



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](#)

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?"

[\(Hebrews 2:3\)](#)

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Why Do Sinners Refuse The Greatest Gift Ever Offered?

Dazzling beauty, jubilant bliss, breath-taking glory, perfect existence and intimate fellowship with our Creator are all offered freely as a gift of divine grace. Why would anyone reject such a matchless and incomparable gift? This "free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" ([Rom 6:23](#)). Who would reject a life without end where there is no sorrow, no tears, no pain and no death ([Rev. 21:3](#))? What causes people to turn down the glorious riches of an inheritance in Christ, the promises of rapturous joy, delightful pleasures, and eternal elation in the presence of God? *In Thy presence is fullness of joy; in Thy right hand there are pleasures forever* ([Psalm 16:11](#)). The answers to these questions, from a *human perspective*, are provided below.

Pride

Religious arrogance and personal pride are both major stumbling blocks for people when they are offered *the* unmerited and undeserved Gift of God. As a Roman Catholic for over 30 years, I was proud to have been born into the "one true church" which gave me the opportunity to merit the graces needed for my salvation. As Catholics, we enjoyed "the fullness of salvation" because we were the only church that had Jesus in the Eucharist and an infallible pope. This sense of pride is still common among Catholics who love to boast about their church tradition! They stubbornly reject the Gospel of grace because of an unwavering loyalty to their religion.

This behavior is not surprising since religious duties often appeal to man's pride. However, the Gospel brings offense. It strips people of their pride in human accomplishment and removes every possibility of self-

deliverance from sin and punishment.

The Jewish leaders rejected Jesus as their Messiah because of their religious pride ([John 7:4-52](#)). To believe that Jesus would offer Himself once for all sin for all time meant they would lose their prominent place of importance and be out of a job. (This is also true for the Catholic priesthood). It is pride that causes these religious leaders to supplant the authority of God's word for the sake of their traditions ([Mat. 15:1-14](#)).

Religious pride often produces personal pride and arrogance as evidenced by the Pharisee in [Luke 18: 9-14](#). He thanked God that he was not like other sinful people and then boasted of how well he was performing his religious duties. Since the Pharisee had such a high estimation of his own righteousness, he did not see his need to be justified by God. He was unaware of God's promise: "he who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted." Pride and grace do not mix because God opposes the proud and the self-righteous but gives grace to the humble ([James 4:6](#)). God will not endure anyone with a haughty look and an arrogant heart ([Psalm 101:5](#)).

The greatest obstacle to knowing the truth is pride, because an arrogant heart is easily deceived ([Obadiah 1:3](#)). People, who think they already know the truth, do not have a humble, teachable spirit and are unwilling to change their beliefs. This kind of pride leads men to reject God's authoritative word as the source of all truth. Pride also produces divine consequences. Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord and will not go unpunished ([Prov. 16:15](#)).
[\(see Gift on page 2\)](#)

(Gift from page 1)

Spiritual Blindness

Paul wrote: "the god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Cor. 4:4). The devil uses the influences of the world system he has crafted to keep men in darkness and occupied with idols. As the master deceiver he has created many counterfeit gods and religions which all proclaim the same grace-nullifying message - you must do things to gain favor and acceptance from god(s). Unbelievers remain spiritually blind with a veil covering their heart unless they turn to the Lord (2 Cor. 3:16). Until then, they are excluded from the life of God and remain darkened in their understanding because of the hardening of their heart and the ignorance that is in them (Eph. 4:18).

Ignorance

Those who are ignorant of God's almighty power do not fear Him and do not seek His mercy. *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction* (Prov. 1:7). Like the Israelites, many Catholics remain ignorant of God's righteous justice and His only provision for sin. *For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God* (Rom. 10:3). Catholics have been deceived into believing that the sacrament of baptism has made them heaven bound. As they mature, they have no motivation to know God through His word. They remain unaware of God's holiness and thus fail to recognize the gravity of their venial sins or their need for a Savior. In the end they will plead for mercy because of their ignorance, but they will be without excuse (Rom. 1:20).

