trust Christ if we don't believe He secured our salvation? Can we be ignorant of this doctrine and be saved?
D.S. Charles City, IA

We know that faith comes from hearing God's word, but we never know how much anyone needs to hear and believe before they are converted (Rom. 10:17). That is why we are called to make disciples - to teach them (from God's word) to observe all that Jesus commanded. Since God may use, at times, a very minimal amount of His word to save sinners, some new converts may not know the length and depth of their salvation. So, initially, it is quite possible that some may be ignorant of eternal security. However, as they abide in His word and grow in the knowledge of our Lord's promises and power, they will welcome His assurance with joy. The Gospel is good news because it offers the gift of "eternal" life to all who believe (John 3:16). Life is eternal because the one offering of Jesus Christ has made perfect forever those who are sanctified (Heb. 10:14). Those who knowingly reject God's promises regarding salvation are in fact rejecting the Gospel and should examine themselves to see if they are in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5).

There is a group, devoted to Mary, who walk to the top of a mountain every December in Las Cruces. Some go barefoot or flagellate themselves but nearly all pray the rosary on the walk and again at the top of the mountain, in conjunction with a Mass conducted
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by the local Bishop. We sat up a table with coffee and water so we could hand out your *Greatest News* tracts. We would say, "This is God's gift for you today!" You should have seen the people! They just ate it up! It was just amazing. We were a hit! Catholics said, "nobody has ever done this for us before." The only opposition was one guy who asked if the tract was Catholic. We told him it was about Jesus. He refused the tract, saying that "Jesus started my church." We know that witnessing will not always be this easy, we just hope we obey and glorify God!
B.C., Las Cruces, NM

We pray you will realize that Jesus founded only the catholic church. You can find that in the Bible, which the true church gave you. Did all of us have to wait for you to come along to get the true meaning of the Bible? Were all the previous theologians in error? Stop being a heretic on the way to hell. I dare you to debate a catholic theologian.
B. C., Internet

Jesus did indeed begin only one church and it is catholic, which means universal. Its members have all been called by the Father, baptized by the Spirit, through faith in the Son. Their home is in heaven, their names are in the Book of Life, their sins were imputed to Christ and their inheritance has been guaranteed. They know they deserve hell and are unworthy of heaven, but because of God's mercy and grace, have received His irrevocable gift of eternal life. Are you a member of this catholic church?

I am excited to see what you are doing and would love to be used in that way. The RCC is my mission field, my heart and my desires are so strong for Catholics. I know its not always easy as evidenced by the attacks you get. But I also, strongly believe, that God is moving in this. It is time to stand up to the RCC (and any other denomination that puts man's doctrine in place of the Lord's) and bring truth to people. I think its time to shout out what Christianity really is, and reveal a living God that many "Christians" don't even know exists. I am seriously considering leading a small group of Catholics

who are trying to understand what the Bible says about salvation, confession, reading Scripture themselves and praying. This will help remove the veils of their erroneous Catholic teachings.
D.M., Maplewood, MN

I read the article in the *New Mexico News* about your visit and some subsequent articles about you on the net. Don't give up; if they hated Jesus they will hate us with a passion. You are doing what most Christians won't even talk about. I have worked with 8 pastors in 5 years, doing everything from youth leader to missionary work in Guatemala. Only one Pastor, David Garcia, was able to clearly tell me the Gospel and warn me of the false teachings of major cults. The other pastors did not want to make waves.
M.T., Florissant, CO

I found your ministry on-line and I was thrilled to hear the truth of the Gospel explained so clearly. I am a former Roman Catholic, saved by grace and can't begin to express the joy and peace I have knowing that I belong to Jesus Christ eternally. On the other hand, I can't begin to express the sorrow I feel when I look at my little 93 year old Mom who is blindly following Roman tradition. I try to point my Mom towards Jesus alone, but my heart remains broken. The thought of her being eternally damned just fills me with grief. I try to imagine her standing before the throne of God and having Him say "depart from me, I never knew you." Imagine going to hell, forever separated from God, knowing that she rejected His grace. Please pray for her salvation?
I.G., North Royalton, Ohio

