



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](#)

March/April 2004
Vol. 13 No. 2

Editor - [Evangelist Mike Gendron](#)

*"For if one comes
and preaches
another Jesus
whom we have
not preached...
you bear this
beautifully."
([2 Cor. 11:4](#))*

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Which Jesus Do Catholics Worship and Trust?

A Roman Catholic friend recently told me he was a Christian because he loves Jesus. When I asked him to tell me about the Jesus he loves, he said "The same Jesus you love!" I realized we needed to make sure we were talking about the same Jesus. So I brought up the name of a mutual friend whom we both admired. I began describing some of his attributes by saying he is a short, bald, slender guy with a gorgeous girl friend. My Catholic friend stopped me and said "Wait a minute, he's tall and muscular with lots of hair and married; we're obviously *not* talking about the same person." When I asked: "Does it really matter?" he gave me a bewildered look, and said: "Of course it does!" I said: "Then it also matters that we talk about the same Jesus." We must know who He is, what He has done, what He is doing, what He offers, what He commands, what He promises, and what He warns us about.

What follows is a description of Jesus, as He is revealed in Scripture, contrasted with the Jesus whom Catholics have been taught to trust. The Lord Jesus, who is the *truth* can only be known in *truth* by those who seek the *truth* ([2 Thes. 2:13](#)).

Jesus Is Head of the Church

He is the head over all rule and authority (Col. 2:9). The Lord Jesus has sovereign authority over the church, over all physical and spiritual life, over death and creation, and over the eternal destiny of all people. He gives life to whom He wishes ([John 5:21](#)). The church is the body of Christ and Jesus is the only head.

Yet Catholics submit to another head - the Roman Pontiff, as Vicar of Christ, he is said

to be the pastor of the entire Church. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), the pope "has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered" (CCC, paragraph [882](#)).

Jesus Is The Only Savior

Peter declared: "There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved" ([Acts 4:12](#)). The Psalmist wrote: "No man can by any means redeem his brother, or give to God a ransom for him. For the redemption of his soul is costly, and he should cease trying forever" ([Psalm 49:7-8](#)).

Yet Catholics deny Jesus is the *only* hope of their salvation. "In the treasury, too, are the prayers and good works of all the saints...In this way *they attained their own salvation* and at the same time cooperated in saving their brothers" (CCC, [1477](#)). John Paul said, "All who seek God...including those who do not know Christ will enter God's kingdom" (VIS, 12/6/00). The Catholic plan of salvation also includes the Muslims who deny Jesus is God and Savior (CCC, [841](#)).

Jesus Saves Forever

The Scriptures declare that Jesus "is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" ([Heb. 7:25](#)). To those God justifies, Jesus promises: He will lose not one ([Jn. 6:39](#)); He will not cast them out ([6:37](#)) and they will never perish (Jn. 10:28).

The Catholic Jesus does not save forever. The Catechism teaches that a Catholic, once ([see Jesus on page 2](#))

[\(Jesus from page 1\)](#)

"justified" by the sacrament of baptism, who dies in a state of mortal sin, will suffer the punishments of hell's eternal fire (CCC, [1035](#)). The Catholic Jesus provides only conditional life. After the sacrament of baptism each Catholic is placed on probation and must strive to remain in God's favor. This produces uncertainty, fear and doubt instead of the peace and assurance given to believers.

Jesus Paid Sin's Complete Penalty

The Lord Jesus went to the cross for all believers for the purpose of forgiving all our transgressions and canceling out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us. He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross ([Col. 2:13-14](#)). The redemption of a sinner's soul requires an *infinite* payment because the debt for sin is the *eternal* lake of fire ([Rev. 20:14](#)). It is utterly impossible for a finite man to pay an infinite debt. Only the eternal God could pay the eternal debt for sin. Jesus paid it in full.

Again we see another Jesus in Catholicism, a Jesus who failed to cancel the sin debt. As a result, the sinner must...do penance to make amends for his sin: he must "make satisfaction for" or "expiate" his sins (CCC, [1459](#)). Catholics can also obtain indulgences, which are said to remit temporal punishment, for themselves or for the dead (CCC, [1471](#)).

Jesus Shed His Blood to Purify Sin

The Bible teaches that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin ([1 John 1:7](#)). When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3). There is no other way our sins can be purged away because "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" ([Heb. 9:22](#)).