I know an unchurched couple whose young son-in-law died a sudden and unexpected death, leaving their daughter to raise three small children. The couple became so angry with God that they wanted nothing to do with Him. As I counseled with them, I sensed the profound sadness of this perplexing irony - when believers experience a tragedy they run **to** God who comforts, but when a similar tragedy happens to unbelievers they run **from** God, blaming Him for what has happened. *"They say to God, 'Depart from us! We do not even desire the knowledge of Thy ways'"* (Job 21:14).

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Religious Abuse

People who have had a painful experience with a hypocritical, legalistic or cultic member of the clergy may be completely turned off to the Gospel message. Victims of religious abuse include those who have been harmed sexually, physically or emotionally by the clergy. This vile mistreatment from those who "represent God," will cause many to reject any form of "religion" or spiritual counsel. Fortunately, there are some who will not give up on God, but flee from the church where they were abused and seek another place of worship.

Many Catholics, throughout the world, are now questioning their faith because of the ongoing scandal of pedophile priests. Their confidence in the clergy is now shattered

"Whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away" (2 Cor. 3:16).

because of the many horrible crimes and cover-ups taking place. However, the victims of abuse should not run from God, but "take refuge in the Lord" (Psalm 118:8). *The Lord redeems the soul of his servants; and none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned* (Psalm 34:22). There are glorious promises given to all who overcome their crisis of faith by turning to the Lord Jesus for deliverance. Let them consider the comforting and encouraging words of the Savior: *"I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you."* Those who trust Christ can confidently say, *"The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"* (Heb. 13:5-6)

Love of Sin

Those who love the fleeting, illicit pleasure of their sins and the shadowy darkness which hides them will want to run from the light of the Gospel. *For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed* (John 3:20). They have been ensnared by the devil and are held captive to do his will (2 Tim. 2:26). Like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct, they count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. Forsaking the right way they have gone astray, speaking out arrogant words of vanity as they are enticed by fleshly desires and sensuality (2 Pet. 2:14-18). These slaves of unrighteousness have no desire to be set free from the bondage of sin. They love being their own god with no accountability to their Creator and Judge.

(See Gift on page 8)

The Ministry of Proclaiming the Gospel

OUR PURPOSE

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

OUR METHOD

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

OUR NEWSLETTER

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

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

OUR PROVISION

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

Steeling the Mind Bible Conference, Aug. 22-23

Make your plans to attend America's #1 Bible Conference in beautiful Colorado Springs, August 22-23. The conference will be held, once again, at the World Arena and will feature thirteen speakers including Dr. Erwin Lutzer (One Minute After You Die); Kent Hovind (An Evolution vs. Creation Debate); Ido Keenan of the Israeli Defense Force (Israel-The Burdening Stone); Chuck Missler (A Wake-Up Call For Christians); Ed Hindson (Seven Huge Prophecy Lies From Satan); Jobe Martin (Incredible Creatures That Defy Evolution); Mike Gendron (Paul's Outline For Witnessing to Your Friends) and Frank Peretti (The Chair).

The messages are designed to cover many of the critical issues affecting the church in these last days. Come and enjoy the fellowship of like-minded believers and enjoy the cool rocky mountain air! For information and reservations call 1-800-977-2177.

Catholic Bishops Compared to Mafia

Former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating resigned as head of a panel keeping tabs on the U.S. Roman Catholic hierarchy's sex abuse reforms. Keating, a practicing Catholic, stepped down after taking heat last week from Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony for comments Keating made comparing secretive bishops with the Mafia. Keating, a former FBI agent and federal prosecutor had some defiant parting shots for some bishops. He said, "To resist grand jury subpoenas, to suppress the names of offending clerics, to deny, to obfuscate, to explain away; that is the model of a criminal organization, not my church." His critical remarks, he said, "were deadly accurate. I make no apology." (AP, 6/17/03)

Messages Now on DVD

Due to popular demand, we are now offering Mike Gendron's messages on DVD. Each DVD contains two full-length messages enhanced by colorful PowerPoint presentations. Due to the economies of this new media we are able to pass on the discounted prices to our subscribers. For ordering information, please go to page seven.

