



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](#)

*"For by one offering
He has perfected
for all time those
who are sanctified."
([Heb. 10:14](#))*

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The Fatal Fable of a Sin-Purifying Fire

Catholics who are trusting a purifying fire to purge away their sins are deluded victims of a fatal fabrication. The invention of a place for purification of sins called Purgatory is one of the most seductive attractions of the Roman Catholic religion. Pastor [John MacArthur](#) of Grace Community Church described this deceptive hoax with profound clarity. He said: *"Purgatory is what makes the whole system work. Take out Purgatory and it's a hard sell to be a Catholic. Purgatory is the safety net, when you die, you don't go to hell. You go [to Purgatory] and get things sorted out and finally get to heaven if you've been a good Catholic. In the Catholic system you can never know you're going to heaven. You just keep trying and trying...in a long journey toward perfection. Well, it's pretty discouraging. People in that system are guilt-ridden, fear-ridden and have no knowledge of whether or not they're going to get into the Kingdom. If there's no Purgatory, there's no safety net to catch me and give me some opportunity to get into heaven. It's a second chance, it's another chance after death."* (from ["The Pope and the Papacy"](#)).

The Origin of Purgatory

There was no mention of Purgatory during the first two centuries of the church. However, when Roman Emperor Theodosius (379-395) decreed that Christianity was to be the official religion of the empire, thousands of pagans flooded into the Church and brought their pagan beliefs and traditions with them. One of those ancient pagan beliefs was a place of purification where souls went to make satisfaction for their sins.

The concept became much more widespread

around 600 A.D. due to the fanaticism of Pope Gregory the Great. He developed the doctrine through visions and revelations of a Purgatorial fire. According to the [Catholic Encyclopedia](#) (CE), Pope Gregory said Catholics "will expiate their faults by purgatorial flames," and "the pain [is] more intolerable than any one can suffer in this life." Centuries later, at the [Council of Florence](#) (1431), it was pronounced an infallible dogma. It was later reaffirmed by the [Council of Trent](#) (1564). The dogma is based largely on Catholic tradition from extra-biblical writings and oral history. "So deep was this belief ingrained in our common humanity that it was accepted by the Jews, and in at least a shadowy way by the *pagans*, long before the coming of Christianity" (CE). It seems incomprehensible that Rome would admit to using a pagan tradition for the defense of one of its most esteemed "Christian" doctrines.

The Deception of Purgatory

Purgatory comes from the Latin word "purgare," which means to make clean or to purify. The Catholic Encyclopedia defines purgatory as "a place or condition of temporal punishment for those who, departing this life in God's grace, are not entirely free from venial faults, or have not fully paid the satisfaction due to their transgressions." They must be purified of these "venial" sins before they can be allowed into heaven. Here we see Catholicism perpetuating the seductive lie of Satan by declaring "you will not surely die" when you commit venial sins ([Gen. 3:4](#)). The Council of Trent dares to declare that "God does not always remit the whole punishment due to sin together with the guilt. God requires satisfaction" (see [Purgatory page 2](#))

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

faction and will punish sin...The sinner, failing to do penance in this life, may be punished in another world, and so not be cast off eternally from God." (Ses. 15, Can. XI). Those Catholic Bishops had the audacity to declare that the suffering and death of God's perfect man and man's perfect substitute was not sufficient to satisfy divine justice for sin.

The Motivation for Purgatory

Over the centuries billions of dollars have been paid to Roman Catholic priests to obtain relief from imaginary sufferings in Purgatory's fire. The Catholic clergy has always taught that the period of suffering in Purgatory can be shortened by purchasing indulgences, buying Mass cards and providing gifts of money. When a Catholic dies, money is extracted from mourning loved ones to shorten the deceased's punishment in Purgatory. When my dear old dad passed away as a devout Catholic of 79 years, I was amazed at the hundreds of Mass cards purchased for him by well-meaning friends. We have heard of other Catholics who have willed their entire estates to their religion so that perpetual masses could be offered for them after they die. It is no wonder that the Catholic religion has become the richest institution in the world. The buying and selling of God's grace has been a very lucrative business for the Vatican.

Another motivation for Rome to fabricate the heretical doctrine of Purgatory is its powerful effect on controlling people. Ultimately, the enslavement and subjugation of people is the goal of every false religion, and Purgatory does exactly that. The concept of a terrifying prison with a purging fire, governed by religious leaders, is a most brilliant invention. It holds people captive, not only in this life but also in the next life. Catholic clergy will not say how many years people have to suffer for their sins or how many Masses must be purchased before they can be released from the flames. This imposed fear and uncertainty is the most ruthless form of religious bondage and deception!

Biblical Support for Purgatory

There is absolutely none! In fact, neither the word nor the concept of sin-purifying fire is found in Scripture. The Vatican was con-

fronted with this in the 16th century when the Reformers protested its practice of buying and selling of God's grace through indulgences. Backed into a corner, the Council of Trent added the apocryphal books to its canon of Scripture. Rome now declares there is scriptural support for purgatory in the apocryphal book of [II Maccabees](#). The council ignored the fact that the Jewish scribes never recognized the apocryphal books as inspired or part of the Hebrew Scriptures. They were never included because of their many historical, theological and geographical errors. Since God is not the author of error, He obviously did not inspire the writers of the Apocrypha. This is why the Apocrypha was never included in the original canon of 66 books.