Rather than trusting the blood of Christ, Catholics rely on fire for the purification of their sins. Instead of trusting the *person* of Christ they trust a *place* called purgatory. "All who die...imperfectly purified...undergo purification (through a purifying fire), so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (CCC, [1030-31](#)).

Jesus Finished His Redeeming Work

Moments before He gave up His Spirit He proclaimed, "It is finished" ([John 19:30](#)). Three days later He entered heaven having obtained eternal redemption ([Heb. 9:12](#)).

From Scripture we know Jesus offered Himself once to bear sins ([Heb. 10:28](#)) His offering is not to be done again and again ([Heb. 9:25](#)). His offering made perfect forever those who are sanctified ([Heb. 10:14](#)). His offering is sufficient; there is no more offering for sin ([Heb. 10:18](#)).

Yet the Catholic Jesus is offered daily to continue that which Jesus said was finished! "The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice: The victim is one and the same. In this divine sacrifice the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross is contained and is offered in an unbloody manner." ([1367](#)) How can it be? The actual suffering and death of the genuine Jesus on a cross, which resulted in the shedding of real blood, failed to remit the complete punishment for sin, but a bloodless re-presentation of a "Jesus" in a transubstantiated wafer can? It is unconscionable that Catholics would want to participate in His ongoing immolation after He endured such unspeakable agony once to completely satisfy the divine justice sinners deserve. May God help Catholics to see they have been outrageously deceived!

Jesus Redeemed Sinners from the Curse of the Law

Since it impossible for man to obey the law perfectly, we are all under a curse. Those who stumble at one point are guilty of breaking the whole Law ([Jas 2:10](#)). But Christ has redeemed believers from the curse of the law, having become a curse for them ([Gal. 3:13](#)).

The Roman Catholic Church teaches obedience to the law is a requirement for salvation (CCC, [2068](#)). By ignoring the words of Paul "no one is justified by the Law" Catholics remain under the curse of the law ([Gal. 3:11](#)).

Jesus Will Return to Earth in Glory

Jesus shall appear a second time, **without reference to sin**, to those who eagerly await Him ([Heb. 9:28](#)). He will return immediately after the tribulation with power and great glory ([Mat. 24:27-30](#)). The Lord will return the same way He went to heaven ([Acts 1:11](#)).

The Catholic Jesus is said to return physically to the earth every day but in a totally different way and **in reference to sin**. In the Eucharist, "the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is

[\(See Jesus on page 8\)](#)

The Ministry of Proclaiming the Gospel

OUR PURPOSE

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

OUR METHOD

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

OUR NEWSLETTER

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

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

OUR PROVISION

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

For Those Unsure of Their Eternal Destiny...

- Believe Jesus as the Truth ([John 14:6](#)).
- Desire Jesus as your Creator ([Col. 1:16](#)).
- Come to Jesus as the one and only sinless Mediator ([1 Tim. 2:5](#)).
- Trust Jesus as your Savior ([Titus 3:5](#)).
- Rely on Jesus as the one offering that paid your entire sin debt ([Heb. 10:12](#)).
- Receive Jesus as your new Life by faith ([John 1:12-13](#)).
- Abide in Christ as your righteousness before God ([1 Cor. 1:30](#)).

For Those Chosen and Justified by God...

- Glorify Jesus as the Redeemer of your souls ([1 Cor. 6:20](#)).
- Love Jesus for choosing to give you eternal life ([John 5:21](#)).
- Praise Jesus for reconciling you to God ([2 Cor. 5:19](#)).
- Worship Jesus as your holy and sovereign God (Rev. 4:8).
- Study Jesus as the glorious fulfillment of prophecy ([Mat. 13:17](#)).
- Turn to Jesus as your advocate while turning away from your sin ([1 John 2:1](#)).
- Obey Jesus as Lord ([Luke 6:46](#)).
- Proclaim Jesus as the only Way to the Father ([John 14:6](#)).
- Serve Jesus as your Master ([2 Tim. 2:21](#)).
- Live for Jesus as the One who died as your substitute ([Gal. 2:20](#)).
- Cling to Jesus as the hope and promise of your resurrection ([John 20:17](#)).
- Long for Jesus to appear as your Blessed Hope ([Titus 2:13](#)).

We Need Your Help

May we encourage you to ask your church leadership to do the following: 1) host a Proclaiming the Gospel seminar; 2) put our web site in the church bulletin to inform the congregation of the available resources to reach Catholics; 3) offer our four Gospel tracts in tract racks; 4) obtain our seven-part video series [Preparing for Eternity](#) and our book [Preparing Catholics for Eternity](#) for your church library and/or bookstore.

