



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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12th Anniversary Issue

[Editor - Evangelist Mike Gendron](#)

*"Having believed,
you were sealed
with the Holy Spirit
of promise,
who is the
guarantee of our
inheritance."
([Eph. 1:13-14](#))*

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The Assurance of Eternal Life Why Do So Many Reject It?

Several years ago a pastor in Pennsylvania, concerned for the salvation of the many Roman Catholics in his community, invited me to come up and teach a seminar. First he asked me to send some of our publications so he could become more familiar with our ministry. After reviewing our Gospel tracts, he called me to cancel the seminar because he discovered that I teach the assurance of salvation. I explained to him that assurance is what makes God's plan of salvation "good news." God promises to save *forever* those who come to Him through Jesus ([Heb. 7:25](#)). I asked him what good news do you have to share with Catholics if you preach eternal life is not everlasting but can be lost. Catholics already adhere to a salvation that is dependent upon what they do rather than what God has done through Jesus. After many exchanges, this pastor was unwilling to believe God's promise, that everyone who has been saved by grace through faith shall be brought to glory.

Those who reject the doctrine of eternal security tend to place more emphasis on the subjective experiences of "professing" Christians than the objective truth of Scripture. They may know someone who was baptized, repeated a prayer or responded to an altar call, then later rejected the faith or turned to a life of habitual sin. These experiences become their proof that salvation has no assurance. But is there any way to know if these people were born again? Judging someone's spiritual condition is risky because no one can see a person's heart. Opponents of assurance tend to focus on man's opinions rather than on God's divine power. Such misunderstandings can be overcome by discarding human reason and accepting divine rev-

elation. Faith should not rest on the wisdom of man but on the power of God ([1 Cor. 2:5](#)).

Consider the Word "Eternal"

The "eternal" Gospel ([Rev. 14:6](#)) of our "eternal" God ([Rom. 16:26](#)) promises every believer "eternal" life ([1 John 5:13](#)) and "eternal" glory ([1 Pet. 5:10](#)) in His "eternal" kingdom ([2 Pet. 1:11](#)). The "eternal" King ([1 Tim. 1:16](#)) called salvation "eternal" ([Mark 16:20](#)) because He has given believers "eternal" comfort ([2 Thes. 2:16](#)) by obtaining "eternal" redemption through the "eternal" Spirit who guarantees an "eternal" inheritance ([Heb. 9:12-15](#); [Eph. 1:14](#)). According to God's "eternal" purpose ([Eph. 3:11](#)), every believer has been saved from "eternal" judgment ([Heb. 6:2](#)), "eternal" destruction ([2 Thes. 1:9](#)) and "eternal" punishment in the "eternal" fire ([Mat. 25:41, 46](#)).

Eternal life is not only an infinite *quantity* of time (people in hell will live forever) but an eternal *quality* of life. It is an intimate relationship with Jesus whereby His life and divine nature is placed in every believer and every believer is in Him ([2 Pet. 1:4](#); [1 John 5:20](#)). This life begins at the second birth when those who were dead in their sins are made alive in Christ ([Eph. 2:4](#)). Eternal life is everlasting because the very life of Christ (who can never die again) has been imparted to believers ([Rom. 6:9](#)). But this leads to a provocative question. Knowing that sin is what brings spiritual death to the soul, what keeps Christians from dying again when they sin after their conversion? It is because God will not take into account any sins committed after the believer has been reconciled through Christ ([Rom. 4:8](#); [2 Cor. 5:21](#)). God laid all their sins, past and future, on

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Jesus ([Isaiah 53:6](#)). Our kinsman redeemer "bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness" ([1 Pet. 2:24](#)). "With His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption" ([Heb. 9:12](#)). Everyone redeemed has been bought with the precious blood of Jesus and now belongs to Him. Eternal redemption and eternal security are thus one and the same.

Those who reject eternal security must explain why they do not also reject everything else described as eternal, such as the eternal triune God and His punishment for unbelievers. They must also be able to answer, with Scripture, some other relevant questions. Can those who have been redeemed from under the curse of the law be placed back under it? ([Gal. 3:13; 4:5](#)). Can one, who has been born again of incorruptible seed, die again? ([1 Pet. 1:23](#)). Can a new creation return to what has passed away? ([2 Cor. 5:17](#)). Can one who has been perfected forever be found imperfect? ([Heb. 10:14](#)). Can those whom God delivered from the power of darkness be sent back? ([Col. 1:13](#)). Can those who have been made complete in Christ become incomplete? ([Col. 2:10](#)). Can those who were saved without merit or human effort be lost because of demerits or human failure? ([Eph. 2:8-9](#)). Does any man have the ability to undo a sovereign act of Almighty God? ([Rom. 8:28-39](#)).