The apocryphal verses Rome uses to defend its doctrine of Purgatory refer to Jewish soldiers who died wearing pagan amulets around their necks. Judas Maccabees "sent twelve thousand drachmas of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for the sins of the dead...Judas hoped that these men who died fighting for the cause of God and religion, might find

mercy: either because they might be excused from mortal sin by ignorance; or might have repented of their sin, at least at their death. It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" ([2 Maccabees 12:43-46](#)). Rome argues that since Judas Maccabees prayed for the dead, there must be hope for those who die in sin. This of course, goes directly against God's Word which declares, "It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment" ([Heb. 9:27](#)). Rome's attempt to give credence to Purgatory by using this ungodly practice of the Jews, who had a history of disobeying God, is pathetic.

In another attempt to find support for Purgatory, many Catholics point to this verse: "If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire" ([1 Cor. 3:15](#)). Clearly, the context of this verse is the testing of a man's **works** by fire. The works that survive are the ones done for the glory of Christ and are called gold, silver and precious stones ([Eph. 2:10](#)). All the other superfluous works are burned in fire and are called wood, hay and stubble. It is not man's sins that are being

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The Ministry of Proclaiming the Gospel

OUR PURPOSE

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

OUR METHOD

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

OUR NEWSLETTER

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

The concept of a prison with a purging fire, governed by religious leaders, is a most brilliant invention.

The Fallacy of Venial Sin

One of the greatest of all deceptions in Roman Catholic religion is its fallacious teaching on the nature and consequence of sin. Rome perpetuates the 6000-year-old lie of Satan by declaring "you will not surely die" when you commit venial sins ([Gen. 3:4](#)). The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that venial sins do not kill the life of the soul or destroy friendship with God or eternal happiness (para. [1855](#), [1863](#)). Instead, they incur temporal punishment, which can be reduced by works of penance, charity, almsgiving, indulgences or paying a priest to offer the sacrifice of the Mass. As a result of this fatal fallacy, baptized Catholics go through life believing they are on their way to heaven because they have not committed adultery or murder or any other sin that is classified as mortal. This deadly deception leaves them with no desire to seek the only hope of forgiveness - the blood of Jesus Christ. Using this seductive lie of venial sin, the devil has blinded them from the light of the Gospel ([2 Cor. 4:4](#)).

God's Word makes no distinction on the *spiritual* consequence of sin, however it does make some distinctions on the sin of believers. Premeditated, unrepented sin may incur *physical* consequences and divine discipline, even death ([1 John 5:16-17](#); [Heb. 12:6](#)). God may use this type of discipline to purify His church ([1 Cor. 5:5](#); [Acts 5:1-11](#)).

All unforgiven sin has the same consequence, but some incur greater guilt ([John 19:11](#)). Sin's judgment is eternal death ([Rom. 6:23](#)). No amount of tears can ever quench hell's fire ([Rom. 1:18](#); [2 Thes. 1:9](#)). Jesus is the only way from condemnation to justification and from eternal death to eternal life.

Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals Features Proclaiming the Gospel

The international Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals (F.I.R.E.), has featured the ministry of *Proclaiming the Gospel*. Their latest newsletter includes an interview with evangelist Mike Gendron on the genesis, the history and the future goals of *Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry*. If you would like to read the article, go to [firefellowship.org](#) and click on "[First Newsletter of 2009](#)."

Quick Quotes

"Grace is a provision for men who are so fallen that they cannot lift the ax of justice; so corrupt that they cannot change their own natures; so adverse to God that they cannot turn to Him; so blind that they cannot see Him; so deaf that they cannot hear Him; and so dead that He Himself must open their graves."

G.S. Bishop

"The nature of Christ's salvation is woefully misrepresented by the present-day 'evangelist.' He announces a Savior from hell, rather than a Savior from sin! So many are fatally deceived who wish to escape the lake of fire but have no desire to be delivered from their carnality and worldliness! The great Physician saves those who are sick of sin, who long to be delivered from its God-dishonoring works, and its soul-defiling pollutions."

A.W. Pink

Where Mike Is Speaking

- April 1-3 [Tulsa Prophecy Conference](#)
Tulsa, OK (918) 835-6978
- April 17-19 [Newtown Bible Church](#)
Newtown, CT (203) 426-6484
- May 1-3 [Immanuel Bible Church](#)
Sheboygan, WI (920) 458-4979
- May 15 -17 [Harvard Bible Church](#)
Harvard, IL (815) 943-7530
- June 5-7 [Northgate Bible Church](#)
Pittsburgh, PA (412) 931 - 6016
- June 26-27 [Lamb & Lion Prophecy Conf.](#)
Dallas, TX (972) 736-3567
- July 13-16 [Baptists for World Evangelism](#)
Messiah College
Grantham, PA (717) 774-7000
- Sept. 12-13 [Northwest Bible Church](#)
Ft. Worth, TX (817) 624-2111
- Sept. 19 [Steeling the Mind Prophecy](#)
Denver, CO (800) 977-2177
- Oct. 4-6 [Atlantic Coast Prophecy Conf.](#)
Myrtle Bch, SC (803) 755-0733
- Oct. 17 [Steeling the Mind Bible Conf.](#)
Tri-Cities, WA (800) 977-2177
- Nov. 6-8 [Cornerstone Bible Church](#)
Xenia, OH (937) 372-4434
- Nov. 13-15 [Grace Bible Fellowship](#)
El Paso, TX (915) 833 9753

To schedule Mike Gendron to speak at your church or event, contact him at:

phone: (972) 495-0485

e-mail: ptg@pro-gospel.org

Have You Considered This?

