



# 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](#)

*"If you cry for discernment...then you will discern the fear of the Lord...For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding"  
(Prov 2:3-9)*

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## What the Church Needs Now Is Discernment

**Y**ou may remember the words recorded years ago by Jackie DeShannon as she reflected on a world full of hostility. *"What the world needs now is love, it's the only thing that there's just too little of."* Today, we lament the condition of the church which has lost its ability to distinguish between truth and error. Now we must sing a new verse. *"What the church needs now is discernment, it is the only thing that there's just too little of, and not just for some but for everyone."*

Several discouraging events have been brought to my attention in the last month. Each one shows a lack of discernment and a growing cause for alarm as this trend continues. We are seeing more and more evangelicals tolerate, endorse and/or embrace the fatal gospel of Roman Catholicism

### Baptists and Catholics Together

Last month Park Cities Baptist Church invited Monsignor Don Zimmerman of *Christ the King Catholic Church* in Dallas to be the guest speaker for the men's Bible study on the book of Romans. I was shocked that the church leadership would be ignoring Paul's compassionate and emotion-filled warning to pastors: *"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to ad-*

*monish each one with tears"* ([Acts 20:28-31](#)). Knowing that the monsignor could cause believers to fall from their steadfastness and pure devotion to Christ, I had to warn the church leadership ([2 Cor. 11:2](#)).

In an urgent letter to Senior Pastor Jim Denison, I asked him to consider several key questions with biblical exhortations: As a good friend of the monsignor, have you ever shared the true Gospel of Jesus Christ with him? If so, what was his response? Are you aware that the gospel he preaches is condemned by the authority of God's word ([Gal. 1:6-9](#))? Is he aware there are no more offerings for sin and no need for a sacerdotal priesthood? Are you aware that his church has condemned born-again Christians for trusting in the sufficiency of Jesus Christ and His atonement? Are you aware that the Catholic Church has a stated goal to unite all Christians under the power and influence of the Pope? Can you not see that your invitation to the monsignor is playing right into their hands and fueling the fires of ecumenism? Have you considered that your responsibility as an undershepherd is not only to feed the sheep but also to protect them from such wolves in sheep's clothing?

Since I did not receive any response from Dr. Denison, or anyone else from the church, I knew I had to put my faith in action and contend for the truth. Having taught seminars at the church on seven previous occasions, I had more than a casual interest in what was about to happen. Motivated by my passion for truth and love for my Lord, I asked my wife Jane to join me. We put on the full armor of God and petitioned our sovereign King for guidance, wisdom and pro-  
[\(see Discernment on page 2\)](#)

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

tection. We then went out to warn the men of the "Trojan horse" who would be covertly entering the walls of their church.

As we stood outside of this Baptist Church, founded and sanctified by truth in 1939, we handed out our Gospel tract entitled *Is A Roman Catholic Christian An Oxymoron?* The tract clearly reveals that those who adhere to the gospel of Rome are not Christians. Less than five minutes after we arrived, one of the pastors came out and asked us to cease from handing out tracts and to get off the church property. I politely told him that we would leave the church property but we would continue to spread the truth about the errors of Roman Catholicism from the street. We shared our grave concern that this church was

giving credibility to a purveyor of deceit and also giving validation to a false religion. We asked how the church leadership could ignore these commands from Scripture. *"If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him" (2 John 10). "If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame" (2 Thes 3:14).*

A few minutes later, a security guard showed up to make sure we stayed off the church property. After handing out a few hundred tracts, we got in our car to leave and noticed the security guard was writing down our license plate number. What an irony! We are not secret agents for the Lord Jesus Christ! We would have gladly given him any information he requested; in fact, earlier we offered him one of our Gospel tracts which included our name, address, phone number and web site, but he refused to take it.

Meanwhile, the wolf in sheep's clothing had the attention of nearly 300 Baptist men. He delivered a message entitled: *Christians, Pagans and Paul*. Denison, who had been praying with the monsignor since 9/11/01, introduced him as a brother-in-Christ, thus giving credence to his false gospel. What a deplorable message of compromise for these Baptist men. Rather than learning the truth about the ungodly rituals and pagan traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, these men left the Bible study believing it was a valid representation of true Christianity.