Consider the Promises of Jesus

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life" ([John 5:24](#)). "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand" ([John 10:27-28](#)). Jesus also promises never to cast out or lose anyone that His Father gives Him ([John 6:37, 39](#)). The promises of Jesus to all believers are clear and are guaranteed by His divine power and attributes. Having received eternal life, the sheep will follow the Shepherd who will keep them and protect them. Jesus promises they will never be judged for their sins, will not experience spiritual death, will not perish and will never be cast out or lost. How can Chris-

tians say they trust Jesus and not believe His promises?

Consider the Father and Spirit's Power

God the Father has caused His children to be born again to a living hope. They are now protected by His power and will obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and reserved for them in heaven ([1 Pet. 1:3-5](#)). This inheritance has been securely guaranteed by the sealing of the Holy Spirit ([Eph. 1:11-14](#)). The Father, who calls believers into fellowship with His Son, is faithful and will confirm them until the end ([1 Cor. 8,9](#)). He promises to glorify those He justifies ([Rom 8:30](#)). God's children have this assurance, "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" ([Phil. 1:6](#)). On that spectacular day, all believers will be revealed

with Him in glory ([Col. 3:4](#)). Everyone who has trusted Christ can have the same confidence

as Paul who wrote: "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" ([2 Tim. 1:12](#)).

Consider the Nature of God's Gifts

Believers also have the assurance that God's gifts and calling are irrevocable ([Rom. 11:29](#)). The precious gifts God graciously gives to repentant sinners include eternal life ([Rom. 6:23](#)), the Holy Spirit ([Acts 10:45](#)) and the righteousness of Jesus ([Rom. 5:17](#)). Those who have received these divine gifts will never again be separated from God and never come into judgment for their sins. Opponents of assurance will say that people can give back the gifts or throw them away. But there is no scriptural support for this. When God credits the righteousness of His Son to the believer's account, does man have access to His books to change His accounting?

Consider God's Chastening of His Sons

The Lord knows those who are His and everyone who names the name of Christ must depart from iniquity ([2 Tim. 2:19](#)). But what does God do with His children who persist in sinning? He chastens them, as a loving Father, so they will not be condemned along with the world ([1 Cor. 11:32](#)). God's chastening has a purifying effect. His discipline will continue until there is repentance or until He calls them home. Those who never experience God's chastening when they fall into

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The Ministry of Proclaiming the Gospel

OUR PURPOSE

The ministry was established in 1991 and is incorporated in the State of Texas as a non-profit [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) corporation for the purposes of: 1) glorifying 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](#).

Help Us Get *His Word Out*

As we begin our 12th year in this ministry of Proclaiming the Gospel, we praise our sovereign Lord for the many doors of opportunity He has opened for us to equip the saints throughout the world. We are most thankful for the divine appointments He has provided with His lost sheep. What a joy it is to see people who were dead in their sins come alive in Christ when they hear His Word proclaimed. We are so privileged to glorify our Savior each time we share His love and grace.

Our prayer for this year is that God will multiply our efforts to reach more lost souls through all of you. One of the most frequent comments we hear is: "If only I had known about this ministry sooner!" You can help us get the word out by scheduling a seminar in your church, telling people about our website and distributing our Gospel tracts and videos. We have been able to negotiate lower costs for our publications by ordering larger volumes.

Will you also prayerfully consider leading a small group Bible study using our book [*Preparing Catholics for Eternity?*](#) You will be blessed and the Lord Jesus will be glorified as you faithfully obey His last command!

Catholic Statues

What does God say about all the statues of Jesus, Mary and the saints that adorn Catholic Churches throughout the world? Wouldn't you think, since God's word refers to them as idols and He condemns idolatry, the Vatican would have them removed?

"They have no knowledge, who carry about their wooden idol, and pray to a god who cannot save" ([Isaiah 45:20](#)). "Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man" ([Rom. 1:22-23](#)). "Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man" ([Acts 17:29](#)).

Making idols is disobedience to God's command: "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God" ([Exodus 20:4-5](#)).