Catholics teach that their Jesus can save them from eternal punishment (hell) but not from temporal punishment (Purgatory). Where is the logic in teaching that an eternal debt has been cancelled but a temporal debt is still owed and must be paid?

The Catholic treasury of merit contains the infinite merits of Christ commingled with the finite merits of Mary and the saints. These merits are said to be dispensed in the form of indulgences to those suffering in purgatory. Where is the logic in the need to add anything to the inexhaustible, unfailing, infinite merits of Christ?

Tulsa Prophecy Conference April 1-3

The 15th Annual [Tulsa International Prophecy Conference](#) will be at the Tulsa Radisson Hotel April 1-3. The event is sponsored by *Thy Kingdom Come Ministries* and will feature Phillip Goodman, Dave Hunt, Randal Price, Mike Gendron, Roger Oakland and others. There is no charge for the three-day conference, but you must register to attend. A banquet featuring questions for all speakers will be held Friday evening. Registrations can be made at (918) 835-6978.

Spiritual Apostasy Conference June 26-27

Lamb and Lion Ministries will sponsor a Bible Prophecy conference June 26-27 at [Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lucas, Texas](#). The theme of this year's conference will be *Spiritual Apostasy in the End Times*. Speakers and their messages include: [Dr. Robert Jeffress](#), pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, *Absolute Truth*; [Mike Gendron](#), *The Bible Driven Church*; [Dr. Ron Carlson](#), expert on the cults, *The Dangers of the Emerging Church Movement*; and [Dr. David Reagan](#), director of Lamb and Lion Ministries, *Spiritual Signs of the End Times*. The conference will also include two concerts: one by [Marty Goetz](#), internationally renowned Messianic recording artist; and one by [Jack Hollingsworth](#), featured singer for Lamb and Lion's *Christ in Prophecy* TV programs. The conference is free of charge, but registration is required. Register by phone at (972) 736-3567 or on the internet at [www.lamblion.com](#).

Seeking His Truth

Letters to the Editor



I've read the Catechism, and I see nothing wrong with Purgatory. People in Purgatory are already "saved," to use a Protestant term. There is a difference between eternal consequence of hell and temporal consequence of suffering. Jesus' sacrifice took care of all the eternal consequences of our sin, but He still allows suffering in spite of His sacrifice. The purpose is to allow a person to become holy. There is plenty of Scriptural basis for Purgatory. You can ask the pope for all I care. You think you don't need to become holy because to you, sanctification happens at the moment you believe. I grew up with that theology and found it lacking, mainly because of conflicting scripture passages. I was glad to give it up because I will actually be clean and holy before God in heaven because of my acceptance and cooperation with His grace. All I have to do is let God be God and say yes to Him. I was Protestant for a long time. I went to many Bible studies. I think the way you read the Bible is faulty. This has been explained in depth in [Project Dominic's](#) reply to your article, "How Catholics Read the Bible." When you are reading the Bible, you are looking for pat answers with no deep connections. As far as what must a Catholic do to be saved? "Say yes to God and let Him have His way." Have you done that? What are you afraid of?

J.B., Internet

It is because of letters such as yours that I was motivated to write the article for this newsletter. I pray that God will grant you repentance so that you may know the truth and come to your senses and escape the snare of the devil who holds you captive to do his will ([2 Tim. 2:25-26](#)).

I met you when you spoke here in Australia at the Italian Church in Melbourne. You prayed for my husband as he was sick with the horrible disease of cancer. The Lord has since taken him home. I would love to thank you for all your messages on DVD and would love to reach Catholics for Christ. How blind are they in their false Gospel. I feel sorry for them and have been passing around your Gospel tracts. Thank our Lord

Jesus for His great love for us. I want to get your DVDs into the hands of some priests here. Thank you for the great work you do. You don't hear messages like yours anymore. I am very bold for Christ, and I'm not afraid to speak the truth.
T.M., Victoria, Australia

I am 70 years old and have found that there are two things that turn the Gospel on its ear. One is the doctrine of transubstantiation and the other is Calvin's teaching of election. If the teachings of Calvin hold any water, there is no logic to evangelism, nor to prayer for that matter. Since I found the Lord as a 17-year-old RC, there are three things that have been my guide. The Word of God, the Holy Spirit and common sense. And thinking about common sense, what is the purpose of injecting into your ministry the doctrine of Calvinism? Especially when it causes confusion, divides believers and churches and distracts from the mission of your ministry? I think you are getting sidetracked and boy is our enemy loving it.
M.W., Preston Hollow, NY