I must say, I was quite disappointed with the lies and distortions that you presented at Calvary Chapel in Kent, Washington. You continued down the road of a one-time justification despite me refuting that contention and your lack of evidence disputing my biblical analysis. You can fool the audience, but not me. Don't forget, I'm a History major. The only reason Protestants don't like early church history and the early Christian writers is because the evidence is so thoroughly Catholic. I had a spy at your Federal Way seminar. He stated that you still contended that the Deuterocanonical books were added in the 16th century. I would enjoy continuing our discussion, but since I've found that you engage in duplicity and only choose evidence that supports your position, I must end it. I will say though that you

have certainly energized my Catholic friends in this area! We have apologetic groups that expose these weak arguments for what they really are. And now we have your book *Preparing Catholics for Eternity* to dissect and debunk and we can use it to evangelize others! I will continue to pray for you that your hardness of heart may not obstruct the grace of God showing you the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic church!
T.H., Washington

God justifies the ungodly by imputing all their sins (past and future) to His Son Jesus. When Jesus was offered as the perfect sacrifice for sin, the Father was appeased. Since justice has been served, God imputes the righteousness of Jesus to those who trust Him. This makes them perfect forever - a right standing before God for all eternity (Heb. 10:14). There is therefore no reason for re-justification. It would be a contradiction to the perfect work of redemption God has completed in Christ Jesus. As a Christian I enjoy Church history but keep it subservient to Scripture. Your Deuterocanonical books are by definition called "the second canon." Shouldn't that convince you that they were not part of the first canon? The Council of Trent canonized these books in the 16th century, some 1500 years after they were written. The books contain doctrines that contradict the Word of God such as: the world was created out of preexistent matter; alms and good works can atone for sin, angels can be worshipped, etc. The books also contain historical errors and therefore cannot be the inerrant Word of God. My arguments may appear weak to you because I use the Bible exclusively as a defense of the apostolic faith. So be it! There is no more trustworthy authority on earth than the Scriptures.

Not one Roman Catholic will be brought one inch closer to salvation by becoming a Protestant, no matter what you folks believe.
Bill, Internet

You are so right! Only those who become a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved. By abiding in His word, you will know the truth and be able to turn from the error of your church. It is not our desire to have Catholics believe what we believe. Our prayer is for them to believe what God says in His infallible word - the Bible.

You challenge the power of priests to for-

give sins. From Jesus own lips, He tells His Apostles, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." How do you reconcile this?
Glenn, Internet

I challenge not only the power of the priests but also their very positions. Jesus put an end to the sacerdotal priesthood by offering Himself once to the Father as a perfect, unrepeatable sacrifice for sin (Heb. 10:10-18). When you read the history of the first century church in the New Testament you must ask yourself, "Why can't I find any priests making offerings for sins?" The need for a priesthood to mediate between God and sinners terminated at the cross. This makes every Roman priest an imposter who masquerades as "another Christ" pretending to do what Jesus already accomplished. The only legitimate priests on earth today are believers who present their bodies as living and holy sacrifices to God (Rom. 12:1). They make offerings of praise and thanksgiving in gratitude to God (1 Pet. 2:9; Heb. 13:15). Regarding your question, Jesus was giving all His disciples (not just the apostles) the responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel for the forgiveness of sins (John 20:23; Luke 24:46-47). Every believer is given the same privilege through the great commission (Mat. 28:18-20). Those who believe the Gospel are forgiven. Those who reject the Gospel, their sins are retained. Roman priests do not have power; the divine power to forgive sins is in the Gospel itself (Rom. 1:16). In my 37 years of confessing my sins to a priest, not once did the priest give the Gospel to me or ask me if I believed it. Each time I left the confessional box, I left with a false hope that my sins would be forgiven after I did penance to make satisfaction for them (CCC, 1459).

I had been praying for 6 months for God to give me a way to share the Gospel with Catholics. Then you called out of the blue with this tailor-made solution for what I can do for God. This is so perfect for me, it is awesome! I must say in the beginning it was a bit discouraging to see their hardened hearts, but just one web site alone had 1,500 views on what I had posted. So I know God will plant His seeds in some of their hearts!
K. M., Allen, TX

(Editor's note: When this dear saint volunteered her time and talents to help us in ministry, I was inspired to compose an evangelistic letter that she could send to Ro-

man Catholic sites on the internet.)