Protestant Pastors Converting to Rome

[The Coming Home Network](#) is a Roman Catholic society that furnishes moral and financial support to Protestant clergymen who are considering converting to Roman Catholicism. John Robbins of [The Trinity Foundation](#) (www.trinityfoundation.org) contacted the Network recently and asked them some questions about their activities. Following are the answers to his questions:

JR: How many Protestant clergymen are you presently working with?

CHN: Currently we have 839 ministers on our roles.

JR: How many Protestant clergymen have you helped to join the Roman Church?

CHN: Of these 839 ministers, 483 are now in full communion with the Catholic Church.

JR: What are the trends: Are the numbers increasing?

CHN: Yes. We have had a 34% increase of non-catholic clergymen contacting us this year as compared to last year.

JR: Is there any denomination that predominates in conversions?

CHN: The two largest denominations are Episcopalian and Baptist.

Robbins' comment: If you have been hearing some strange sermons lately, you might want to ask your pastor if he is considering Rome and is in touch with [The Coming Home Network](#). There are at least 350 clergymen out there who are.

Mike's Travel Schedule

Mar. 3-7 Shepherd's Conference
Sun Valley, CA (818) 909-5530

Mar. 27-28 [West Side Baptist Church](#)
Rochester, NY (585) 865-5505

Apr. 23-25 [Bethel Baptist Church](#)
Green Bay, WI (920) 437-2040

May 14-16 [Lakeside Bible Church](#)
Montgomery, TX (936) 582-1978

June 1-11 [Remember the Reformation](#)
Germany, Switzerland

June 27 [Bayside Community Church](#)
Tampa, FL (813) 286-1463

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)

New PTG Office in Washington D.C.

Evangelist Rich Kris has joined the staff of Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry to expand our outreach on the east coast. Rich, a 1999 graduate of Moody Bible Institute, has been giving seminars at seminaries and churches in the D.C. area. His passion for the truth and heart-felt compassion for the lost make him a welcome addition to our evangelism team. Contact Rich directly to schedule a seminar in your area. Phone: (703) 960-2334 or e-mail: rich_kris@juno.com.

Quick Quotes

"Christian people are mistaking niceness or a politeness for true Christian grace. How often today pleasantness is mistaken for saintliness, 'What a gracious man he is' they say. What they really mean is this, he never criticizes, he agrees with everybody and everything. I know nothing more dangerous than that."

Martin L. Jones

"Repentance is a grace of God's Spirit whereby a sinner is inwardly humbled and visibly reformed."

Thomas Watson

"It is truth alone that capacitates any soul to glorify God."

John Owen

"A proud faith is as much a contradiction as a humble devil."

Stephen Charnock

"The Church which is married to the Spirit of the Age will be a widow in the next."

Dean Inge

"I am increasingly aware that the day is drawing near when I will have to present myself to God to account to him for my life. I entrust myself to divine mercy and to the mother of God."

Pope John Paul II (after his 83rd birthday)

Messages on Internet

A selection of Mike's video and audio messages can be accessed at: <http://www.pro-gospel.org/2003-Main/audio.php>

Seeking His Truth

Letters to the Editor



I am interested in your thoughts regarding the movie "The Passion." I respect you and your knowledge of Catholicism.
A.W., Tulsa, OK

While the movie has many "red flags" to be concerned about, it has also created an open forum to talk about Jesus. What a wonderful opportunity we have to boldly and clearly communicate the Gospel and, at the same time, refute and correct the errors of false religions and worldly philosophy. We must also contend for the faith against the false gospel of Catholicism being promoted by Mel Gibson and James Caviezel. They have been using interviews with the media and meetings with evangelical leaders to proselytize the world. Both have reported many conversions to Catholicism because of the film's impact. Evangelicals are calling Gibson a "brother in Christ," overlooking the fact that Gibson has demonstrated his ignorance of the Gospel. Among many examples to consider, he said, "To atone for the sins of everybody, [Christ] could have done it by pricking His finger and shedding His blood. He didn't choose to do that. He went all the way." I am concerned for the blanket endorsement of the film given by evangelical leaders. Their endorsement along with their failure to warn people of the Vatican's goal to bring separated brethren back home to Rome, will fuel the flames of apostasy.