"Equipping The Saints" August Cruise

Have you ever wanted to attend an evangelism seminar and be able to immediately apply what you learned? Well we've come up with a fantastic plan that will give you both the training along with numerous witnessing opportunities during a 7-day cruise in the Caribbean. Learn effective ways to turn conversations toward spiritual subjects and how to overcome apathy, procrastination, fear and objections. Learn how to be a faithful ambassador for Jesus Christ and to communicate His message with clarity, power and conviction. Learn how to be successful everytime you deliver the greatest news ever told about the greatest gift ever given!

Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry has scheduled an *Equipping the Saints* Cruise that will depart from Galveston, Texas, Aug. 31 and sail to Key West, Georgetown, Grand Cayman and Cozumel before returning on Sept. 7. You will enjoy a special opportunity that combines biblical training, Christ-centered witnessing, like-minded fellowship, sight-seeing, fun and relaxation onboard Royal Caribbean's *Rhapsody of the Seas*.

Prices start as low as \$589 per person. A deposit of \$150 will reserve your cabin for this exciting adventure. Final payment is not due until July 1. To make reservations or for more information, call Cruise Director, Rene Pearlman at 1-800-388-1983.

Where Mike Is Speaking

- Jan 15, 22, 29 Howard Center
[Park Cities Baptist Church](#)
Dallas, TX 214-860-3903
- Feb. 8, 9 [Victory Christian Fellowship](#)
Columbus, NE 402-564-6403
- Feb. 5, 12, 19 Howard Center
Park Cities Baptist Church
Dallas, TX 214-860-3903
- Feb. 20 Cornerstone Community Church
Simi Valley, CA 805-581-9532
- Feb. 22 Stealing the Mind Bible Conf.
Costa Mesa, CA 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)

Stealing the Mind Bible Conference Set For Costa Mesa, February 22

Join us at the Orange County Fair & Exposition Center in Costa Mesa, CA on Feb. 22 for the [Stealing The Mind Bible Conference](#).

The all-day conference begins at 8 am with Mike Gendron's presentation of *The Coming One World Religion*. He will be followed by Kent Hovind - *The Age of the Earth*; Tommy Ice - *Why The World Hates Israel?*; Daryl Kraft - *Love Isn't Taking Your Wife Bear Hunting*; John Morris - *The Heavens Declare God's Glory*; Kirk Cameron - *Hell's Best Kept Secret*; Ray Comfort - *Truth or Consequences*; Bob Cornuke - *Found Paul's Anchor*; Chuck Missler - *Pyramids & Planets*; and Frank Peretti - *The Charge*.

Call Compass at 1-800-977-2177 to register and for information on how to receive group discounts of \$10 for your church and two free passes for your pastor. Register early! The last conference sold out!

Quick Quotes

"We are in desperate straits. The numbers of people who have stopped coming to church are between 10 and 30 percent. Most churches are talking about a 25 percent drop-off in collections."

Catholic Priest Robert Bullock's statement to Cardinal Law (NY Times, 11/12/02)

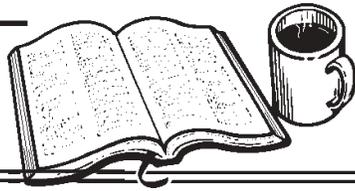
"Because the Roman Catholic Church has refused to submit itself to the authority of God's Word and to embrace the gospel of justification, it has set itself apart from the true body of Christ. It is a false and deceptive form of Christianity."

John MacArthur, "Cutting It Straight"

God's Righteous Are Condemned By Rome

Are you aware of this paradox? The Catholic Church condemns Christians who have been justified by faith and are thus righteous in the sight of God while declaring Muslims (who deny Jesus is God) to be in God's plan of salvation. What does God's word say about this? *He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the righteous, both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord* ([Prov. 17:15](#)).