Christ Alone

by Vernon K. Lockner, Valparaiso, Florida

No works, no merit of my own,
would I ever dare to plead.
I rest my case on Christ alone,
and that He died for me.

No obedience or faithful fruit,
will I boast before His throne.
My faith is in the Lamb of God,
I trust in Him alone.

No miracles or wondrous works,
will I mention on that day.
I only plead His precious Blood,
as my One and Only Way.

No talents or fine gifts of mine,
will I hope to help me in.
The only Gift that He'll accept,
is His Blood for all my sin.

No ordinance or ritual,
will I add to His Great Cross.
To believe in anyone but Christ,
is to stand condemned and lost.

No trust in my own righteousness,
or anything in me.
My faith is in His Righteousness,
given as a gift, for free!

And on that day when home at last,
I'll join the sweet refrain:
"All Glory to the Lamb of God,
who for our sins was slain!"

Where Mike Is Speaking

- Aug. 8-10 [Church of Jesus](#)
Port Neches, TX (409) 722-6959
Aug. 22-23 [Steeling the Mind Bible Conf.](#)
Co. Springs, CO (800) 977-2177
Sept. 12-14 [Garden Heights Baptist](#)
Erie, PA (814) 825-5342
Oct. 3-5 [Grace Bible Church](#)
Richmond, VA (804) 794-0778
Oct. 7,9 [The Master's Seminary](#)
Sun Valley, CA (800) 225-5867
Oct. 10 [The Master's College](#)
Santa Clarita, CA (800) 568-6248

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)

Those Who Die Without Jesus Christ

If you and I could really fathom the dreadful, frightful and severe punishment that awaits those who die without Jesus Christ, we would do all that we could to reach them with the Gospel. How deep is our compassion for our loved ones, neighbors and co-workers who are headed for the eternal lake of fire where they will experience divine wrath and unending torment? What are we personally doing to bring the Gospel message to them? Are we praying for them by name, asking our sovereign Lord to give us an open door of opportunity and to open their hearts? Have we demonstrated how much we care for them *before* sharing how much we know? Have we given them a Gospel tract, invited them to a Bible study or to church? Are we living what we believe?

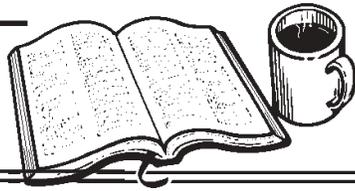
As we seek to be more faithful to the great commission, please let us know how we can help you do the same ([Mat. 28:18-20](#)). We are committed to providing the necessary training, resources and encouragement to those who desire to be effective and loyal ambassadors for the King of Kings.

Quick Quotes

"The priest may, in a certain manner, be called the creator of his Creator, since by saying the words of the consecration, he creates, as it were, Jesus in the sacrament, by giving him a sacramental existence, and produces him as a victim to be offered to the eternal Father. As in creating the world it was sufficient for God to have said, Let it be made, and it was created...so it is sufficient for the priest to say, 'Hoc est corpus meum,' and behold the bread is no longer bread, but the body of Jesus Christ. 'The power of the priest,' says St. Bernadine of Sienna, 'is the power of the divine person; for the transubstantiation of the bread requires as much power as the creation of the world.' The priest has...the power of delivering sinners from hell, of making them worthy of paradise, and of changing them from the slaves of Satan into the children of God. And God himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of his priests, and either not to pardon or to pardon, according as they refuse or give absolution, provided the penitent is capable of it."
[St. Alphonsus de Liguori](#), "The Dignity and Duties of the Priest or Selva"