Why do you people insist on persecuting Catholics? We are all Christians who believe in Jesus. The Catholic Church is the only one who truly follows Jesus' teachings. We do not distort or add anything to the Bible. It is "Johnny come lately" religions like yours who take the word and give it a meaning that suits you; not the meaning intended. Could it be you are jealous of our numbers? You should rejoice with us and try to get along with us, not fight. God doesn't want us claiming to be better than somebody else. Read your Bible! I think you are the one who needs converting. Try the Catholic Church - it has everything! We even accept people like you! Please stop printing
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trash and untruths about the Catholic Church. God is watching you.
S. C., Chicopee, MA

It is letters like yours that prompted me to write the article for this newsletter. If you placed no confidence in the flesh, you would be able to rejoice in Christ Jesus as your all-sufficient Savior ([Phil. 3:3](#)). But since you rely on your own ability and achievements to merit salvation through the power of your unredeemed flesh, you view Jesus, not as a Savior, but as a gate opener to heaven. You are correct - the Catholic Church accepts anyone, just as Constantine did in the 4th century. The ritual of baptism is the only requirement. However the true church of Jesus Christ accepts only those who have been washed by the blood of Jesus and have been imputed with His righteousness. You too can be a part of His church if you obey the first command of His earthly ministry: "Repent and believe the Gospel" ([Mark 1:14-15](#)).

The bottom line of your one man religion is that you can disregard the [10 commandments](#) and sin all you want because you are already saved. So what happens "according to Gendron" to someone who "is saved by accepting Jesus into his heart," if he continues a life of lying and swindling and then dies with a heart attack while fornicating? Does he go to heaven or not?
Nuclcurve, Internet

First of all teachings "according to Gendron" or anyone else, for that matter, should be rejected unless they conform to God's word. Secondly, no one is saved by "accepting" Jesus. Salvation is given as a gift to those who "repent and believe the Gospel" ([Mark 1:14-15](#)). To repent is to have a change of mind upon discovering you are on the broad road to destruction. To believe the Gospel is to believe that God has accomplished everything in Christ that is necessary for a sinner to be 1) forgiven; 2) reconciled to God; 3) redeemed from the curse of the law; 4) adopted into His eternal family; 5) justified and acquitted; 6) saved from the power and punishment of

sin; and 7) made alive and sealed by His Spirit that guarantees an eternal inheritance. For someone who has experienced this sovereign act of God's grace to continue in sin is unthinkable and highly peculiar. The grace that brings salvation instructs us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly ([Titus 2:12](#)). Those God saves from the power of sin will demonstrate their love for Him as slaves of righteousness with heartfelt obedience to His word ([Rom. 6:17-18](#)). As they begin worshipping Him in Spirit and truth and living a life empowered by the Holy Spirit they will put to death the evil deeds of the flesh. If the child of God falls into temptation and sins, there is an advocate in heaven, the exalted Lord Jesus Christ who intercedes ([1 John 2:1](#)). You asked what happens in the unlikely case that he dies in the act of sin? I am as confident as Paul that God, who began a good work in him, will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus ([Phil. 1:6](#)). He will be brought into heaven to honor, worship, serve and glorify his Savior throughout all eternity.

I was given a copy of your article [Confusing, Complex Contradictions in Catholicism](#). It is sad that you spend so much time looking for contradictions. If you understood the Catholic Faith and the Eucharist, you would never have left the Faith. Are you sure you were once a "devout Catholic?" Really, it is hard to believe. When I read the citations that you quote as contradictory, I see a unity of thought - though a bit complex. Are you that simple-minded that you really don't understand these things?
J.G., Washington

The only unity of thought that is consistent throughout Roman Catholic teaching is a denial of the sufficiency of Christ's finished work of redemption. The Gospel is clear enough for the simple-minded to understand and believe. But you are right, I am too simple-minded to understand why your religious leaders hold people captive in complex legalistic bondage instead of proclaiming the truth that would set them free. Christ, as our only mediator, conveyed divine truth perfectly. Why would you or anyone else trust other mediators? May God draw you to the resurrected, exalted and glorified Jesus instead of the "Jesus" your priest calls down from heaven every day.

What a Satanic misunderstanding of Roman

Catholicism! Do you have any real understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? You are usurping God's role as judge. Both Jesus and Paul have given us counsel about you who seek to be judge and jury for the kingdom. Shame on you!