Our enemy loves it more when people refuse to take God at His Word. Satan succeeds when people twist and distort the Scriptures in an attempt to establish "common sense." God's ways do not have to make "common sense" because His ways are not our ways ([Isa. 55:8](#)). They are unfathomable ([Rom. 11:33](#)). Furthermore, the teaching of election did not originate with John Calvin; it is found throughout the Old and New Testaments. Please also know I have never claimed to follow Calvin or his teaching. If you reject election, you are rejecting the teaching of Jesus, John, Paul, Peter and other writers inspired by the Holy Spirit. Regarding your statement on logic, please consider that without election there would be no logic to evangelism. No one would ever be converted because the natural man is spiritually dead and does not accept or understand the things of the Spirit of God; they are foolishness to him ([1 Cor. 2:14](#)). God must first bring the dead man to life so that he can hear, understand and respond in faith ([Col.](#)

[2:13](#); [Jas. 1:18](#)). For this reason, the doctrine of election ensures success in evangelism. God "will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" ([Mat. 24:31](#)). Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me shall come to me." As Christians sow the seed of the Gospel, we have the assurance that all Christ's sheep will hear His voice and follow Him ([John 10:27](#)). Success in evangelism is in God's hands, not ours. He alone opened Lydia's heart and converted Saul of Tarsus. He alone can grant repentance to those being held captive by Satan ([2 Timothy 2:25](#)). He makes His people willing in the day of His power ([Psalm 110:3](#)), and causes the man whom He has chosen to come to Him ([Psalm 65:4](#); [John 6:44](#)). This should be a great encouragement to every Christian! We know that every one of God's elect will eventually, without exception, respond to the powerful call of the Holy Spirit as the Gospel is preached ([Rom. 8:29-30](#)).

I am watching your *Death Of Discernment* DVD. So much is bottled up inside me as I haste to say too much! I shall learn more about your activities as I watch many more messages and hear the harvesting news and the encouragement and comfort to the wounded, perplexed, downcast saints scattered everywhere. I can't believe what I have witnessed in churches in Japan. They have members that include Moonies, Jehovah Witnesses and even "Soka-Gakkai," a dangerous radical group notorious for their public tortures. I have recovered from much of my distress as I grew more mature in the Lord. He provided me with many good teachings from distant ministries that fed and kept me close to Jesus. So I'm thankful for your ministry and teaching. I will remember you before the Throne of God in Jesus Christ and pray that your messages reach out to a greater breadth and to the end of the world. May God use you as His mouthpiece to deliver people from their deceptions.
R.S., Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan

Mike, remember the story of the prodigal son? I think its time to come home, to the true church that Jesus established. Oh and I might add, check out a book called *Why Catholic Bibles Are Bigger?* You'll find an airtight presentation of why the Protestants removed a lot of books from the Bible itself.
J.C., Internet

My home is in heaven, and I will arrive there the moment Jesus determines my work for

Him on this earth is completed. I am more sure of spending eternity with my Savior than I am of spending one more day on this earth. If it sounds like boasting, I am boasting in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 6:14). If it were not for my God-given faith in Christ crucified, I could not have this assurance. Rather than comparing the size of Bibles, I pray you will read and believe what God has revealed in them. You will find an airtight presentation of the only way into the Kingdom of God.

Thank you again for your ministry. I enjoy your newsletter so much and just read [Tell The Truth](#). What a great book. I can't wait to apply the wise words of the Bible in witnessing. I'm just so excited. I think you should push this book more. Christians don't witness because they're afraid; they simply don't know enough. This book helps you by teaching the right way through the Bible. We should ask the Lord Jesus to go before us and open our mouths in the right way. I've decided I will read the book twice and start witnessing correctly, asking the Lord to help me. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for the truth.
D.N., El Segundo, CA

Just wanted to let you know that I went to St. Louis this past weekend to visit a pastor. We ate at a restaurant in "The Hill," which is an Italian section of St. Louis. After eating we went into a famous old Catholic church and placed your Gospel tracts in many of the pews. I wanted you know in case you receive any e-mails or phone calls.
M.B., Arab, AL

I loved reading this newsletter, it's so "of God." Thank you for letting Him speak and work through you and Jane. What a privilege and pleasure to be involved in His ministry to the lost, especially the Catholics. From your fellow unworthy servant, who by His grace and mercy, I am made worthy by being washed in His blood. I'll send your newsletter out with great pleasure and with prayers that it will reach its mark, hit the bull's-eye, reap an abundant harvest, glorify Him and achieve His purposes. All praise and glory be to Him.
H.R., Dallas, TX

Thank you for sending your Bible study outline for [Will Metzger's book Tell the Truth](#). I looked it over and it's great, I can't wait to use it. After your seminar here, the Lord spoke to my heart about my lack of

evangelizing when I am out in public. He also used your example of faithful witnessing to really convict me of not using every opportunity to tell people about the good news of Jesus. I would appreciate your prayers with regard to this issue as I truly want to be obedient and faithful. Thank you.
Pastor J. J., Redding, CA

The RC structure does not follow the teachings of Jesus. It attacked and killed those who tried to get the Gospel to us common folk through the centuries. They've tried to keep their captives from reading the Bible for themselves. It is not a Christian religion at all, and it hurts to see people fall for it. But the blinders are now coming off of so many as the Holy Spirit works powerfully.
P.K. Chicago, IL