Seeking His Truth

Letters to the Editor



I am using your 5 tape video series in a home fellowship group at my church. When I suggested various topics of study, **the group unanimously elected to study Catholicism.** The series is having a tremendous effect upon the whole group. In fact, as word has gotten out, several people outside of the group have contacted me about viewing the tapes. It seems that this has been a divine appointment as there are many in our church who come from a Catholic background and have loved ones still in bondage. I am praying that the heartfelt desire, which is being expressed for this information, will reach the hearts of our elders so that we can schedule you to come to speak in the near future. I know that having you in person would be a tremendous blessing. Please keep up the good work. You cannot possibly know how many people you are reaching through your books, tapes, and Gospel tracts!

Dr. J.M., Sugarland, TX

I was a Pentecostal, then a Baptist and now a Catholic. Whew! Talk about being on a merri-go-round! You stated "Scriptures, when read by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are the source for all Christian living and doctrine." **Why then, do so many Christians disagree on many important teachings?** Why are the words "faith alone" only mentioned once in the Bible to show a man is justified by works and not by faith alone? (James 2:24). How can you prove that the Holy Spirit guides you and not others who adhere to differing interpretations? I'd appreciate your response to my questions since I ask them out of honest sincerity.

Michelle, Sacramento, CA

Christians disagree on biblical doctrines for several reasons. Not all professing Christians have been born of the Spirit of Truth and thus are still unbelievers "in whose case the god of this world" keeps them in blindness "that they might not see the light of the Gospel" (2 Cor. 4:4). They profess to have faith in Jesus but do not understand the things of God (1 Cor. 2:14). Secondly, poor hermeneutics are often used to interpret the Bible. Correct interpreta-

tion requires an understanding of the historical background, the context and the language in which the Scriptures were written (ie. word meanings and grammar). Thirdly, new or immature believers, who have yet to be disciplined in truth, may have a theology that has not yet been conformed to the Word of God. Fourthly, **both Protestants and Catholics, who have been influenced by unbiblical traditions, chose to follow them rather than the Bible.** Fifthly, the sin nature will often cause distorted interpretations to facilitate man's desire for control, power, influence, popularity, and personal objectives. If you look at the context of [James, Chapter 2](#), you can see he is not instructing us on how to be justified. Paul does this in [Romans, Chapters 3 and 4](#). James is addressing those who have "spurious" or "dead" faith. He asks, "What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works?" He continues: "faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself." In other words, anyone can say they have faith (even the demons believe), but true living faith is accompanied by a new nature, the indwelling Holy Spirit which will be evidenced by works and fruit of the Spirit ([Gal. 5:22](#)). Over 100 Scriptures declare that sinners are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone ([Eph. 2:8-9](#); [Titus 3:5](#); [2 Tim. 1:9](#)). Therefore it is faith alone that saves but the faith that saves is never alone. It will be accompanied by evidence of a new life in Christ. Ultimately, we will all be personally accountable for knowing, understanding and applying God's word. I will never trust another man's interpretation of Scriptures without studying the doctrine on my own. As I abide in God's word, I will continue to conform my theology to what is written. I hope you will do the same.

The guard at my new gym turned out to be a familiar face. Four years ago, Victor reminded me that I gave him one of your Gospel tracts at his prior job. Since then **he has thrown away the statues to which he prayed and left the Catholic Church.** He has been reading his Bible and witnessing to others. Too infrequently this happens, initial indifference to a tract, then years later Bam! I run

into a new creature in Christ - fruit reaped in due season, just when I was growing weary. I can't think of a better investment than giving away your tracts which so clearly expose error and proclaim truth.

C.L., St. Petersburg, FL

What a bunch of baloney your publication is. I don't know who's distortions are worse, you people or that fat, no neck Jerry Falwell. This is a lot of B.S. even the Encyclopedia Britannica says you non-Catholics or whatever you call yourself, will reject some things that are plainly written in the Bible. You should be ashamed of yourself.