Pastor H. N., Internet

My pastor says he knows some Catholic priests who are born again. After many conversations with him he keeps telling me not to put them down. I came to know Christ when I was 28 after going to Catholic schools for all 12 years. The Lord gave me discernment and when Catholicism didn't agree with God's Word, I immediately left the church. When I first got your tape a couple of years ago, you were the first person I had heard that I so totally agreed with over this. I just can't see being able to know Christ and His love and forgiveness and stay in the Catholic Church. I feel so alone with the doubts and questions and I so appreciate your discernment.

E.S., Rochester, MN

Petulant, hateful, full of bile, and spiteful. I rebuke you in the name of Jesus Christ and suggest you remove the plank from your own eye before so gleefully condemning your brothers and sisters.

M.L., Internet

You may remember that I obtained your permission to make CD copies of your audio message [What Catholics Don't Know](#) to give to my Catholic friends and acquaintances. Though challenging and fraught with interesting encounters, God seems to have given me a burden for this type of ministry. I pray that your message will help my Catholic friends see the truth of the Gospel and be saved (I have distributed 40 copies). I also pray daily for your ministry's continued success in proclaiming the Gospel to the many lost people in this world.

L.S., Ann Arbor, MI

I was greatly saddened by the recent tract from the American Tract Society entitled: "The Road to Heaven According to Catholic Sources." It is the very reason I will no longer purchase their tracts. By quoting a Catholic Cardinal, the Catholic Catechism and the Council of Trent as sources of truth, they gave credibility to the many Catholic teachings that contradict the Holy Scriptures. I wonder if they would use quotes from the Book of Mormon or the Quaran to bring a Mormon or Islam to Christ? I hope

not, however after reading their tract, it clearly brings into question their ability to discern reliable sources for truth. Hopefully, if enough people withdraw support, their future decisions will be driven by truth, not revenue and conviction, not ecumenism.

M.S., Dallas, TX

Thank you so much for your hard and faithful work for our Lord Jesus and His people! We are eager to give out your newsletter and/or tracts to many. We believe they are informative and accurate and therefore well written and will bear fruit as the Lord wills.

Pastor S. and M. H., Tampa, FL

I rarely write letters to the editor but this subject needed a response. In the last PTG issue, I read the scathing responses from Protestant pastors to your article on "Discernment." It left me wondering "what in the world did this guy write?" Not having read the article, I tracked it down on your website, read it, and then had to ask: "So what's the problem? The whole thing sounded right on! One pastor's quote that got to me: "tolerance...seems to be the way of God."

No, to come into His flock, you have to come His way! "But small is the gate, and narrow the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it!" ([Matt. 7:14](#)). Furthermore, God is extremely intolerant of any hint of sin. I tremendously admire you, and so many other ministers, who so doggedly speak the truth in spite of the firestorm that they know it will create! Scripture speaks of a remnant, "out of many, only a remnant shall be saved." Thanks for being one of them and keep up the good work, blessed brother! My wife and I got to hear you speak at *The Steeling The Mind Conference*. We both thought you were a big hit! In fact, we thought your presentation was the best!

A. L., Quincy, WA

I get all excited when I see your newsletter in the mailbox. It always makes my day! I detect hatred in the letters you receive from Catholics (who are brainwashed) or as you kindly put it, blinded, therefore blocked off from your educated statements. I was just as shocked to read of the 300 Baptist men who made the wrong choice by putting themselves into an irreconcilable situation with a monsignor. Any meeting that Catholic 'dignitaries' arrange with non Catholics is a concentrated endeavor to change their beliefs and method of worship. It is the upcoming liberals who are easy prey, probably because they're not sufficiently grounded in the faith.

G.A. Suwanee, GA

I am 17 years old and started dating a Catholic about a year ago. I found your web site and listened to your sermons and was amazed at what they teach. I began sharing the Gospel with my girlfriend. Eventually, after many long talks, she was saved. There is no way to explain it - just God! She comes from a long, unbroken line of Catholics. I want to share the Gospel with her family too. Listening to your sermons just made me want to witness to everyone I see. You have a great ministry and I have grown so much through all this. It's awesome. I will be praying for you.

Matt, Internet

I recently gave a 50 year-old Catholic woman a Bible because she had never owned one. She confessed, that after reading it for a while, she could not find any Roman Catholic teachings such as Purgatory in it. When I told her she never would, she held her head in her hands in shock and said "I have been brainwashed." Please pray the Lord will use your tracts to open the eyes and hearts of many to the truth of God's word.