## Remember the Reformation?

On another front, I was informed that John Armstrong of *Reformation and Revival Ministry* had also made plans to invite a Roman Catholic priest and theologian to speak at his symposium entitled: *Law and Gospel*. In an exchange of e-mails with Armstrong, I expressed how disheartening it is to know that the one who directs a ministry with "*Reformation*" in the name has apparently forgotten the martyrs who were tortured and killed for refusing to do what he is now doing.

Armstrong said the priest, Father Tom Baima, provost of *St. Mary of the Lake Seminary* in Chicago is a brother in Christ because "his

love for Christ is present." I asked John, "Are you not aware that the Christ he

loves is not the Christ of Scripture? He loves a Christ that was unable to purify sinners from all sin, thus the need for purgatory. He worships a Christ that did not finish the work of redemption, thus the need for his liturgy. He believes in a Christ that he can call down from heaven each day to be offered as a victim for the propitiation of God's wrath. His Christ can be transubstantiated into a wafer that must be eaten to enter into heaven. His Christ did not atone for all sin, consequently Catholics must do penance to make satisfaction for their sins. His Christ is not the only sinless mediator but shares this role with His mother."

Armstrong's response to me was warm and cordial but he concluded with: "we simply do not agree about this issue."

## Christian Products or Heresy?

On still another front, I went into *Family Christian Bookstores* last month and was annoyed and disturbed to, once again, see more capitulation and compromise. This national chain of stores now has a special section for Roman Catholic books and products which includes rosaries and gifts for infant baptisms. I picked out books by Scott Hahn and Mother Teresa and showed the manager how both authors pervert the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The manager's response: "Family Christian Stores are committed to providing Christian products that serve diverse needs within the whole body of Christ." I then contacted corporate headquarters to express my concern. The director's response

## 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, Nov. 8

Make your plans to attend America's #1 Bible Conference, Saturday, Nov. 8 in Spokane, WA. The all day conference will be held at the Spokane Convention Center and will feature ten speakers including Ed Hindson, Kent Hovind, Mike Gendron, Jobe Martin, Chuck Missler, Mike Riddle and Frank Peretti. They will be covering the critical issues affecting the church in these last days. Come and enjoy the fellowship of like-minded believers and enjoy the beauty of the great Northwest! This year an added attraction will be held on Friday night - *The Women of Steel Conference*. Speakers Jenna Dee Martin, Nancy Missler, Jane Gendron and Judy Salisbury will exhort and encourage the women of faith. For information and reservations please call 1-800-977-2177.

### Where Mike Is Speaking

- Oct. 31 [Dallas Theological Seminary](#)  
Dallas, TX (214) 824-3094
- Nov. 5 [Calvary Chapel South](#)  
Kent, WA (253) 852-7030
- Nov. 7 [Women of Steel](#) (Jane speaking)  
Coeur D'Alene, ID (800) 977-2177
- Nov. 8 [Steeling the Mind Bible Confer.](#)  
Spokane, WA (800) 977-2177
- Nov. 9 [Coeur D'Alene Bible Church](#)  
Coeur D'Alene, ID (208) 664-4883
- Nov. 16 [Grace Baptist Church](#)  
Vero Beach, FL (772) 562-4609
- Dec. 6-13 Apologetics Conference  
Central Florida (727)789-9196
- Dec. 14 [Lakeside Community Chapel](#)  
Clearwater, FL (727) 441-1714
- Jan. 4 [Countryside Bible Church](#)  
Southlake, TX (817) 488-5381
- Jan. 9-11 United Christian Fellowship  
Port Neches, TX (409) 460-1337
- Jan. 11 A Church of Jesus  
Port Neches, TX (409)722-6959
- Mar. 27-28 [West Side Baptist Church](#)  
Rochester, NY (585) 247-5490

*To schedule Mike Gendron to speak at your church or event, contact him at:*  
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### Messages on Internet

A selection of Mike's messages can be heard at: <http://www.pro-gospel.org/audio.php>

## Ignoring the Curse

How should people react if they have been accursed by Almighty God? It should bring sheer terror, heart-rending despair, unbearable anguish and awesome fear. Why then do so many ignore the divine curse placed on those who distort God's Gospel? *"I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed"* ([Gal. 1:6-9](#)). Those who preach the damning heresy of another gospel are cursed and marked for destruction for deceiving their followers.