Anonymous

Thank you for your direct, hard hitting truthful proclamation of the Gospel. We have a family full of Catholics, and **praise God for supernaturally working in our lives twenty years ago.** We have shared your newsletter and website with several people. May God bless you as you work to serve Him.

D.&C.K., Beaverton, OR

I have been working with this Catholic young man for the past 6 weeks. Other people didn't want to work with him because he cussed a lot. Using your Gospel tracts, he is now saved and is very hungry for the word.

D. G., Temecula, CA

Jesus points out in [Matt 25](#) that those who are welcomed into His kingdom will be those who performed acts of love (good works) for others, not because of their faith alone.

Nancy B., Internet

If you will read [Matthew 25](#) again, you will see that Jesus separates the sheep from the goats **first**, then judges their works. His sheep who heard His voice and followed Him are all a gift from His Father ([John 6:37](#)). Those on the left did not believe Jesus because they were not his sheep ([John 10:26](#)). Anyone chosen by God for eternal life will show their gratitude and appreciation by acts of service and kindness. **These acts are the evidence, not the cause, for justification.** At the very moment sinners are justified by faith, they are "created in Christ Jesus for good works" ([Eph. 2:10](#)). God saves sinners only by His grace. To mix works with grace is to nullify grace, the only means by which God reconciles sinners to Himself ([Rom. 11:6](#)). Since grace is the unmerited and undeserved favor of God, anyone who attempts to merit a place in heaven will be excluded. Whenever man

presents his works as a peace offering to God instead of resting in the finished work of His Son, it produces divine indignation. By adding his dead works to the work of Christ, he is denying all God has done, is doing and desires to do for those who come to the cross with empty hands of faith. He is also denying the ultimate price God paid to save sinners; the shame, humiliation and excruciating pain Jesus endured to put away sin and the honor, praise and glory that is reserved for Christ alone. Since God is calling all men to behold the all-sufficient Savior, it is indeed a slap in His face to ask Him to behold our good works and our own righteousness. When man says: "I must do my part," it brings an element of uncertainty and doubt to the equation. How will he know if he has done enough? When man says, "I will add my good works to Christ's work," he will boast in what he does instead of what Christ has done. Salvation is all of God and not of man. A sinner's faith must not be mixed with any vain attempts to do what Jesus has already accomplished, perfectly and completely.

All Christians must become Roman Catholic. I find your website to be interesting and ignorant all at once. It's funny how a book that wasn't even assembled until 1500 years after the death of Christ can be a sole authority on God. Please discontinue your web site for your salvation.

Francis and Adam, Internet

Thanks for your article *Biblical Integrity In Evangelism*, a much needed message. We spend much time enlightening others about the false Christianity of the RCC. However, there is a much greater problem that has been brewing which you bring to light in the article. Recent polls show a high percentage of 'Christians' who don't believe Christ is the only way of salvation and can't correctly explain the Gospel. It seems many of these 'professing Christians' believe that they are Christians because they have said a prayer or walked the aisle. I don't find this anywhere in the Scriptures. They are given a false assurance and then spread this perversion of the 'gospel'. By trying to not be divisive, we are ignoring a huge mission field right here in our own ranks. I share your burden to reach the lost before time runs out and have spent the last ten years studying the Scriptures so that I may 'be able to give an answer for the hope that is in me.' Don't give up the fight. Rest assured that for every negative letter you receive

there are dozens out here that support your efforts. May God protect, strengthen and guide you always.

M.B., San Antonio, TX

Many Catholics in Mexico and the Philippines are responding favorably to your great tract by making commitments to Christ, Praise God!

I.T., Boulder City, NV

Just a quick word of appreciation for the newsletter as well as the audio tape on the subject of *Biblical Integrity in Evangelism*. This message is greatly needed as the Bible gets left behind and man's ideas take over. Your teaching on this is indeed a wake-up call to return to the Word.

