



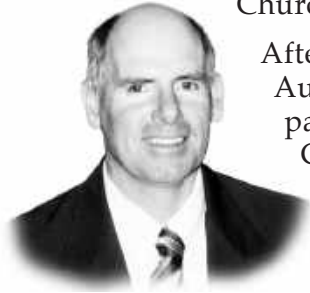
# Tradition or Truth

by Vince  
Wall

Study Guide included • [www.heraldofhope.org.au](http://www.heraldofhope.org.au)

### *About the Author*

The author of this book was raised in a devout Catholic family. He attended Mass each Sunday and received all of his primary and secondary education in the Catholic School system. A number of the author's relatives served in the Catholic Church as clergy.



After finishing his schooling, Vince left Australia and travelled to Europe as a backpacker. Whilst overseas, still as a committed Catholic, Vince was able to visit a number of important Roman Catholic places of pilgrimage. In Rome he visited his aunt, who at the time was the Mother Superior of an order of nuns located near the Vatican. One of the highlights of his visit to Rome was to attend St Peter's Square and hear Pope John Paul II give his weekly address. At that time he believed the Pope was the Vicar of Christ and Christ's true representative on earth.

Shortly after returning from Europe Vince attended a church of another denomination where a visiting evangelist was speaking. After the evangelistic meeting he was shown a Gospel tract that quoted John 3:16 from the Bible. It became clear to Vince that God was offering eternal life to all of sinful mankind and all could believe in Christ and be saved. He saw that salvation was obtained, not by doing good works in order to obtain merit with God, but through faith in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross. That night Vince received Christ as his personal Saviour and God changed his life.

When Vince began to study the Bible he found that much of the teaching of the Church contradicted the plain statements of Holy Scripture and that the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church had been added to the Bible to produce a system that could never give assurance to lost sinners. He was faced with a difficult choice. Would he believe the Bible or the traditions of the Catholic Church? He now wishes to share what he discovered from the Bible.

**TRADITION**

**OR**

**TRUTH**

By  
Vince Wall

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# Index

Preface.....	1
Chapter 1: Traditions of Men.....	5
Chapter 2: The Virgin Mary.....	12
Chapter 3: Sacred Images.....	27
Chapter 4: The Sacrament of Baptism.....	33
Chapter 5: The Sacrament of Confession.....	40
Chapter 6: The Sacrament of the Eucharist.....	47
Chapter 7: The Sacrament of Confirmation.....	55
Chapter 8: The Sacrament of Holy Orders.....	61
Chapter 9: The Sacrament of the Last Rites.....	77
Chapter 10: The Future of the Papacy.....	86

*(All Bible quotations in this book are from the KJV - Authorized Version).*

## Preface

I was born into a Roman Catholic family that for generations have been loyal to their faith.

Growing up, I had the influence of a Catholic School education from Kindergarten till year 11 and throughout my life I experienced the encouragement and help of both Catholic laity and clergy. There were those in my family line that were priests and my aunty was a nun.

I saw many good works undertaken in the name of Christ by those committed to the Catholic Faith. Relatives were involved in the charity work of St Vincent De Paul Society and my aunt did Catholic missionary service in Africa.

I am thankful that through the Catholic Church I learned some basic tenants of Christianity. Through the Church I learnt that God was my Creator and that He was three persons, yet one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Church also taught me that the Bible was God's Word and that Jesus was God who came to this earth and that He died upon a cross and three days later rose from the grave.

Growing up in the Catholic Church was a pleasant experience for me. My schooling in the Catholic Education system was for the most part an enjoyable time of my life. In my late teens I was involved in Catholic Youth group activities and I continued to attend Mass regularly.

One night while attending a Church of another denomination my life changed when I was shown a Gospel Tract which explained John chapter 3 and verse 16:

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

That night I found out that my sins could be forgiven through the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross. I learned that He paid the full and final penalty for my sins and the sins of the world. All I had to do was to trust Christ for my salvation and I did.

I praise God, that our salvation does not depend on our works, our church attendance, or even our own perceived goodness. Salvation is all of GRACE, provided freely in Christ for all those



## ***Tradition or Truth***

who would believe in Him and trust in His sacrifice.

*“For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift** of God: **Not of works**, lest any man should boast” (Eph.2:8-9).*

*“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but **according to his mercy he saved us**, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being **justified by his grace**, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:5-7).*

After my conversion to Christ I continued to attend the Catholic Church faithfully until the Lord showed me through a friend and through the Scriptures that Roman Catholicism had departed from Biblical Christianity.