The prophet Nahum gives us a glimpse of what awaits those who have been accursed. *"The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies... and the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. Mountains quake because of Him, and the hills dissolve; Indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence, The world and all the inhabitants in it. Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, And the rocks are broken up by Him"* ([Nahum 1:2-6](#))

### Whose Side Are You On?

Jesus said, "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters" ([Mat. 12:30](#)). What are we doing with the precious gift of faith? There are only two possibilities. We can either earnestly contend for it, or do nothing. If we are not fighting for the faith, we are AWOL and allowing compromisers to go unrestrained. What should our response be to those who spread doctrinal error? We must aim the truth of God's word directly at the error! Truth is the only weapon that can destroy error.

### Catholics & Mormons?

What do Catholics have in common with Mormons? Not only do they worship another Jesus and believe another gospel, but they both believe they can become gods. *"For the Son of Man became man so that we might become God."* ([Par. 460, Catechism of the Catholic Church](#))

## Omnipresence of Mary

Pope John Paul II's latest Encyclical "[Ecclesia de Eucharistia](#)," describes Mary as the "[Woman of the Eucharist](#)." He states that "Mary is present, with the Church and as the Mother of the Church at each of our celebrations of the Eucharist." The logical conclusion to this heretical teaching is that Mary has been given another divine attribute by the Roman Catholic Church. Along with her sinless life, she is now omnipresent! How else could she appear in every Catholic Church throughout the world during the Mass which is offered over 200,000 times every day.

### Quick Quote

*"Most Holy Mother, our Lady of Calvary, attain also for me strength in body and spirit, that I may carry out to the end the mission given me by the risen Lord. To you I give all the fruits of my ministry. To you I entrust the future of the Church, to you I offer my nation, in you do I trust and once more to you I declare: Totus tuus Maria [Mary, I am all yours]."*  
Pope John Paul II (*Zenit*, 8/19/02)

### New Rule For Eucharist

While the changes might seem minor, the first revisions the Vatican has made to the mass since 1975 will affect every Roman Catholic who walks forward for communion. Before they take the bread and wine, they'll have to bow, as a sign of reverence for the Eucharist. Roman Catholics believe the bread and wine becomes the actual body and blood of Christ during the mass. Catholics also must be quieter during the mass, sitting meditatively in silence before it begins, after the homily, and after they receive communion instead of chatting with neighbors, or whispering to the kids.

### Boast Only In The Lord

It is God who chooses to make alive those who are dead in their sin ([Eph. 1:4; Col. 2:13](#)), according to His will ([Jas 1:18; John 1:13](#)), when He grants repentance and faith in His Son ([2 Tim. 2:25; Phil 1:29](#)). He does this through His Spirit ([John 3:5](#)) and His Word - the imperishable seed ([1 Pet. 1:23](#)). It is God, who initiates the work to save sinners, and He will perfect it ([Phil. 1:6](#)).

# Seeking His Truth

## Letters to the Editor



After talking to you on the phone, we are no longer letting people like you go without defending ourselves. We are sending out tapes of Scott Hahn all over the country. He wouldn't even waste his time with people like you. Everything you say is simply your "opinion," hidden behind the notion that it is "biblical." You are absolutely a joke. We are going to continue to expose people like you. Our program *The Journey Home* on EWTN has several inquires from protestant clergy every week. We've had between 500-600 clergy converts in the last 5 years. The gates of hell will never prevail against our church. You are one of the most uncharitable people I have ever encountered.