G.M., Alberton, South Africa

I am using your tracts for Catholics, but also to deceived Christians. I took the challenge to do child care for some Roman Catholic mothers while they do "Scripture" study at their church, so I could gain their confidence and share the Gospel with them. I am using your book *Preparing Catholics for Eternity* as a guideline to prepare my first lesson. Sadly, a Christian friend who works at a Roman Catholic hospital has been conditioned to accept Roman Catholicism as a Christian religion. I pray that the Lord will order the circumstances in her life so that she will have a change of heart. I am aware that Christians are being led astray. A lady in a Bible study is enamored with Robert Schuller. Where are the pastors who should be warning people about these deceptive media influences?

R.B., Alberta, Canada

Your website is a blessing to me especially since I witness to a lot of Catholics. Please pray for this lady who is Roman Catholic, she thinks she received the Holy Ghost at her confirmation. She's so confused, she believes baptism saved her too. I've showed her the Gospel in the Bible, but she's just so stubborn and bound by tradition! She can't get past all that stuff. Her excuse is - that is what she's been taught. God bless you,

Nicole, Internet

I gave your very clear explanation of "Biblical Evangelism" contrasted with "Modern Evangelism" to a dear friend who is a chaplain at the county jail. He recently became convinced that "doctrines of grace" represent the true Biblical view of the nature of man and God's way of salvation. He tells me

that he had been continually concerned about the effectiveness of his ministry. It's different now. Your point that "God's word corrected my man-centered approach to evangelism" greatly encouraged him. He, too, expresses it as "liberating."

J.H., Santa Barbara, CA

Thanks for hanging in there from all the flack you take. You know everything you do inspires a multitude of people including me.

A.W. Sterrett, AL

My heart is heavy for any Catholic who left the Church Christ established by Christ. So many that left the Church did not really understand what they gave up. Paul mentions many times that we must follow apostolic Traditions. I believe that God wants everyone to follow the Church He established. Many are leaving a Church that they never really knew. I truly believe that many sincere former Catholics were never properly instructed in the Faith and are unwittingly spreading false information.

Bob, Internet

The church Jesus established is being built on the foundation of the apostles which was laid, once and for all, 2000 years ago (Eph. 2:20). The Catholic Church continues to foolishly recast and alter its foundation with each new bishop, who is falsely named by Rome, to be a successor of the apostles. No wise builder would begin construction on a shifting foundation. You have a different foundation and a different church. When I left the Catholic Church, what I gave up were my efforts to save myself through the extra requirements Rome added to the Gospel. You are right we must hold to apostolic traditions that were once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). This does not include Roman traditions which have evolved over the last 1600 years. God calls us to follow Jesus, not a church or religion, whose leadership can become corrupt. Former Catholics are not spreading false information about Catholicism but exposing Rome's false teachings in light of God's word.

Please submit questions or comments to:

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Priest Reinstated

Dallas Catholic Bishop Charles Grahmann has reinstated a priest who admitted fathering a child by a nun he was accused of raping and who disobeyed another bishop's orders not to exercise his ministry. U.S. church officials were accused of harboring the Filipino in California and Texas. The Dallas Diocese had suspended Monsignor Villaroya from his parish after Ms. Arambulo, who left her religious order, filed suit last summer. Ms. Arambulo said she was shunned after becoming pregnant in 1983 and found support only from Baptist missionaries in her overwhelmingly Catholic home country. She said she did not report the matter to police, out of shame and fear that she would not be believed. She was not surprised to hear about the priest being reinstated in Dallas. "That is how dirty they are," she said of church officials. Monsignor Villaroya has signed a sworn statement admitting that he is the biological father of her son. He pressured her to have an abortion and left the area before she gave birth. The priest will now serve in Frisco and "will undergo counseling and further evaluation." "I don't think he should be near a parish," said Jonathan Arambulo, the priest's son, who is 18 and about to graduate from high school. He said he now understands why some people don't report complaints about priests: "Because nothing happens." ([DMN](#), 5/14/03)

Pope An Heir of Paul?