I was confronted with a clear choice, Did I believe the words of God in the Bible to be the truth, or, did I believe the doctrines taught in the traditions of Roman Catholicism which had been added to the Bible? The choice that I made was to trust the revelation of God found in His Word above any teachings of the Catholic Church that were contrary to Scripture.

The Catholic Church obtains some of its teaching from the Apocrypha which is 14 books that have been added to the Old Testament. It was never part of the Hebrew Bible. See *History of Christianity*, Lion Publishing 1990, page 396. The first century Jewish historian Josephus, wrote that only the 39 books of the Hebrew Bible were inspired (*Flavius Josephus, Against Apion* 1:8).

Such recognised authorities as the Pharisees never included the Apocrypha in the Old Testament Canon and it was not officially included in the Catholic Bible until 1596 at the Council of Trent; it was never quoted by the Jews, by Jesus, or by any New Testament writer though the Hebrew Bible was quoted in the New Testament about 260 times. When Jerome translated the Latin Vulgate in AD405 he rejected the Apocrypha as uninspired, although he included it at the request of Pope Damasus. Some books of the Apocrypha contain historical and geographical errors as well as false doctrine like praying for the dead. See *2 Maccabees* 12:39-46.

As I studied the Bible I could see that the Church in which I had grown up and had loved, had departed from the faith in many areas. I discovered that the priesthood in the Catholic Church

was not ordained by God and that the Scriptures teach there is only one Priest that can take away my sins and His name is Jesus. I was challenged by the following verses:

*“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins”* (Heb 10:11).

*“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time”* (1Tim.2:5).

No longer could I attend the continual sacrifice of the Mass because I knew that the Bible spoke of the one sacrifice of Christ that finally and fully atoned for my sins forever.

*“But this man, after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God”* (Heb 10.12).

I came to discover through the Word of God that participation in the Mass was idolatrous and even offensive to God Himself. As a result, to the great disappointment of my family I had to leave the Catholic Church.

Throughout the years God has helped me with the encouragement of His people and Bible-believing churches, to grow in Christ. He has also given me a desire to reach out in love to those that are trapped in Catholicism and other faiths that add extra-biblical teachings to the truths of the Bible. Their salvation is at stake and they need also to discover true freedom, found in Christ.

The Apostle Paul came to a crossroads in his life when He met Jesus. He discovered that all his good works and his religious achievements had amounted to nothing as far as his salvation was concerned (Phil 3.1-14). He came to the point in his life where he knew that he had to trust Christ alone in order to have eternal life. Paul too had to make a decision to depart from the faith of his fathers.

Paul’s decision to trust Christ alone put him into conflict with the religious authorities of his own people. With the love of Christ his ardent desire was to reach out to those that were zealous in the Jewish faith yet had not discovered true freedom in Christ. Paul reveals his heart’s desire for his people in Romans chapter 10.

*“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have*

## ***Tradition or Truth***

*a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Rom.10:1-4).*

There are many sincere people in the Roman Catholic Church who need to be shown the way of salvation. An elderly Catholic lady who attended a KYB (*Know Your Bible*) class in the church that I pastored, was thought to be a Christian. She was gracious and seemed to show evidence of being a Christian. One day I asked her if she was sure that she would go to heaven when she died and she confessed she had no assurance of heaven. When I pointed out that salvation was not by works but by grace and through faith in Christ, she trusted the Lord and later left the Catholic Church. Today she rejoices in the freedom that is in Christ.

When you study the life of Jesus you see that He made choices based on the truth of the Old Testament Scriptures which brought Him into conflict with the religious authorities of His day. He made choices to believe God over man. Everywhere Jesus went He had conflict with the religious leaders of the day because they had added tradition to the Scriptures.

Three times in John's Gospel we read the phrase "*there was a division*" (John 7:43; 9:16; 10:19). At the centre of the division was Jesus Christ. Jesus was not afraid of causing division over matters of faith. He knew the truth of God's Word was at stake over the empty philosophies of man.

Today amongst Christendom, divisions over doctrines and traditions are frowned upon. Unity is desired over truth, but Truth must be desired over unity.