Mike S., *Journey Home*

*When you lead people away from the faith of the apostles you are taking them on a journey into apostasy. Scott Hahn has already wasted his time with me, but he is still one of America's most dangerous apostates. Did you know he departed from "the faith" when he prayed repetitious prayers to Mary and she granted him a "miracle"? Only apostates and unbelievers pray to someone other than God. Jesus said, "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit" (Mat. 15:14).*

I really enjoyed your newsletter entitled: [The Assurance of Eternal Life: Why Do So Many Reject It?](#) It was the best argument I have seen against those who believe that you can lose your salvation. However, the one scripture I wish you would address is the one they always use about "falling from grace." B.C., *Greenville, KY*

*In Galatians 5:4, Paul wrote: "You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace." We know he is not implying that his readers have lost their salvation because he continues to address them as brethren nine different times. Instead he is explaining the practical impossibility of living under both law and grace. To "fall from grace" is to fall from the "principle" of*

*grace. Any Christian who chooses to live under the principle of law will be entangled with its yoke of bondage and will not enjoy the freedom of grace. Those who trust Christ are made complete in Him (Col. 2:10) and share the riches of His grace (Eph. 1:7). Conversely, a Christian who is persuaded to fall from the principle of grace, becomes a debtor to the whole law and has thus been severed from the liberty of living in Christ. When we contrast law with grace, it is a wonder that anyone would chose to live under the law. Law gives us work to do to be saved, grace reveals the work is finished. Law says "do"; grace says "done." Law condemns the best of us, grace justifies the worst of us. Law reveals sin, grace forgives sin. Those under the law obey out of fear, those under grace obey out of love. Law reveals man's weakness, grace empowers man with divine strength. Breaking the law brought separation from God, receiving grace brings reconciliation to God. God's grace is amazing indeed!*

You have been misguided by the father of lies and are leading others who do not know their faith out of the church founded by the Lord. Jesus, in his most blessed sacrament, is waiting to heal you Mike and the pain and anger you have within. You need to let it go and come home. Forget about the money, God will provide. I met you and your wife several years ago at a friend's house. "Stop persecuting me." It took me years to heal from your misguided assault on holiness. I will ask our Blessed Mother to pray for you. You have been deceived by Satan. This is evident by your attack on the mass and the Holy Eucharist. There is nothing that Satan fears more than the power of the ongoing saving work of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Your soul is in real danger if you continue to close your heart and lead others in the way you have gone. I'm sorry that you were not shown the beauty and truth of your Catholic faith. God is calling you back. Your ministry is the work of Satan. Bernadette M., *Internet*

*Why do you insist the saving work of Christ is ongoing when He declared: "It is fin-*

*ished" (John 19:30). Those who believe the Mass is a continuation of what brought the final and decisive victory over death and sin are making Jesus and the apostles out to be liars (1 Cor. 15:54-55). Anytime you affirm one doctrine (the mass) you deny that which opposes it (the Bible says there are no more offerings for sin). You must repent and believe Jesus and His word.*

I enjoyed reading the recent newsletter on the Catholic gathering in Dallas. I listen to EWTN and the Catholic Answers program to get their latest "spin" on Catholic theology. Tim Staples is particularly difficult to stomach. His radio demeanor is arrogant and caustic. That may seem normal for a "Yankee" but such a presentation is not well received by this Texan. What's sad is the lack of education within Evangelical Christianity regarding Catholicism. Few are willing to take a stand and speak out against a false gospel. Keep up the good work.

B. S., *Burkburnett, TX*

We have been receiving your letter for over 3 years and love it. In fact it is the most eagerly awaited Christian literature that we get among 2 to 3 dozen others. Your article on the [Changing Face of Roman Catholicism](#) got me thinking about Protestants who are turning back to Catholicism. We have been attending a home church with some ex-Catholics and I find one of them very emotional and a bit "brittle" when doctrine is brought up. In fact, if she were to listen to the *Coming Home Network*, she would probably return to her roots and once again embrace Catholicism. Four weeks ago, I took her all of your past *Proclaiming The Gospel* newsletters in a 3 ring binder to read.