To the question, "Why has a Pope traveled so much outside of Italy?" Cardinal Roger Etchegaray has a simple answer: "To tell the world not to be afraid, to open wide the doors to Christ." He said, "The papal visits are not just intended to give courage ... but to dialogue with all the civilizations and cul-

tures of the planet." The Successor of Peter also feels he is an heir to St. Paul. John Paul II has made 100 international trips, and 142 in Italy. He has traveled 767,302 miles and has visited 129 nations. ([Zenit.org](#), 5/9/03)

Catholics and Buddhists Urged to Pray for Peace

Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue delivered a message: "Buddhists and Christians: Praying for Peace in the World." He told Buddhists that this is a special year for Catholics, as John Paul II has proclaimed it the Year of the Rosary of the Virgin Mary, and has requested that this prayer be recited for peace. "Is it not a wonderful coincidence that you also have a lengthy tradition of using the Mala for prayer?" the archbishop asks. He said: "The rosary for Catholics and the Mala for Buddhists are simple yet profound and meaningful prayers, despite essential differences in their form and content. For Buddhists, the Mala is used to overcome the 108 sinful desires in order to reach the state of nirvana. By virtue of their meditative character, these two prayers have in common a calming effect on those who pray them; they lead them to experience and to work for peace, and they produce fruits of love." Archbishop Fitzgerald concludes: "I am convinced that by persevering in prayer we will contribute to advancing peace in the world both now and in the future." ([Zenit.org](#), 5/9/03)

Icon of Virgin Is New Hope Between Rome and Moscow

The return of the icon of the Virgin of Kazan might bring the Vatican and the Patriarchate of Moscow closer. Robert Moynihan, editor of Inside the Vatican magazine, revealed that the icon to be returned has been in the papal

apartments for a decade. The icon might be the source of new hope of a meeting between the Pope and the patriarch of Moscow. Moynihan, who had the opportunity two years ago to admire the icon in the papal rooms, said that "as we know, an icon is not a painting but a window: we don't know what this one will open onto." The significance of this icon is not so much its artistic value as its symbolic significance. The Pope's returning it to Russia might be an ecumenical gesture of unsuspected repercussions. ([Zenit.org](#), 5/16/03)

Priest Admits Guilt

Confronted by the prospect of days of embarrassing testimony and a possible stretch in prison, the Rev. Daniel McBride, a 76 year old Catholic priest, waived a trial and admitted paying a 17-year-old boy for sex last year. As part of a plea bargain, prosecutors agreed to drop six other prostitution-related charges. McBride's lawyer, Niki Schwartz, argued that McBride's crime should not depreciate his otherwise unblemished 50-year career as a priest. "There was never even a hint that he did anything wrong with any other minors or any of his parishioners," Schwartz said. "What he did was as a private person. The fact that he happened to be a Catholic priest is irrelevant." Sheriff's deputies were staking out a suspected gay brothel when they saw McBride meet the 17-year-old boy, a runaway "street kid" who was living with the bar's owner. He paid the boy \$140 and bought him a \$10 compact disc by rapper Project Pat. They returned to Cleveland the same day. Anticipating a jury trial, Schwartz prepared questionnaires that would have asked prospective jurors' opinions of homosexuals, prostitutes, priests and the Cleveland Catholic Diocese. Questions included whether any of the jurors were gay, or whether they had had any positive or negative experiences with homosexuals or priests. ([Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), 5/16/03)

Diocese Pays 61 More Victims of Priest Abuse

The Diocese of Manchester announced a \$6.5 million settlement that resolves most of the sexual abuse cases against the Roman Catholic Church in New Hampshire. The agreement with 61 men and women leaves fewer than a dozen abuse complaints pending against the New Hampshire diocese. The Roman Catholic Church has now settled with 176 individuals in 18 months with payouts totaling \$15.45 million. (AP, 5/23/03)