I recently watched your tape [What Catholics Don't Know](#). As a born-again Catholic, I already believe the things you said, but one thing got me thinking. Should I stop going to Catholic Mass? If I do go to Mass, should I stop taking communion? Recently, someone left our church to attend another church. Some of our people could not understand how she could leave "the one true church." If I hear more talk like this, should I also find a different church to attend?
J.J., St. Charles, MN

In obedience to God's word, you must leave any church that preaches another gospel and cease from participating in her rituals. The Roman Catholic Church is accursed for preaching "a gospel contrary" to that which the apostles preached (Gal. 1:6-9). The Catholic Mass puts Jesus to shame every day by declaring He is physically present in a lifeless wafer and offering Him as a victim to appease God's wrath. Those who have been born-again are called to be sanctified, or set apart by the truth of God's word (John 17:17).

Thank you so much for your perseverance in proclaiming the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. I still have every one of your newsletters, dating back 1995. They have taught me so much more than I knew as a Catholic. No one could answer my questions about why we did certain things or why we believed this or that. My mother's usual response was, "We just do." I wasn't satisfied with that and always seemed to be on a quest for more knowledge about religion. I now realize it was the Lord on a quest for me. He put that unsettled and unsatisfied feeling in my heart, then finally drew me in to Himself at the age of 32. I am increasingly overcome with emotion as I contemplate the glorious truth of how the Lord God of the universe pulled me out of the miry pit and proclaimed me as one of His own for all eternity. What an awesome God we serve!

C. M., Rochester, NY

Please submit questions or comments to:

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Virgin of Guadalupe

It is not possible to understand the history of evangelization in the Americas without understanding the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531, a group of experts said. "The Guadalupe event is profoundly connected to the historical process of the formation of the Catholic conscience in the American continent," said Father Fernández. The priest-historian added that this explains the fact that today the shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe is one of the most visited -- perhaps the most visited -- in the world. The event was attended by two Mexican Cardinals. "The Virgin requested explicitly the construction of her house in that ancient place of traditional worship, human sacrifices and ancestral fears," a missionary priest explained. In fact, shortly after the apparitions, millions of Indians converted to Christianity. Last July 31, John Paul II canonized Juan Diego, the Indian witness of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin, in the Basilica of Guadalupe. The Pope proposed the newly canonized saint as "evangelist and prophet" of that event.

Zenit.org, 3/25/03)

Pope Urges Christian Unity

Current world tensions should lead Christians of various confessions to proclaim together the values of the Gospel, says John Paul II. The Pope made this proposal today when he received a delegation of the Lutheran Evangelical Church, which is making an ecumenical journey to Istanbul, Rome and Canterbury. John Paul II explained that the "quest for full communion among all Christians is a duty which springs from the prayer of the Lord himself." Progress in this area was reflected in the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification signed in

1999, the Pope observed. "In that document we are challenged to build on what has already been achieved, fostering a spirituality of communion marked by prayer and shared witness to the Gospel," he said.

Zenit.org, 3/24/03)

Another Christian Unity Group

Fifty-five representatives from 30 Christian groups have unveiled a blueprint for the broadest-ever church alliance, Christian Churches Together in the USA. Leaders announced the new organization during a late January meeting at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Leaders say CCT USA will have five families of churches: Roman Catholic, evangelical/Pentecostal, historic (mainline) Protestant, Orthodox, and historic racial/ethnic. The group will also include representatives of other Christian organizations, such as Evangelicals for Social Action (ESA), the Salvation Army, and World Vision. Organizers said the alliance reflects a common desire for greater Christian unity. Barrett Duke, an observer for the Southern Baptist Convention, applauded the group's "desire to be inclusive and obvious respect for differences." Ron Sider, ESA director, said the group would be bound by "historic, Christian beliefs about God and the person of Christ." (Christianity Today, 4/03).

The Decline of Catholicism

The scandal of predator-priests now afflicting the Catholic Church may be covering up a far greater calamity. Liars may figure, but figures do not lie. Kenneth C. Jones of St. Louis has pulled together a slim volume of statistics he has titled *Index of Leading Catholic Indicators*. His findings make prophets of Catholic traditionalists who warned that Vatican II would prove a blunder of historic dimensions, and those same findings expose as foolish and naive those who believed a