This morning when I came out of Mass, one of your pamphlets was on my windshield. After reading it and discovering that you obviously don't know the teaching of the Catholic Church, I decided to go to your website. It was there that I saw that you were a Catholic for over 30 years. I realized that you never learned about the teachings of your church. So I felt compelled to send you some information for you to read, however, I will not get into a debate with you.
Tom R., Albuquerque, NM

No one would be foolish enough to copy a \$100 bill and trust that it would have purchasing power. Yet you and all your Catholic loved ones are trusting the sacrifice of the Mass (a blasphemous copy of Calvary) as a sin offering to God. Just as a counterfeit bill cannot be redeemed, neither can a soul be redeemed by the counterfeit offering of the Eucharistic false Christ. The reason someone left our Gospel tract on your windshield was to point you to the one and only offering that can satisfy the righteous demands of God's perfect justice. It is the onetime, all-sufficient, finished sacrifice of Christ. He died once for all sin for all time. There are no more offerings for sin. The perfect High Priest offered Himself once, the perfect sacrifice to a perfect God who demands perfection. May God grant you repentance as you read the ninth and tenth chapters of Hebrews.

My mom bought your book [Preparing Catholics for Eternity](#) at the *Understanding the Times Conference*. It has been a very helpful resource for us as we learn more about the RCC and prepare ourselves for

witnessing to our family. I have a question. My mom was born again two years ago and has since been going to a Bible church. Recently she was told by a couple of different women at her church that she should go back to the RCC with my dad. Since the Scriptures tell wives to submit to their husbands, I am not sure how to counsel her.
A.M., Brooklyn Center, MN

The situation in which your mom finds herself is a difficult one. God's Word outlines the role, duties and priorities of wives in relation to their husbands. God has established husbands to have authority over wives. This is how He designed the family to function. Thus submission of the wife to the husband (and the husband to Christ) is to be done willingly and voluntarily. It is the will of God to give up one's independent rights to the God ordained authority. Submission however is different from obedience. There may be times when a wife must refuse to submit. Her obedience is to the Lord. If a husband asks her to do something against the commands of God, she must refuse with a gentle and quiet spirit (1 Pet. 3:3-4). Knowing that God hates idolatry, she must refuse to attend the blasphemous worship of a false Christ in the Catholic Eucharist. She should continue to honor God by being the kind of worshipper He seeks - those who worship Him in Spirit and Truth (John 4:24).

I want to know if you think I can be saved if I remain a Roman Catholic. Why or why not? I am looking for the fullness of truth in Jesus.
Anonymous, Internet

Salvation is a sovereign act of God (John 1:12-13). His children are born again through the Word of God as He grants them repentance and faith (1 Pet. 1:23; Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 2:25). Since repentance is a change of mind that results in turning from what is false to what is true, the Holy Spirit will eventually lead saved people out of a false religion. Look to Jesus and His Word for the fullness of truth.

Please submit questions or comments to:
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Defiling the Eucharist Is The Gravest of Sins

One of the Vatican's most secretly shrouded tribunals, which handles confessions of sins so grave that only the pope can grant absolution, is giving the faithful a peek into its workings for the first time in its 830-year history. Confessions of even the most heinous of crimes and sins, such as genocide or mass murder, are handled at the local level by priests and their bishops. The tribunal's work involves those sins that are reserved for the pope, sins considered so serious that a local priest or bishop is not qualified to grant absolution. These include defiling the Eucharist, which Catholics believe is the body and blood of Jesus Christ. This offense is occurring with more and more frequency by ordinary faithful who receive Communion and then remove the host from their mouths and spit it out or otherwise desecrate it. A Vatican official stated that the sacrament of penance remains "fundamental for salvation and for the sanctification of souls." (Foxnews.com, 1/15/09)

Ecumenical Unity in the East

South Korea's Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant leaders have declared 2009 as the Year of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Catholic bishops' Committee for Promoting Christian Unity announced last week that South Korean churches will hold ecumenical activities such as prayer services, forums and exchanges throughout this year. It will be the year Korean Christians "together sow the seeds of true unity and reconciliation, and overcome division." (Christian Post, 1/5/09)

Thousands Volunteer As Suicide Bombers

More than 70,000 Iranian students have volunteered to carry out suicide bombings against Israel. Hardline student leader

Esmaeil Ahmadi said the students want to fight Israel in support of Hamas, Gaza's Islamic militant rulers. Iran is Hamas' main backer, though the country denies sending weapons to the Islamic militant movement that took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007. Iran considers Israel its archenemy, and President Ahmadinejad has called for the destruction of the Jewish state. In an open letter to Ahmadinejad, the students said "volunteer student suicide groups are determined to go to Gaza." The hard-liners started signing up volunteers after Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, issued a religious decree Dec. 28 saying anyone killed while defending Palestinians in Gaza against Israeli attacks would be considered a martyr. (Foxnews.com 1/5/09)