M. H., *Kingwood, TX*

Congratulations - you nailed it again in your last newsletter! When I first heard of these Protestant pastors falling back into the trap of Catholicism, my spirit wept within me. These men are seeking a form of godliness but truly denying its power (2 Tim. 3:5), turning their ears away from the truth (2 Tim. 4:3-5) and departing from the faith, being deceived by evil spirits and doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1). It is evident from Scripture that when a ministry stands for truth, it will have more opposition than those that don't. I'm speaking for the thousands of us who read your newsletter each month and agree with you, but don't necessarily take the time to respond. We are out here and we're praying for you and your ministry. You

need to know that! Keep up the work you are called to do and fighting the good fight!  
*J.S., Burnsville, MN*

Thank you for being like Paul and taking a stand to earnestly contend for the faith. I truly was convicted to speak up for the truth to our local "Christian" book store. It carries a large supply of rosaries and books on how to pray to Mary. I am now encouraged to refute this religious deception.  
*L.T., Yreka, CA*

I am a convert to Catholicism. I wasn't raised Catholic as you claim to be. I used to believe all the things you currently say on your PTG website. It was only after a lot of thought, prayer and research that I came to see the truth of Catholicism.  
*Michelle, Internet*

*By your own words you are a convert to a religious system, not to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Catholic religion offers another "Jesus" who is unable to save sinners completely. The religion offers gifts that must be merited and penance that must be performed to make satisfaction for sin. By researching God's word, you would have discovered that Jesus put an end to religion. He now offers a relationship to those who receive His forgiveness and His righteousness through faith in His finished work.*

I am grateful that you continue to be both bold and unwavering in holding up the Catholic Church to scrutiny in this day when the mantra of the world and the professing church is that we be tolerant and uncritical of other religions.  
*R.S., N. Richland Hills, TX*

I'm the innocent Catholic who ran into your obnoxious web-site, and was told that my faith was not valid. If I were you I would take down this site that causes division and blasphemy in Christ's Church. Shame on you for this abomination. Your ministry promotes division and is wrong. You are a liar. Your psychobabble of lies and deceit are so obvious, I would advise you to step down, then kneel down, and repent of these sins against the Holy Spirit. You won't even listen to St. Paul - "let their be no division among you." It's time to stop rebelling. Conform to the word of God! If you try hard you can get a regular job, earn a living like every other hard working American, the honest way, instead of ripping off innocent people purchasing your trash. People like you are

known as Christian haters. How can you people sleep at night? I will ask you to get a grip on yourself, and see how you have been misled by Satan himself. As our tired world becomes ever more desperate, people are turning to the one alternative they'd never really considered - the Catholic Church. They are coming upon truth in the last place they thought they could find it. I ask that all the Angels and Saints and the Blessed Mother Of God guide your teachings. Don't let your pride get in the way. Save your soul, stop this ministry of hate!  
*S.F., Florida*

*My compassion for you is heavy on my heart. I could point you to the word of God in hopes that it might penetrate your veiled heart but until you turn to Jesus the veil will remain (2 Cor. 3:16). It is my desire to be a "workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth," and to "avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness" (2 Tim. 2:15,16). God has exhorted us to examine "the scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11), to "expose the evil deeds of darkness" (Eph. 5:11), and to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). The Bible says "he who is spiritual appraises all things" (1 Cor. 2:15). The Lord Jesus Christ did not overlook theological error. He rebuked the Pharisees because they had corrupted the Word of God and created their own religion. God has always called His people to rebuke false teachers, to fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12). True Christians not only affirm "the faith" but lovingly rebuke and correct teachers who oppose it. I refuse to keep silent when the truth is being butchered by counterfeit ministers of righteousness.*

As a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church I protest your assumptions that Catholics are not saved and our teachings are full of errors. If Satan cannot undermine the Catholic Church, why are you trying to do so and what merit is there in attacking your brothers and sisters in Christ? Never have I heard non-catholic churches condemned by the Catholic Church. Who appointed you to be the official judge. I challenge you to read the faith experience of former Protestants Scott Hahn and Jeff Gavins, who were driven to disprove Catholicism, but instead became Catholics.  
*Deacon Dennis, Internet*

*Why do you believe we are brothers in Christ? We are not in the same family. We have nothing in common (2 Cor. 6:15). Catholics preach another Gospel and are condemned for it (Gal. 1:6-9). Your faith is in vain (1 Cor. 15:2). Your church has condemned Christians over 100 times with anathemas from Trent and Vatican II. Why would Satan try to undermine the Catholic Church? It is his crown jewel as evidenced by the doctrines of demons it follows and teaches (1 Tim. 4:1-4). The appointed judge that you should fear is the word of God that you reject (John 12:48).*