Letters to the Editor



The Vatican's position of protecting priests, while ignoring the pain and suffering of the children they violated, speaks volumes about the Roman Catholic Church. Catholics should examine their church's pious public displays as a "holier than thou" belief which places them above the Word of God and Jesus Christ Himself. This attitude places the apostate church above the laws of man and God and makes it accountable to no one. Yet, in spite of what they see and hear, millions of Catholics bow in adoration to Mary and statues, observe pagan rites at the exhortation of their Pope, and reject God's effective, complete and sufficient work of salvation at the cross through Jesus Christ. They are being led to an eternal fire like sheep to slaughter. For those who believe Jesus Christ is the all sufficient Savior, not requiring any other provision for salvation, the RCC condemns them with anathema to eternal damnation. Yet, a priest who is a homosexual, (a sin condemned by the Bible) and who sexually violates young boys, is "forgiven," protected and cared for. Why? Because the RCC, at all costs, has to protect itself and hold itself superior and separate from everyone else. Power, absolute power, is the hallmark of this religion and its Vatican hierarchy. I am terribly saddened by the millions who are thus fooled. I am terribly incensed at the work of this pagan, apostate church. They WILL be held accountable to God.

J.O. Dallas, TX

You are wrong about the Catholic Church. It is a place of holiness devoted to Jesus Christ. You are a sick sick man. I hope you are damned eternally when you die for putting down the one true Christian Church established by Christ.

Ben, Internet

Your video on *The Coming One World Religion* is excellent! Everyone needs to see it. The Presbyterian Church USA is dialoguing with the Roman Catholic Church and has now recognized it as a Christian Church in which we can have fellowship. I have written to our office of Ecumenical Relations

and other offices showing them the RCC's goal is to bring everyone under the Pope. They don't answer me anymore.

Pastor D. P. Colfax, IL

Your fallible and superficial interpretation of the Bible is indicative in your response to the pope's statement - "you do not need to know Jesus or His church to enter the kingdom of heaven." Jesus paved the way for all people to be saved, regardless of their knowledge. Surely you cannot believe that every person that has lived and died in the history of the world knew who Jesus was.

J.C. Internet

Have you not read what the Scriptures say? "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? (Rom. 10:13-15). Sinners can be saved only by God's grace through faith in Jesus. According to Peter, those without knowledge of Him will perish. The Lord will "keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh...reviling where they have no knowledge. (2 Pet. 2:9-14). It is for this reason we must correct unbelievers "who are in opposition, if perhaps 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, having been held captive by him to do his will" (2 Tim. 2:25).

We thank you for your concern and love for the deceived Roman Catholics – expressing your love to them through your firm stand on God's Word.

C.R. Grand Rapids, MI

You deserve a gold medal for being so cool, calm and collected in your replies to the sarcastic and arrogant letters you receive. If these Catholics are so religious, why don't they read the parts of the Bible you quote? If you hated Catholics so much why would

you try to save them through quoting God's word? You are not using force, just the facts!

J.C. Pineville, PA

The power of the Holy Spirit has gently pulled me out from under the filthy skirts of the Catholic Church after 40 years. I was "poking" around in the search engine trying to find websites that would comfort me and help me cleanse from the guilt I feel for leaving Catholicism. I ask that you pray for me and my family as we heal from the pain of this strong delusion and deception. It is in my heart to evangelize Catholics, allowing God to develop in me the skills I will need to fulfill His calling on my life without the enemy holding me back. I have suffered at the hands of abusive nuns and priests and forgiven them, but I feel called and led to do something. I cannot continue to sit around because Jesus is coming soon.

Kathy, Internet

Thank you for your service to Jesus Christ and for being a part of the [Stealing the Mind Bible Conference](#). I'm still trying to absorb it all. I especially want to thank you, Mike, both for your anointed message and your trust in the Lord. I must confess my confidence in the body of Christ to be men of integrity is challenged at times. You put together the *Equipping the Saints* package of materials for me and trusted the Lord for payment. Your faith strengthened my faith in the Lord, and reminded me that He still moves among His people.

M.W. Priest River, ID

Your tract, *Oxymoron* is to the point – not wordy. People soon get the message that biblical Christianity and Roman Catholicism stand in opposition to one another. There are many people who tell me that they know Catholics who are Christians. My question to them is: "If they are Christians, what are they doing in a church opposed to Christ and His Word?"

L.T. Yreka, CA

Thank you so much for "being there" in your ministry! I can't tell you how excited I am at the prospect of finally having materials that document the truth for Catholics. I can't praise and thank the Lord enough for allowing me to finally have this answer to prayer! There are so many which I desire to reach.

P.M. Depew, NY

You have made a real difference in the world around you. I pray that I too could bring

many Catholics the truth and they will be set free. The loving way that you are able to be so bold is indeed a gift.