All Christians must be prepared, no matter how high the cost, to confront false teachings wherever they find it, so that many who have a zeal for God can discover the true righteousness available in Jesus Christ. This book is prepared with the prayer that Catholics will see the errors of the Church of Rome and turn to Jesus Christ alone. Also that Protestants will be made aware of the dangers of the ecumenical movement that is seeking to bring all churches together in a last-days world church.



## CHAPTER 1 - The Traditions of Men

*“Jesus answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men...And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition”* (Mark 7:6-9).

**T**here are seven sacraments of the Catholic Church; **Baptism** (Catholic Baptism of Christening Babies by sprinkling or pouring water over their heads is not scriptural baptism), **Reconciliation** (Confession), **Communion** (Eucharist), **Confirmation**, **Holy Orders**, **Matrimony** and **Anointing of the Sick** (Last Rites). With the exception of Marriage, these traditions were introduced by the Catholic Church long after the Scriptures were completed. What is more alarming is that almost all of these traditions are totally lacking in any support from the Holy Scriptures and in many cases are a contradiction of the plain statements of the Bible.

A Jesuit priest from the 18th century, Manuel Lacunza, came to see that where tradition contradicted the Bible then tradition must be abandoned and the Bible taken literally. In his book entitled, *The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty*, page 34, he wrote:

*“The holy Bible is certain, and of faith Divine. God Himself is He who speaks herein. That which I read in other books, be they what they may, is neither of faith nor can it be. Because in them speaketh man, not God. Finding then between ... God who speaks, and man who interprets, a great difference and even contradiction, to which of the two should I give credit?*

*To man, and cease from God: or to God, and cease from man? Doubtless you will say what these very Interpreters say, and preach often enough, that I ought to believe both God who speaks, and man who interprets; that is to say, God who speaks, but not in that literal, simple, and clear sense which the letter declares...but in another sublime sense, which the Interpreter discovers, and by which he explains what God hath spoken...*

**Why not take all this exactly by the letter?”**

## ***Tradition or Truth***

This Jesuit priest understood that **the Word of God must be believed in preference to the interpretations and traditions** of men wherever they contradict the plain sense of Scripture.

The Bible warns us about the vanity of man-made commandments and Jesus spoke against those who taught the traditions of men rather than the commands of God. He said:

*“This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit **in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.** For laying aside the commandment of God, **ye hold the tradition of men...**Full well ye reject the commandment of God, **that ye may keep your own tradition**” (Mark 7:6-9).*

The words of Jesus quoted above reflect the state of the Jews when Christ came. After the Jews returned from the 70 years of the Babylonian captivity they rebuilt the Temple at Jerusalem and under the preaching of Ezra sincerely obeyed the Scriptures. However, during the 400 years until Christ came, they lapsed into formalism and added countless traditions which became a man-made system of religion, and the simple literal understanding of the Scripture was lost. Thus when Jesus came He was in conflict with this man-made system of religion, so much so, that they crucified the Lord.

Before the Apostle Paul was converted on the road to Damascus he was a devout Jew and followed the traditions of the Jews. In his Epistle to the Philippians chapter 3, Paul described how he came to the point in his life where he saw that his family line, his religious traditions, and all his good works, were useless in making him right with God. Paul recalled that he

*“profited in the Jews’ religion above many my equals in my own nation, being more **exceedingly zealous of the traditions** of my fathers” (Gal.1:14).*

*“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ” (Phil 3:7).*

Paul found out that righteousness before God did not come by religious activity or good works on his part but God’s righteousness

## *The Traditions of Men*

was imputed to him **by Christ** the moment he came as a sinner and trusted in Christ who died for him (Phil. 3:9).

In Paul's letters he constantly warned of those who would **add to the Gospel** with deceitful philosophies and traditions of men.

*"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after **the tradition of men**, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ"* (Col.2:8).

It is a serious matter to add to the Word of God given in the Bible. Divine revelation **was completed** when the Apostle John penned the last verses of the Book of the Revelation in A.D.96. In his final words he wrote:

*"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, **If any man shall add unto these things**, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And **if any man shall take away from the words** of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book"* (Rev. 22:18-19).

Sadly, many within the Christian Church have followed the example of the Jewish nation and within 400 years of Christ's first advent have lapsed into formalism. As the centuries have rolled by, various denominations have added countless man-made traditions to the words of the Apostles of Christ. The process **began** even in the days of the Apostles and Jude warned that we should *"earnestly contend for the faith **once delivered** to the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares...turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Jude 1:3-4).