K. M., Ontario, Canada

I hear your heart striving hard against false teaching. If our churches in the Reformation tradition weren't so full of false living there wouldn't be room for false teaching. Once under grace the Spirit of God is quenched and grieved, the sheep open themselves up to being "children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Not only is there an abundance of false living in the pew, but also in the pulpit--else there would still be discernment and, with it, liberating messages preached with much conviction.

G. Z., Internet

This has to be the meanest, most prejudiced, unChrist-like, arrogant publication I've ever seen. You are a vicious bigot and a half informed kook.

A Nazarene Pastor willing to work side by side with Catholics

Please submit questions or comments to:

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Pope Says Unity Involves All Believers

Unity among Christians is a task that concerns all believers and requires a change of heart, said John Paul II during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The "cause of unity concerns every believer, called to form part of the one people redeemed by the blood of Christ on the cross," he told the 4,000 people gathered in Paul VI Hall. "It is encouraging to see how the quest for unity among Christians is spreading increasingly," the Holy Father added. "Among these signs of hope I am pleased to note progress in theological dialogues with several Churches and ecclesial communities," he said. "It has been possible to come to convergences on topics which, in the past, were intensely controversial." ([Zenit, 1/21/04](#))

Southern Baptist Seeks Unity with Roman Catholics

A Southern Baptist theologian is encouraging evangelicals and Roman Catholics to "seek unity in truth." Dr. Timothy George is the dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. He is also one of the signers of "The Gift of Salvation," a document adopted by evangelical and Roman Catholic theologians in an effort to reaffirm the Reformation understanding of justification by faith alone. George says since the ecumenical statement was published in 1997, dialogue between the two religious groups has yielded progress. "We have a common source in St. Augustine, to start with, who is called the 'doctor of grace' or the 'teacher of grace' in the early Church, and of course, beyond Augustine, in St. Paul and the New Testament and the Holy Scriptures," George explains. "That's what Reformation theology is really all about; it's recovering the pure teaching of Holy Scripture." However, George says evangelicals

and Catholics should not "paper over" their differences in the interest of ecumenical accommodation. Continuing, he encourages evangelicals to embrace reformed theology, explaining that 16th century reformers like Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Thomas Cranmer had no desire to start a brand new church from scratch. "What they were interested in doing was reforming the Church -- the one holy catholic and apostolic Church -- on the basis of the Word of God, [and] calling the Church back to its biblical roots and its evangelical faith," he says. "And I think that's what our challenge is today as well." George recently wrote a feature article for Christianity Today magazine, encouraging evangelicals and Protestants to lift up the Virgin Mary. He feels that Jesus' mother was a great example of Christian discipleship and obedience, who should be praised for her faithfulness. ([AgapePress, 1/12/04](#))

Clergy Abuse Numbers Grow

A draft of the national survey of sex abuse claims against Roman Catholic priests reports that 4,450 clergy have been accused of molesting minors since 1950. The survey said 11,000 abuse claims have been filed during that period with 78 percent of the abused between the ages of 11 and 17. The number of accused clergy is already much greater than the scope of abuse previously estimated by victims' groups and the media. The bishops commissioned the unprecedented survey as part of a series of reforms meant to restore trust in their leadership. The report blames the sex abuse crisis on the bishops' failure to grasp the gravity of the problem, their misguided willingness to forgive and their emphasis on avoiding scandal, among other things. Victim advocates say the survey ultimately will underestimate the number of cases because it is based on self-reporting by bishops. (AP, 2/16/04)

Cardinal OKs Condoms

A Catholic cardinal, regarded as a successor to Pope John Paul II, apparently has diverted from standard church teaching by hinting that using a condom might not be sinful. Someone who has the HIV virus could use a condom to protect life, said Cardinal Godfried Daneels of Belgium. Some observers of the Catholic hierarchy believe he is being used to soften hostility brought by comments about condoms. Last year, the Vatican stirred international controversy with its claim the HIV virus can pass through condoms. A spokesman for a homosexual rights group, the Catholic Rainbow Sash movement, called the comments "terribly significant." "For Daneels to say something as clear as this shows it's not only a valid and responsible Catholic position to approve condoms in some circumstances, but that this is known at the highest level," said Michael Kelly. ([WorldNetDaily.com, 1/14/04](#))