It was good to meet you at your conference in Erie, PA. We enjoyed your lessons and especially the notes which you provided. Thank you for your ministry. It is changing lives. We are using your materials in a weekly Bible study with airline employees at the Cleveland Airport. To date, two people have become new creations in Jesus Christ. Many have read (or are reading) your book [Preparing Catholics for Eternity](#) and are attending the study with interest and questions. It has been a blessing to see people hear the Gospel for the first time. Cleveland has a large Catholic population. Your prayers are appreciated for our study and our community. Lastly, we are sharing your newsletter and materials with our families which have been an eye opener for some and a threat to others. We have had some interesting conversations as a result. Your materials are solid tools being used by God to reach those who don't really know Him.  
*Patrick M., S. Euclid, Ohio*

We pray for God to expand your newsletter. You point out over and over again what bothers people the most is being confronted with the truth of the Gospel. God's Word is forever settled in Heaven. Joy!!  
*Mrs. R.H., Cedar Rapids, IA*

Your book [Preparing Catholics for Eternity](#) has helped bring one more into the body of Christ. Her name is Bert and the Holy Spirit led me to give her your book.  
*M.C., Hesperia, MI*

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## Vatican Policy Encourages Pedophile Cover Up

There is now more proof that the Roman Catholic Church has sought for years to cover up sexual abuse cases. A confidential 1962 Vatican policy instructs bishops, cardinals and other officials to pursue such matters "in a most secretive way." The document surfaced last week in Massachusetts. It's not just a smoking gun, attorney Larry Drivon of Stockton said yesterday. "It is a smoking cannon." Driven said, "This report tells these people exactly how to cover up these cases and for what purpose and to what degree, and it says that if anybody doesn't, they'd be excommunicated." For more than a year, the Catholic Church has been under siege across the country by allegations of sexual abuse by priests, particularly against minors, in cases that go back for decades. Hundreds of lawsuits have been filed, and more than 300 priests have stepped down or been removed. A key part of the abuse scandal has been reports that bishops quietly transferred offending priests from parish to parish. ([San Diego Union Tribune, 8/7/03](#))

## Graham Rally Encourages Interfaith Unity With Catholics

A year after Billy Graham packed Paul Brown Stadium and drew streams of people to his altar call, churches aren't reporting a surge of converts. They do, however, believe Graham succeeded in building stronger interfaith ties among people of different denominations. "The centuries have created many divisions between us, but when we go back to the cross and the basic gospel proclamation we all proclaim, it's so freeing," said Curtis Kneblak, assistant director of evangelization for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The Graham event lit a fire in Northern Kentucky by adding another ecumenical service for Protestants and Catholics. When Graham held his first crusades in the early 1950s, he drew his support from Protestant churches. But that's changed, of the 11,212 who accepted Graham's invitation to come forward and receive Christ, 1,221 were Catholic. What went unfulfilled was any expectation that the crusade would produce a multitude of Christian converts. Most of the 42 referrals Graham sent to Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church are still involved there. One referral said that Graham's message encouraged her "to make a final decision to become a Catholic." ([Cincinnati Post, 6/28/03](#))

## Vatican Knowingly Promoted Abusive Priest

The Vatican promoted a U.S. priest through its international diplomatic corps despite high-level warnings in the 1990s that he had sexually abused a girl. The case is believed to be the first in which the Vatican has been found harboring an abuser in its ranks. In a message during last year's abuse crisis, Pope John Paul II said: "There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young." Alerts about Monsignor Daniel Pater went to Bishop James M. Harvey, who now heads the pope's personal staff. Bishop Harvey acknowledged that he had known "there'd been some problems" with Pater but said that he was not in a position to affect the priest's career. A lawsuit against Monsignor Pater had ended with a confidential payment to his accuser in 1995. Monsignor Pater, 50, remains a priest in good standing, even though U.S. bishops passed a one-strike-and-you're-out policy last year in Dallas. Bishop Harvey has been head of the papal household for five years. In elevating him to that post, the pope referred to him as "my faithful collaborator." The Rev. Tho-

mas Doyle, who formerly worked in the Vatican's U.S. embassy, called the situation "profound and shattering, because this connects several dots: A. They did know. B. They kept it covered. C. They violated their own code of ethics." Pater was a newly ordained priest when he sexually abused the 14 year old girl. He assured her that his sexual advances were proper in the eyes of the Catholic Church. Later he wrote this note, dated Oct. 1, 1982, in her high school yearbook: "My best and closest friend during my time at Saint Charles. I hope that this love and understanding lasts into the years." After Pater had begun his diplomatic service for the Vatican in Australia and then Zaire, he would continue to have sex with the girl on his trips back to the U.S. By 1997, Msgr. Pater had earned a promotion to the Vatican Embassy in Turkey. ([Dallas Morning News, 8/30/03](#))