Roman Catholic Bishop Denies the Holocaust

Israel's chief rabbinate severed ties with the Vatican to protest a papal decision to reinstate a bishop who publicly denied 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. The Jewish state's highest religious authority sent a letter to the Holy See expressing "sorrow and pain" at the papal decision. Pope Benedict XVI, faced with an uproar over the bishop, said he feels "full and indisputable solidarity" with Jews and warned against any denial of the full horror of the Nazi genocide. With his comments, the pope reached out to Jews angered by his decision to rehabilitate bishop Richard Williamson, who told Swedish TV in an interview that evidence "is hugely against 6 million Jews being deliberately gassed." He said 300,000 Jews were killed at most, "but not one of them by gassing in a gas chamber." About 6 million Jews were systematically murdered by the Nazis during World War II. Many were gassed in death camps while others were killed en masse in other ways, including shooting and starvation. About 240,000 Holocaust survi-

vors live in Israel. Jewish groups denounced the Vatican for bringing a Holocaust denier back into the fold. (Breitbart.com, 1/28/09)

Pope Calls for Unity in the Eucharist

Pope Benedict emphasized the need for Christians to undergo a renewal that will give a united witness to an increasingly divided world. He explained that full unity is linked to the very life and mission of the Church and that each Christian community must become aware of the importance of unity. "Our hearts' desire is that the day of full communion may come quickly, when all the disciples of our one Lord may finally celebrate the Eucharist together, the divine sacrifice for the life and salvation of the world," the Pope said. (CNA, 1/21/09).

Catholic Mary Promotes Unity

Benedict XVI gave a discourse on the Virgin Mary at one of the most important Marian shrines in Europe. Marizell is the site of the Basilica of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, which houses a statue of Our Lady believed to be miraculous. For centuries, the town has been one of Europe's principal pilgrimage sites as 1 million pilgrims visit it annually. The Holy Father spoke about the Mother of God's role as "promoter of unity" between men. (Zenit.org, 1/22/09)

Indulgences Bring Catholics into Heaven

Dioceses around the world have been offering Catholics the spiritual benefit of indulgences, a sort of amnesty from punishment in the afterlife. It is a reminder of the church's clout in mitigating the wages of sin. The indulgence, which has a thousand-year history and volumes of church law devoted to its intricacies, is one of the most complicated to explain. According to church teaching, even after sinners are absolved in the confessional and say their Our Fathers or Hail Marys as penance, they still face punishment after death, in Purgatory, before they can enter heaven. In exchange for certain prayers, devotions or pilgrimages in special years, a Catholic can receive an indulgence, which reduces or erases that punishment instantly, with no formal ceremony or sacrament. You can get one for yourself, or for someone who is dead. You cannot buy one anymore as the church outlawed the sale of indulgences in 1567. However, charitable contributions can help you earn one. (International Herald Tribune, 2/10/09)

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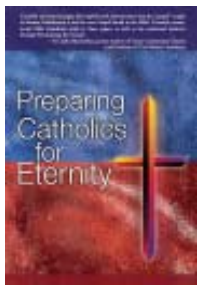
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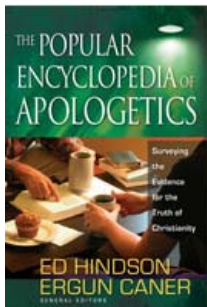


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tributing authors include Mike Gendron, Al Mohler, Ed Hindson, John Ankerberg, Tim LaHaye, Ron Rhodes, Randall Price, Norm Geisler and 50 others. An excellent reference guide with 175 articles to help you defend the

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New The "Faith in Jesus" Litmus Test by

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Why Evangelize If God Has Already Chosen

by Mike Gendron. A biblical look at the doctrine of election and how it relates to the responsibility of every believer to sow the seeds of God's imperishable word. See the lasting effect of God's sovereign grace.

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BOOKMARKS

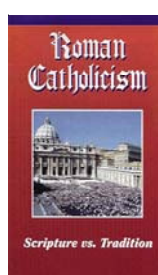
Biblical References to Catholic Doctrine.

A redesigned, straightforward, nonthreatening resource to give to Catholics so they can examine their church's teachings through the lens of God's holy Word.

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Catholicism: Scripture vs. Tradition. Every-



thing you need to know to be an effective witness to the world's largest mission field is presented in this 16-panel booklet. It shows how the *New Catechism* contradicts the Bible and forces Catholics to make a choice. Catholics are persuaded to trust God and His Word, not

man and his traditions. *Also in Spanish.*

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Have You Ever Been Deceived? Those who are being deceived have chosen not to trust the Bible as their supreme authority for faith. Code: PDEC, Sug. Don. 50 for \$7.50

Rome vs. The Bible. This tract reveals 11 undeniable and objective differences between Catholicism and the Bible. A great tract to encourage Catholics to repent from their misleading traditions and believe the Word of God.



Code: PROME, Sug. Don. 50 for \$7.50

The Greatest News Ever Told. A 6-page tract that presents six key elements of the Gospel using only the authority of Scripture: *God's Perfection, Provision and Promise along with Man's Problem, Part and Privilege.* This tract contains the power of God's Word.