Non Catholics Are Going to Hell According to Gibson

Mel Gibson has come under fire for being hard on Jews in his film "The Passion of the Christ" - but apparently, he feels that Protestants are also doomed to damnation. In fact, it looks like Gibson, a conservative Catholic, believes that his Episcopalian wife could be going to hell. Gibson was interviewed by the Herald Sun in Australia, and the reporter asked the star if Protestants are denied eternal salvation. "There is no salvation for those outside the Church," Gibson replied. "I believe it." He elaborated: "Put it this way. My wife is a saint. She's a much better person than I am. Honestly. She's, like, Episcopalian, Church of England. She prays, she believes in God, she knows Jesus, she believes in that stuff. And it's just not fair if she doesn't make it, she's better than I am. But that is a pronouncement from the chair. I go with it." ([MSNBC, 2/10/04](#))

John the Baptist Born Sinless

God blessed John the Baptist for his special role by taking away original sin prior to his birth. Unlike Mary who was conceived without sin, John was conceived with original sin but was cleansed from it at the moment he received the Holy Spirit and leaped in his mother's womb (Catechism of the Catholic Church #717). There are then three people born without sin - Jesus, Mary and John the Baptist. (Imprimatur: Most Rev. Joseph F. Naumann, Archdiocese of St. Louis)

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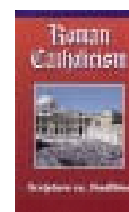
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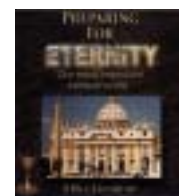
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*Jesus said, "He
who rejects Me,
and does not re-
ceive My sayings,
has one who
judges him; the
word I spoke is
what will judge him
at the last day."
([John 12:48](#))*

What Did They Say About Jesus?

- Pilate, "I find no guilt in this man." ([Luke 23:4](#))
- Judas, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." ([Mat. 27:4](#))
- Centurion, "Truly this was the Son of God!" ([Mat. 27:54](#))
- John the Baptist, "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ([Jn. 1:29](#))
- Peter, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." ([Mat. 16:16](#))
- Paul, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" ([Acts 9:6](#))
- Nathaniel, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God, You are the King of Israel." ([Jn. 1:49](#))
- Thomas, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28)
- Angel, "a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." ([Luke 2:11](#))
- Jesus, "I and the Father are one." ([John 10:30](#))
- God the Father, "My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." ([Mat. 3:17](#))

([Jesus from page 2](#))

truly, really, and substantially contained" (CCC, [1374](#)). The priest "reaches up into the heavens, brings Christ down from His throne, and places Him upon our altar to be offered up again as the Victim for the sins of man. It is a power greater than that of saints and angels. The priest speaks and lo! Christ, the eternal and omnipotent God, bows his head in humble obedience to the priest's command" writes Priest John O'Brien in his book, *The Faith of Millions*. The consecrated Eucharist is lifted up to be worshipped as the "Body of Christ." Yet Jesus said, "If anyone says to you, 'behold here is the Christ'...do not believe him for false Christs...will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect." ([Mat. 24:23-24](#)). As preposterous and unthinkable as this may sound, most Catholics believe Christ appears over 200,000 times each day on Catholic altars throughout the world.

Jesus is the Only Sinless Mediator

Paul unambiguously proclaimed there is only one who is qualified to be "the mediator between God and men" It is God's perfect man and man's perfect God - Christ Jesus

our Lord ([I Tim 2:5](#)). He is holy, innocent, undefiled and without sin ([Heb. 4:15; 7:26](#)). Only in Him can those who, were formerly far off, be brought near by the blood of Christ ([Eph. 2:13](#)). Only in Christ can the sin, that separated us from God, be removed ([Isaiah 59:2](#)). Only in Christ, can believers be permanently reconciled to God forever. Nothing can ever separate the redeemed from the Redeemer ([Rom. 8:31-39](#)).

Catholics put their faith in another sinless mediator who is Mary, the "perpetual virgin" mother of Jesus. As [Mediatrix](#), she "did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation" (CCC, [969](#)). "Without a single sin to restrain her...she became the cause of salvation for herself and the whole human race" (CCC, [494](#)).

We can be wrong about a lot of things in this life and still survive, but if we are wrong about which Jesus to trust, we will pay for that mistake for all eternity. Jesus said "unless you believe that I am *He*, you shall die in your sins" ([John 8:24](#)). The true Jesus is revealed in Scripture. He is the all-sufficient Savior who saves sinners completely and forever.