council could reconcile Catholicism and modernity. When Pope John XXIII threw open the windows of the church, all the poisonous vapors of modernity entered, along with the Devil himself. Here are Jones' grim statistics of Catholicism's decline: **Priests**. While the number of priests in the United States more than doubled to 58,000, between 1930 and 1965, since then that number has fallen to 45,000. By 2020, there will be only 31,000 priests left, and more than half of these priests will be over 70. **Ordinations**. In 1965, 1,575 new priests were ordained in the United States. In 2002, the number was 450. In 1965, only 1 percent of U.S. parishes were without a priest. Today, there are 3,000 priestless parishes, 15 percent of all U.S. parishes. **Seminarians**. Between 1965 and 2002, the number of seminarians dropped from 49,000 to 4,700, a decline of over 90 percent. Two-thirds of the 600 seminaries that were operating in 1965 have now closed. **Sisters**. In 1965, there were 180,000 Catholic nuns. By 2002, that had fallen to 75,000 and the average age of a Catholic nun is today 68. **Catholic schools**. Almost half of all Catholic high schools in the United States have closed since 1965. The student population has fallen from 700,000 to 386,000. Though the number of U.S. Catholics has risen by 20 million since 1965, Jones' statistics show that the power of Catholic belief and devotion to the Faith are not nearly what they were. Four decades of devastation wrought upon the church, and the final disgrace of a hierarchy that lacked the moral courage of the Boy Scouts to keep the perverts out of the seminaries, and throw them out of the rectories and schools of Holy Mother Church. (Patrick Buchanan, WorldNetDaily.com, 12/11/02)

War Could Divide Religions

Pope John Paul II urged the faithful Saturday not to allow the Iraq conflict to stir up hatred between Christians and Muslims, saying that would transform the war into a "religious catastrophe." He said, "War must never be allowed to divide world religions. Let us not permit a human tragedy also to become a religious catastrophe. Authentic religion does not advocate terrorism or violence, but seeks to promote in every way the unity and peace of the whole human family." In the months before the Iraq war began, John Paul lobbied in favor of a negotiated solution. He has said there is no legal or moral justification for the military action, and has worried about how it could affect relations between Christians and Muslims. (AP, 3/29/03)

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bear witness that the
Father has sent the
Son to be the Savior
of the world."
[\(1 John 4:14\)](#)*

Biblical Evangelism *Witnessing God's Way*

- ◆ presents God as a holy, sovereign, righteous law-maker and judge as well as a loving, gracious and merciful Father
- ◆ proclaims Jesus as the eternal God, Creator, Lord and Savior
- ◆ primary motivation is to glorify Jesus
- ◆ goal is to make devoted disciples of Jesus Christ who bear fruit
- ◆ uses the law as a tutor to call sinners to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ
- ◆ points sinners to the Word of God as the primary and necessary resource
- ◆ waits on Holy Spirit's conviction to move sinners to call upon Jesus
- ◆ depends upon and prays for God's sovereign choice and grace to draw people to Himself with open hearts
- ◆ warns of false teachers who pervert the Gospel
- ◆ points new convert to a church which submits to the authority of Scripture and preaches the whole counsel of God

Modern Evangelism *Witnessing Man's Way*

- over emphasis on God's love and grace, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life"
- emphasis on Jesus as Savior and friend
- primary motivation is to make converts
- goal is to persuade people to make decisions, add new members, church growth
- avoids telling people they must change their mind about God, self and sin
- uses man's words, traditions and subjective experiences along with some Scripture
- seeks a quick response by having sinner repeat a "sinner's prayer"
- expects God to respond to man's initiative and man's method of salvation
- avoids exposing doctrinal error or saying anything negative or divisive
- little or no concern for the convert to be disciplined in the Word or to worship God in Spirit and Truth

(Integrity from page 2)

teous deeds ([Titus 3:5](#)) and according to God's Holy calling and initiative, not man's ([2 Tim. 1:9](#); [Rom. 8:28-30](#)). If we follow Paul's example we will warn Catholics that: 1) sinners are justified by personal faith in Jesus, not by water baptism; 2) sins are purified only by the precious blood of Jesus, not by purgatory's fire; 3) the expiation of sin is accomplished by the redemptive work of Jesus, not by penance and indulgences and 4) grace must be without works otherwise it is not grace. Unless we exhort Catholics to trust Jesus alone, we are not proclaiming the truth.

All Christians are given the royal privilege of being an ambassador for the King of kings. The King will measure our success by faithfulness, not results. We must faithfully share His message as He revealed it in His Word! To deviate from His Word is to give error an opportunity to corrupt the only way sinners can come to God. Let us all evaluate our evangelism in light of God's holy word and emulate the apostles. They were faithful, bold, fearless, dogmatic, intolerant and unaccommodating of sin and error, inflexible concerning the Gospel, controversial, devoted to Christ and willing to die for Him and His Gospel. To God be all glory and praise!