M. F. Warwick, NY

Recently, I participated in handing out your tract *The Greatest Gift* to many Roman Catholics attending a "Mariachi Mass." It was so unbelievable, all except 3 accepted the tract with open hands. Between five of us, we handed out over 700 tracts. Praise God! Our small group is already making plans to "Proclaim the Gospel" at another RCC event which will be held in December. This one is where Catholics climb a mountain to do penance in hopes of achieving heaven. In the past, some have carried crosses, tires, chains and some will even walk bare-footed. My heart goes out to them because they fail to understand the simple plan of salvation.

P.N. Las Cruces, NM

About 2 years ago, we started a Bible study at our house and our teacher was an ex-Catholic. When I asked questions about the difference between the Bible and the Catholic Church, he did not provide me with satisfactory answers. So I decided to search on the internet and found your website. I read all your articles and ordered your tapes which I showed to my brother and his wife who were still going to the Catholic Church. Now his family is saved and has left the Catholic Church. My heart goes to Catholics who are so deceived including my parents and other siblings.

A.B. Northbrook, IL

As a protestant teaching at a Catholic school, I was placed on probation for looking up your website on campus. I tried to explain that the website is not anti-Catholic, it's just an organization that proclaims truth. I am in an unusual situation because students say I know more about the Bible than their theology teachers. Now I'm off probation but forbidden to access your website.

D.N., Garland, TX

You give the Magisterium too much credit for being clever. No group of humans are smart enough to twist the Scriptures to mean something other than they were intended and maintain harmony with the Scriptures. Not possible. The gift of infallibility actually puts restrictions on their ability to interpret, guard and teach the Scriptures. It prevents them from being fickle or careless

in their responsibility. Protestantism, without a Magisterium, has splintered over the past 500 years into 30,000 different denominations. Where is the unity that Jesus prayed for? ([John 17:21](#)) That alone is a sign that a Magisterium led by the Holy Spirit is necessary, so that there can be unity in our belief.

Glenn, Internet

If you divide all "Christian" faiths into two groups - those who have an infallible interpreter of Scripture and those who uphold the doctrine of "Sola Scriptura" you will find a greater degree of unity in the latter group. In the first group of "infallible interpreters" you have the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox, the Mormons along with hundreds of other cults. When you compare the teachings of these "infallible interpreters" you see no unity at all, only doctrinal chaos and binding legalistic indoctrination. There is so much disunity within this group of religions that they call each other heretics. Now compare the teachings within the second group - denominations who submit to the authority of Scripture alone. Here you find complete unity around the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each member of this group refers to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Yes, there is disunity in some non-essential doctrines such as the timing of Christ's return, methods of baptism, church government etc., but there is no disunity on the sufficiency, efficacy and necessity of the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

The Bible, according to Catholic teaching, is the first and foremost guide to our salvation. Nothing the Catholic church has said has contradicted the Bible. Teachings of the Catholic church are only meant to make clearer and help the faithful. I am not aware of any additional requirements made by the Catholic Church for salvation.

Kall, Internet

The Gospel is entirely and exclusively about the Lord Jesus Christ and His work of redemption (1 Cor. 15:1-4). It tells us that our Creator has become our redeemer! The Gospel says nothing about anything sinners must add to Christ's finished work. Yet, according to the 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraph numbers in parenthesis) Rome declares the following requirements are necessary to be saved: sacraments (1129), meritorious masses (1405), church membership (846), purgatory (1030), indulgences (1498), baptism

(1256) and good works (2016). This is a blatant perversion of God's Gospel and brings condemnation on those who preach it (Gal. 1:6-9). It is an outright denial of the sufficiency of Christ, devalues His perfect work and robs Him of His matchless glory. I pray you will forsake these feeble efforts to save yourself and seek God's forgiveness by grace through faith in Jesus alone (Eph. 2:8-9).

I enjoyed your presentation at the Spokane [Stealing the Mind](#) conference. It was exciting to see the sell-out crowds hungry to sharpen their swords for the Lord. I was raised in a Catholic home, but have now put my trust in the sufficiency of Jesus for my salvation. Praise Him! The work to tell so many Catholics the truth is a daunting task yet a great privilege. Your work is an encouragement and blessing as I seek opportunities to tell my family the good news!

G.N. Las Vegas, NV

I recently received a number of the [tape sets from the Reaching Catholics for Christ Conference](#) and am busily distributing them to my friends, family, pastors and also to the Young Adult class which I teach. I feel that the embrace of Catholicism by the evangelical world is of major concern so I try to inform as many people as I can about the issue. Please pray these tapes will have a positive impact on those who hear them.