## Tears From Mary's Statue

The tears of the Blessed Virgin are a call to conversion and peace, particularly in the Mideast and Africa, says John Paul II. When meeting with pilgrims to pray, the Pope recalled the 50th anniversary of the day that an image of Mary wept in Syracuse, Sicily. On Aug. 29, 1953, a plaster plaque of the Immaculate Heart of Mary shed tears. The miraculous phenomenon, recognized officially by Sicily's bishops, was prolonged for three consecutive days. Today those tears are preserved in a reliquary that was taken to all Sicilian parishes during the current extraordinary Marian Year. Pilgrims presented a gold crown for John Paul II's blessing then to be placed on the head of the Virgin's image. "How mysterious these tears are!" the Pope said. "They speak of suffering and tenderness, of comfort and divine mercy and are the sign of a maternal presence." The Pontiff concluded with a prayer addressed to the "sweet Lady of Tears," entrusting to her the Church and the whole world. He concluded: "May your tears, O Mother, be a pledge of conversion and peace for all your children." ([Zenit.org, 8/31/03](#))

## The Price of Perversion

An \$85 million settlement for 542 alleged victims of clergy sexual abuse has been reached in the Archdiocese of Boston. The agreement will provide \$80,000 to \$300,000 per victim depending on the extent of the abuse. Massachusetts Attorney General Thomas Reilly released a report stating over 1,000 children probably had been sexually abused by priests between 1940 and 2000.

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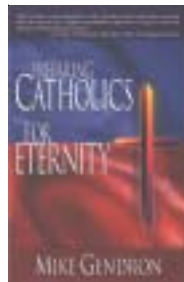
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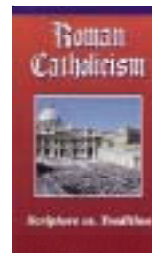
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#### (Discernment from page 2)

was: "While Roman Catholicism is not my denomination, and I personally don't believe so much symbolism is necessary, I can accept them as brothers and sisters in Christ. Many Catholics I know are true believers in Jesus Christ and I refuse to divide the body."

#### **Unlikely Sources for Truth**

On yet another front, a large *evangelical* tract publisher called me to critique a tract they were ready to print called: *The Road to Heaven According to the Roman Catholic Faith*. The tract had quotes from Pope John Paul II, [The Council of Trent](#), a Roman Catholic Cardinal and the [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#). I advised them that the Apostle Paul never quoted the Judaizers as a credible source for truth about the Gospel. I told him that his firm should not give credibility to statements from a religion that opposed and condemned the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

These are just a few tragic examples of how some evangelicals have selfishly and conveniently overlooked what the Reformation was all about. Many of the Reformers were brutally tortured and burned at the stake for exposing the fatal flaws of Rome's gospel -

the very gospel that these evangelicals are now endorsing. These evangelicals have either forgotten the Reformers who boldly and courageously refused to accommodate error, or they believe they were foolishly wrong to die for the truth.

It is difficult enough to live the victorious Christian life of overcoming the world, without also having to engage in doctrinal battles within our own camp. However, we must maintain doctrinal purity and remain separate from those who preach another gospel. False gospels cannot be tolerated. Those who preach them must be identified as unbelievers and not introduced as our brothers-in-Christ. Their lies hold men captive in prisons which ultimately become their tombs.

It is time for Christians to emulate the apostles and be inspired by their uncompromising mission to spread the Gospel and expose its counterfeits. Might there be an awakening in these last days! Let us pray that God will empower us with His Spirit to live according to His word. As an expression of our love for our glorified Savior, let us actively and earnestly contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints ([Jude 3](#)).