History has repeated itself. Just as Israel lapsed into formalism and contrived systems of religion based on tradition, at first oral, but later committed to writing in the Talmud, some denominations within Christendom have departed from the Word of God and created religious systems based on tradition which not only adds to the Word of God, but contradicts the plain statements of Scripture. In both cases the change took

## *Tradition or Truth*

place over centuries of time. Once established, the traditions became embedded in the religious systems and it has become impossible to unravel. Jesus said of the Jewish system in His day:

*“No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old. And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better”* (Luke 5:36-39).

When Jesus came He saw that the new life which He brought could not be preserved in the old Jewish religious system and new bottles were required. Thus on the day of Pentecost the Gospel was preached in Gentile languages to signify that God was turning to the Gentiles and that He would create a new vessel, the Church. When the nation finally rejected her Messiah He said:

*“Behold, your house is left unto you desolate”* (Luke 13:35).

Sadly, as Jesus pointed out, once people become addicted to the “old wine” they even think it is better and are not prepared to change. When people are brought up in a system it is very difficult for them to think that it could be wrong. To question whether the system is in agreement with God’s Word could mean fractured relationships within the family or elsewhere. The price of seeking the Truth in the Bible can be very high and Jesus warned His disciples that they would be cast out of the synagogues. He said to the Jews:

*“Behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city”* (Matt.23:34).

A similar situation exists today within the Catholic Church. The new life that characterized the life of the Church in the days of the Apostles has faded and been replaced by rituals,

and tradition that bear no resemblance to the truth of God's Word, and in fact, contradict the Scriptures. So entrenched has tradition and ceremony become that it would be virtually impossible for any spiritual life to survive within the system. Divine judgment is the only answer and that has been foretold in the book of Revelation chapters 17 and 18 when the ecumenical world Church led by Rome will be destroyed. This prophecy is discussed in greater detail in chapter 9.

It is a very serious thing to add to the Word of God and all those who would add tradition, or extra-Biblical revelation, to the perfect volume of inspired writings have placed themselves under the judgment of God.

*The Word Sacrament is Not in the Bible*

A search of the entire Bible will reveal that the words sacrament or sacraments are not mentioned once in Scripture yet the Catholic Church teaches that they

“are **necessary for salvation** because they confer sacramental grace, forgiveness of sins, adoption as children of God, conformation to Christ the Lord and membership in the Church” (*Compendium 2005 page 83*).

The statement from the *Compendium* (Summary of the Catholic Catechism) is absolutely false. Salvation is by faith in Christ alone. Christ is the only one that can provide salvation. Salvation is never found in any sacrament of the church or any religious ceremony. The Bible makes it clear that salvation is “*not of works*”. Salvation is all of grace, it is a **free gift** for all who personally receive Christ as their Saviour.

If any church, Catholic, Orthodox or Protestant, teaches that salvation is provided in an ordinance or a sacrament, then that church is in serious error. The Bible states:

“*For by grace (undeserved favour) are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast*” (Eph.2:8-9).

“*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us*” (Titus 3:5-7).

## *Tradition or Truth*

Nobody can question the sincerity of many Catholics who believe there is a heaven and hope to get there but the teachings of the Roman Church have added false doctrines to the Scriptures which give only a false hope.

The Bible is clear that *“all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”* (Rom.3:23) and that God so loved a sinful world that He sent His only begotten Son to be the Lamb of God as **the only sacrifice** for our sins. Traditions add to God’s Word and thus mislead millions of earnest souls. The Bible says:

*“Seek ye the Lord **while He may be found**, call upon Him while He is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, **and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon”*** (Isa.55:6-7).

*“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Rom.10:13).

When a person believes in Christ for salvation they know that they are saved because **the Scriptures** give that reassurance.

*“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich **UNTO ALL THAT CALL UPON HIM**. For **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord SHALL BE SAVED... So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”*** (Rom.10:11-13, 17).

Since God has **promised** to save all who put their trust in Christ, heaven is assured to all those who acknowledge their sin and turn to Christ. The promises of God’s Word can be believed and *“faith comes by hearing...the Word of God”*. At death the believing soul is instantly *“absent from the body”* and *“present with the Lord”* (2Cor.5:8).



**CHAPTER 1 Review Questions.**

1. What Bible verses in the Gospel of Mark indicate that Jesus warned about the traditions of men? (See page 5).

.....