C. J. Lilly, GA

My challenge to you is, show me where in the Bible, where the Bible is the only authority and show me where the Bible tells you it is confined to only what it is written.

Michael, Internet

My challenge to you is, show me in the Bible, where it points to an authority greater than itself. Once you realize there is no greater authority, I pray you will destroy every speculation that has been raised up against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).

Please submit questions or comments to:

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High Demand for Statue

Thousands of faithful visited St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Devine, Texas to venerate a statue of Our Lady named for the town in Mexico where it is believed a young girl killed in an accident was miraculously brought back to life through the Virgin Mary's intercession. The small, 350 year old Virgin with long, dark hair and flowing blue robes, is a replica of the original statue and has traveled around the United States and Mexico for almost three centuries. The Monsignor called the visit to the Devine church a miracle in its own right because the statue is in high demand. "It's a great honor to have the Virgin come visit us, to have her in our little town," said a church member. Some 30,000 candles and religious items, including water from the well at the Basilica of San Juan, were available at the church. (San Antonio Express News, 10/20/02)

Mary, Co-redeemer

Following is a portion of a disturbing interview with Mark Miravalle, a leading proponent for having Mary declared Co-redemptrix and professor of Mariology at Franciscan University of Steubenville: In light of the present world climate of war and rumors of war, I believe the proclamation of the dogma of Mary Co-redemptrix, Mediatrix of all graces and Advocate would be the means to release the full exercise of Our Lady's motherly intercessory role in bringing peace to a troubled world, in fulfillment of her Fatima promise that "in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph ... and a period of peace will be granted to the world." God respects human freedom, and the papal proclamation would "free her" to exercise fully her saving roles for contemporary humanity. In the last 10 years, about 7 million petitions from over 150 countries have been sent to the Holy See, along with the endorsements of 550 bishops

and over 40 cardinals. This constitutes the largest petition drive per annum in the history of the Church. The recent promulgation of "Rosarium Virginis Mariae" and the gift of five new luminous mysteries reminds us that the Holy Father has a mind of his own regarding the Mother of God. The repeated and consistent teachings of our Holy Father on Mary as Co-redemptrix in papal addresses and homilies does call for our religious submission of will and intellect, according to [Lumen Gentium 25](#). In his homily in Ecuador, in January 1985, John Paul stated that Mary was "crucified spiritually with her crucified Son" and that "her role as Co-redemptrix did not cease after the glorification of her Son." If anyone opposes the pope, Cardinal Newman has a response: "Why do you protest against Our Lady being called Co-redemptrix when you are ready to accept the immeasurably more glorious titles ascribed to her by the [church] Fathers: Mother of God, Second Eve, Mother of All the Living, Mother of Life, Morning Star, Mystical New Heaven, Center of Orthodoxy, the all-undefiled Mother of Holiness, and the like?" (Zenit.org, 10/31/02)

Rome Still Declares Itself The Only True Church

Cardinal Avery Dulles, in a speech marking the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council said, "The primacy of the pope remains intact." The Second Vatican Council upheld the authority of the papacy, hierarchy and Rome as the "true church," rather than liberalizing those beliefs. Dulles said the greatest post-Vatican II misunderstanding is that the church gave up its claim to be the only way to salvation and that popes are not the final authority. Non-Catholic groups are respected as churches with ministries, "but there is no reason to reckon them as constituent parts of the one true church,

which is Roman and Catholic," he said. He also noted that the council said people of other religions who try to do good but are ignorant of the Roman church "may attain salvation" by God's grace in the end. Two years ago, a Vatican declaration that was widely interpreted as saying that salvation exists only in the Roman Church stirred anger among many non-Catholic traditions. (Washington Times, 10/31/02)

Catholics Leaving Church Concerns Cardinal

Officials with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops say if present trends continue, Hispanic Catholics will be the majority in the United States. However, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago expressed concern over the growing number of Hispanic immigrants who are leaving the Catholic Church for other denominations. The Cardinal said, "The difficulty in ecumenical situations is you don't want to come out directly against another church." For example, when a Catholic chooses to join a Pentecostal assembly, the accusation is made that the other members of the person's family are not "saved." He said that creates enormous tension and conflict in a culture where family ties are very important. (AgapePress, 11/14/02)