Also in Spanish

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Which Jesus Will You Trust? Share this thought provoking contrast between the Eucharistic Jesus and the Jesus of Scripture. Most Catholics do not know they are trusting a false Christ who is unable to save them completely and forever. Anyone who embraces a counterfeit Christ must be lovingly warned. *Also in Spanish*

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DVDs For Equipping, Edification, Exhortation and Evangelism

Each **DVD** contains two PowerPoint messages by Mike Gendron.

Which Gospel? - God's redemptive message is currently under attack in three critical areas: 1) the Christ of the Gospel, 2) the Promises of the Gospel and 3) the Response to the Gospel. Those who have been misled by these distortions need to be evangelized with the true Gospel.

Catholics and Evangelicals: How Different Are We? Seven major differences between Evangelicals and Catholics are examined. The two faiths submit to different authorities, read different Bibles, trust different Christs, believe opposing Gospels, teach different views of sin, confess different orders of salvation and most importantly, follow different paths to eternity.

Code: DGOSP **Sug. Donation \$20**

The Bible-Driven Church looks at the Biblical characteristics of the true church contrasted with the marks of the post-modern emerging church.

Deception and Apostasy explores the growing apostasy within the church and identifies some of the causes. Many say the church is

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

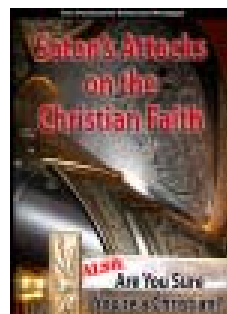
Code: DRIVE **Sug. Donation \$20**

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

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

Code: DCOWR **Sug. Donation \$20**

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



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

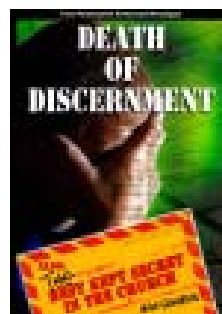
Lord's army must defend the faith against the devil's schemes. (Eph. 6:10).

Are You Sure You Are a Christian?

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

Code: DSACF **Sug. Donation \$20**

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



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

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

Code: DDOD **Sug. Donation \$20**

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



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

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

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

Code: DWHAT **Sug. Donation \$20**

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



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

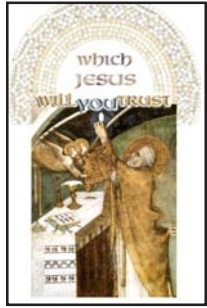
gospel has produced a generation of professing Christians who have never been truly converted. These "victims" live with a false hope because they have embraced a gospel that is powerless to save sinners.

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

claimed the complete Gospel with clarity and conviction. Restore Biblical integrity to evangelism by proclaiming a Christ-centered Gospel that calls sinners to repentance! Be aware of unbiblical methods of evangelism. Test and examine your methods of evangelism with Paul's outline for witnessing.

Code: DGUSH **Sug. Donation \$20**

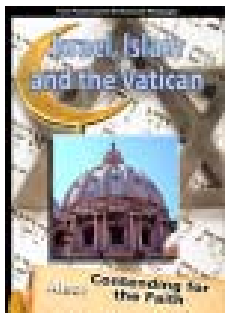
Which Jesus Do You Trust? A message that contrasts the Jesus of the cults and Roman Catholicism with the Jesus of Scripture. Objective facts from authoritative sources reveal the Jesus whom Catholics worship and trust is another Jesus whom the apostles did not preach (2 Cor. 11:4). The Catholic Jesus is unable to save completely and forever.



Doctrines of Demons is a message that reveals the character and ambition of Satan and his schemes and strategies to deceive the world. Discover the counterfeits he has created to divert people's attention away from a pure devotion to Christ, their Creator. Learn how you can stand firm against his fatal lies and subtle deception.

Code: DWJ **Sug. Donation \$20**

Israel, Islam and The Vatican examines the influence Catholicism and Islam may have leading up to Armageddon. These two religions share a common spiritual bond and worship the same god, according to the papacy. Both have over one billion adherents with a history of anti-Semitism. Both esteem Mary as the most revered woman who ever lived. Learn more about these three



monotheistic religions and Christ's return. **Contending for the Faith** provides a comprehensive look at the epistle of Jude with a 21st century application. All Christians are called to earnestly defend the faith.

Code: DIIV **Sug. Donation \$20**

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

Last Days for Catholics objectively examines the world's 2nd largest religion through the lens of Scripture. God's Word proves it to be a false religion, and Catholics need to be evangelized. Seven biblical principles are presented for effective witnessing to these precious souls.



Code: DQUES **Sug. Donation \$20**

New Identifying and Opposing False Teachers - The Lord Jesus warned that these last days would be marked by many false teachers who would revel in their deception and lead many away from the truth. Peter also warned there will be false teachers among you who will secretly introduce destructive heresies. (2 Peter 2:1). Learn how we can identify these deceivers and expose their



lies so fewer people will be misled. **Why Evangelize if God Has Already Chosen?** A biblical look at the doctrine of election and how it relates to the responsibility of every believer to sow the seeds of God's imperishable word. See how divine sovereignty and human responsibility work together in God's perfect plan of redemption.