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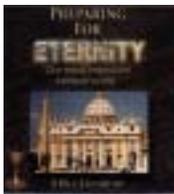
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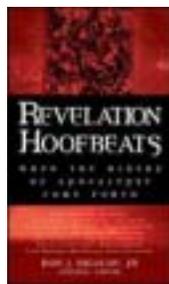
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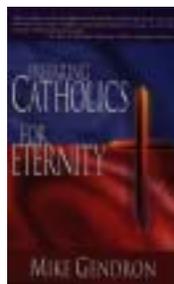
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and teach me,
For Thou art
the God of
my salvation;
For Thee
I wait all the day."
([Psalm 25:5](#))*

Why Would Anyone Reject the Gospel?

Those Who Reject It

- ◆ Spiritually dead in sin ([Eph. 2:1](#))
- ◆ Condemned to punishment ([2 Pet. 2:9](#))
- ◆ Under God's wrath ([Col. 3:6](#))
- ◆ Will suffer torments of hell ([Rev. 14:11](#))
- ◆ Unforgiven and guilty ([James 2:10](#))
- ◆ Controlled by the flesh ([Eph. 2:3](#))
- ◆ Unrighteous and unjust ([1 Cor. 6:9](#))
- ◆ No peace with God and no fear or awe of Him ([Rom. 3:17](#))
- ◆ No access to God ([John 14:6](#))
- ◆ Hopeless ([Eph. 2:12](#); [Rom 5:8](#))
- ◆ Helpless ([Rom. 5:8](#))
- ◆ Child of the devil ([1 John 3:10](#))
- ◆ In bondage to sin ([Rom. 6:20](#))
- ◆ Sinners in darkness ([Eph. 5:8](#))
- ◆ Fools ([Rom. 1:22](#))
- ◆ Born once, destined to die twice ([Rev. 20:14](#))
- ◆ Subject to everlasting humiliation and shame ([Jer. 23:40](#))

Those Who Believe It

- Spiritually alive in Christ ([Eph. 2:5](#))
- Justified and saved from wrath ([Rom. 5:9](#))
- Under God's grace ([Rom. 6:14](#))
- Will receive heavenly blessings ([1 Pet. 1:3](#))
- Forgiven and acquitted ([Col. 2:13](#))
- Empowered by the Spirit ([Rom. 8:11-13](#))
- Counted righteous and just ([Rom. 4:5](#))
- Peace with God with awe and reverence for Him ([Col. 1:20](#); [Heb 12:28](#))
- Permanent access to God ([Eph. 2:18](#))
- Hopeful, steadfast and sure ([Heb. 6:19](#))
- God is an ever present help ([Psalm 46:1](#))
- Child of God ([1 John 3:1](#))
- Set free by Christ ([John 8:31-32](#))
- Saints in God's light ([1 Pet. 2:9](#))
- Wise ([Mat. 7:24](#))
- Born twice, destined to die once ([John 8:51](#); [1 Pet. 3:2](#))
- Partakers of eternal glory ([1Pet. 5:1](#))

([Gift from page 2](#))

When warned that those who practice the deeds of the flesh such as immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, drunkenness and carousing will not inherit the Kingdom of God, some will procrastinate. They imply, by their response, that they will turn to God after their sinful appetites have been fulfilled. But they must be told: "You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" ([James 4:14](#)). Now is "the day of salvation" ([2 Cor. 6:2](#)). How foolish it is to enjoy temporal pleasure at the expense of eternal torment.

As ambassadors for our Lord Jesus Christ, let us be mindful of the reasons why people reject the greatest gift ever given from the greatest man who ever lived. King Jesus has commissioned us to deliver His message and leave the converting to Him. With this in mind, we can be successful every time we proclaim the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our rewards at the Bema Seat of Christ will not be determined by how many people were converted through our witnessing, but by how faithful we were in obedience to the great commission ([Mat. 28:19-20](#)).