Mother Teresa Questioned God's Existence

Mother Teresa, put on the fast-track to sainthood by the Pope after her death five years ago, was tormented by a crisis of belief for 50 years, her writings reveal. Her letters and diaries present a completely different picture of her public image as a nun confident of her faith. They were collected by Roman Catholic authorities in Calcutta after her death, aged 87. Mother Teresa wrote in 1958 that because she was "forever smiling", people thought "my faith, my hope and my love are overflowing and that my intimacy with God and union with his will fill my heart. If only they knew." Mother Teresa said in another letter: "I feel that God does not want me, that God is not God and that he does not really exist." Rome's daily newspaper *Il Messaggero* said: "The real Mother Teresa was one who for one year had visions and who for the next 50 had doubts - until her death." Australian Catholic priest Cyril Hally describes Mother Teresa's doubts as the "dark night of the soul." He said, "It is a purification process. Doubt is part of the growth of holiness." (SMH.com.au, 11/30/02).

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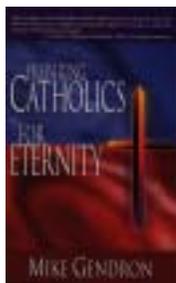
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*"To Him who is able
to keep you from
stumbling, and to
make you stand in
the presence of His
glory blameless with
great joy, to the only
God our Savior,
through Jesus Christ
our Lord, be glory,
majesty, dominion
and authority."
([Jude 23-24](#))*

Assurance When Salvation is of God

- **The Father** calls and draws sinners according to His purpose and grace ([John 6:44](#); [2 Tim. 1:9](#))
- **The Spirit** convicts the world of sin, judgment and righteousness (Jn. 16:8-11)
- **The Son** is proclaimed as the only Savior of the world ([Acts 4:12](#)). His Word of truth set captives free ([John 8:32](#))
- **God** grants sinners repentance and gives them the gift of faith unto salvation ([2 Tim. 2:25](#); [Eph. 2:8](#))
- **The Son** bears the believer's sin, guilt and punishment. His righteousness is given as a gift ([Rom. 5:17](#)). His blood cleanses all sin ([1 John 1:7](#)). Jesus becomes the believer's advocate ([1 John 2:1](#))
- **The Spirit** regenerates, seals, indwells, intercedes, teaches and empowers the believer ([Titus 3:5](#); [Eph. 1:13](#); [Rom. 8:26](#); [1 John 2:27](#))
- **The Father** protects, justifies and glorifies the believer ([1 Pet. 1:5](#); [Rom. 8:30](#))

No Assurance When Salvation is of Man

- **The priest** baptizes with water which is said to wash away original sin and regenerate Catholics as children of God ([CCC, 1213](#))
- **The priest** is said to have the power to impart the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of Confirmation ([1302](#)).
- **The priest** is said to have the power to forgive sins through the sacrament of penance ([986](#))
- **The sinner** can perform acts of charity ([1394](#)) or earn indulgences ([1471](#)) to have sins forgiven
- **The priest** is said to have the power to call the Lord Jesus down from heaven to represent Him as a sacrificial victim for the sins of the living and the dead ([1367](#))
- **The priest** is said to offer the actual body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ to Catholics in the Eucharistic wafer ([1374](#))
- **The priest** performs last rites for Catholics for the forgiveness of their sins and to prepare them for eternity ([1532](#))

(**Assurance** from page 2)

habitual sin or fall away were probably not His children ([Heb. 12:6-9](#)).

The Roman Catholic Catechism (CCC) teaches that Catholics lose their salvation when mortal sins are committed (CCC, para. 1035). Catholics must do works of penance and merit enough grace to regain their salvation ([CCC, para. 1456, 2027](#)). Needless to say, Catholics can never be sure about their eternal destiny because, whenever man is involved in attaining and/or preserving his salvation, there can never be assurance. However, when man forsakes all efforts to save himself and believes the objective truth of the Gospel, he will be more certain of living eternally in heaven than one more day on earth. Paul wrote, "For this reason it is by faith, that it might be in accordance with grace, in order that the promise may be certain to all" ([Rom. 4:16](#)).

John wrote his first epistle to those "who believe on the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know [Gk. oida] you have eternal life" ([1 John 5:13](#)). The Greek word "oida" refers to a positive, absolute knowledge. True believers can rejoice in their salvation with absolute certainty and peace.