Code: DFALSE **Sug. Donation \$20**

The following DVDs contain one message by various evangelicals:

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

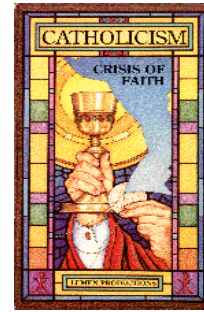
Code: DTV **Sug. Donation \$16**

Roman Catholicism vs. Evangelical Christianity - Dr. David Reagan interviews Mike Gendron on a subject with eternal consequences. With sensitivity and compassion, they explore how Catholics have been led to trust a different authority, believe another gospel and worship another Christ who returns every day.



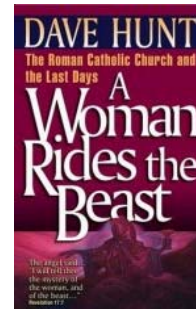
Code: DCVEC **Sug. Donation \$16**

Catholicism: Crisis of Faith - Follow the spiritual journey of former priests and nuns as they explain how they found the narrow road that leads to life. Discover the cause for the present global crisis in the Catholic Church. Many Catholics have left their church after watching this excellent DVD.



Now available in English, Spanish, German, Korean, Portuguese, Polish and Chinese, all on the same DVD. **Code: DCATH** **Sug. Donation \$20**

A Woman Rides the Beast - An alarming look at the history of the Roman Catholic Church and how it may play a significant role in these last days. This DVD will give you a greater urgency to contend for the faith against the ecumenical movement and all other attempts to unite professing Christianity under the pope. The fatal errors of Catholicism must be exposed to those who embrace her gospel.



Code: DRIDE **Sug. Donation \$20**

Messages From Heaven - Tens of millions of people have been flocking to apparition sites around the world hoping to encounter the Virgin Mary. This DVD examines these visions in light of God's holy word. Excellent visual and sound effects accompany footage of various apparition sites and interviews with Marian devotees. The alluring power of these visions is drawing not only Catholics, but many Protestants and Muslims also. The DVD can be viewed in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Polish.



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"...by His doing you
are in Christ Jesus,
who became to us
wisdom from God,
and righteousness
and sanctification,
and redemption."
([1 Cor. 1:30](#))

The Ungodly Myth of Purgatory

- ♦ It opposes the clear and authoritative teaching of God's Word with pagan myths and traditions ([1 Tim. 6:3-5](#); [2 Tim. 4:3-4](#)).
- ♦ It denies the doctrine of justification. "By *one* offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified" ([Heb. 10:14](#)).
- ♦ It denies the sufficiency of the blood of Jesus to purify *all* sin ([1 John 1:7](#)).
- ♦ It denies the necessity of the blood of the Lamb to purify and forgive *any* sin ([Heb. 9:22](#)).
- ♦ It denies that the punishment for *any* and *all* sin is *eternal* death. There is no temporal punishment for sin and no venial sins ([Gen. 3:3](#); [Ezek. 18:4](#); [Rom. 6:23](#)).
- ♦ It denies the instantaneous rapture of all believers ([1 Thes. 4:13-18](#)). Those who must serve various lengths of time to be purged of sin could not be raptured to heaven at the same time.
- ♦ It diverts faith and trust away from the Lord Jesus Christ to a place ([2 Cor. 11:3-4](#)).
- ♦ It robs the Lord Jesus Christ of glory, honor and praise ([Jude 24](#)).

([Purgatory from page 2](#))

purged, it is man's spurious works that are being burned and destroyed.

The Biblical Rebuke of Purgatory

God's Word leaves absolutely no possibility for sin to be purged away by anything other than the blood of Jesus Christ. The beloved apostle John penned these words with irrefutable clarity. He wrote, "The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from *all* sin" and "*all* unrighteousness" ([1 John 1:7, 9](#)). John did not say "some" sins or "most" sins, but all sin! This soundly rebukes the need for a sin-purging fire. God's Word also declares, "All things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" ([Heb. 9:22](#)). When Jesus "made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high" ([Heb. 1:3](#)). Those who desire to have their sins purged need to trust a person, not a place. [The blood of Christ is the only cleansing agent for sin!](#) Those who come to the cross of Christ must come with empty hands of faith, bringing nothing but their sins.

Paul described the instantaneous translation of a believer into the presence of Jesus

at the moment of death. To be "absent from the body" is to be "at home with the Lord" ([2 Cor. 5:6-8](#)). This good news was affirmed by the Lord Jesus by the promise He gave to the repentant thief at Calvary. He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise" ([Luke 23:43](#)). This habitual sinner did not need a fire to purge his sins.

Catholics who believe in Purgatory need to be asked: "Who is in charge of releasing souls from the purging fire?" It cannot be God because His promise to believers is this: "Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more" ([Heb. 10:17](#)). After conversion, God no longer counts sins against His children ([2 Cor. 5:19](#)).

Purgatory is a travesty on the justice of God and a disgraceful fabrication that robs Christ Jesus of His glory and honor. He alone satisfied divine justice, once and for all, by the perfect and finished sacrifice of Himself. The fatal deception of Purgatory blinds Catholics from the glorious Gospel of grace. It is one of Satan's many lies which keep his captives from knowing and trusting the sufficiency of Jesus Christ. It is Christ alone that will present us "faultless before the presence of his glory" ([Jude 24](#)).