2. Name the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church? (Page 5).....

.....

.....

3. What was the main point of the statement about the Bible and Tradition made by the Jesuit Priest Manuel Lacunza? (Pages 5-6).

.....

4. What problem did Jesus identify in the Jewish religious system? (Page 6).

.....

.....

5. Name two things that Paul disregarded in order to have saving faith in Christ (Page 6).

.....

6. How does the Bible say that we can be declared righteous before God? (Pages 6-7). Tick the correct answers.

Religious activities  Faith in Christ  Good Works

7. What does God warn us about in Colossians 2:8? (Page 7).....

.....

8. Much of Christendom follows Tradition? (Page 7)

True  or False

9. What did it cost the Apostle Paul to turn from Jewish tradition to Christ alone? (page 8).....

10. The Catholic church teaches that keeping the Sacraments is “necessary for salvation” (Page 9) True  False

## CHAPTER 2 - The Virgin Mary

*“And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior” (Luke 1:46-47).*

**G**rowing up in the Roman Catholic Church I was taught a lot about Mary that was not Biblical. I prayed to Mary and honored her as the mother of Christ who could meet my needs. To myself and many other Catholics, Mary had the heart of a sympathetic mother whom I could call upon at anytime.

When I turn to the Scriptures I find that Mary was the virgin mother of our Lord. Isaiah prophesied 700 years before Christ came that Messiah would be born of a virgin: We read:

*“The Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, **a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel**” (Isa.7:14).*

This prophecy was fulfilled as Matthew indicated. The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said:

*“Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for **that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us**” (Matt.1:20-23).*

The Christ child would be God manifest in flesh as Paul stated (1Tim.3:16) and Isaiah again prophesied:

*“For unto us a child is born, unto us **a son is given:** and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isa.9:6).*

Mary is held in very high regard among many Catholics and is given great honor in the Catholic Church; it is true that she found favour with God as the angel indicated to Mary:

*“Hail, thou that art **highly favored,** the Lord is with thee: **blessed**”*

## *The Virgin Mary*

*art thou among women...Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God" (Luke 1:28,30).*

None of these scriptures exalt Mary to the status and honour given to Mary by the Catholic Church which goes far beyond what God ever intended to the point where it has become idolatry. Many statues of Mary have been erected throughout the world in Churches and are also found in Catholic homes. **There are also fanciful stories told of miracles Mary is supposed to have performed. Not one of these appears in the pages of Scripture.** Even Jesus did no miracle until He began His ministry and attended the wedding in Cana of Galilee. The Bible states:

*"This **beginning of miracles** did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him" (John 2:11).*

The Popes, the priests, and nuns of Roman Catholicism further elevate Mary by praying to her and in some cases, even worshipping her. Roman Catholic theology distorts the true character of Mary and paints a picture of her that is not Biblical.

The veneration of Mary was not held by the Church until the 4th Century as *Schaff's History of the Christian Church* records:

*"After the middle of the **fourth century** it overstepped the wholesome Biblical limit, and transformed the "mother of the Lord" into a mother of God, the humble "handmaid of the Lord" into a queen of heaven, the "highly favored" into a dispenser of favors, the "blessed among women" into an intercessor above all women, nay, we may almost say, the redeemed daughter of fallen Adam, who is nowhere in Holy Scripture excepted from the universal sinfulness, into a sinlessly holy co-redeemer. At first she was acquitted only of actual sin, afterward even of original; though the doctrine of the immaculate conception of the Virgin was long contested, and was not established as an article of faith in the Roman church till 1854. Thus the veneration of Mary gradually degenerated into the worship of Mary" (*Schaff's History of the Christian Church*, Volume 3 page 324).*

So prominent has Mary become in Catholic theology that the Catholic Church has become the religion of "the mother and

## *Tradition or Truth*

child". Mother Teresa was famous for her works of mercy to the poor but she also believed that Mary was Mediatrix and Co-Redemptrix with Christ. Mother Teresa was supported in this view by one of the Popes in her day.

While this view is not yet the official dogma of the Catholic Church it indicates how new traditions can develop and find support among leading Catholics; even the head of the Church. If Mary does have such a vital role in the salvation of mankind, why didn't God reveal it to us 2,000 years ago when the Church was formed? And why isn't there one word about it in the Bible? Why have people been kept in ignorance for 2,000 years about such a vital matter?

### *Our Lady Queen of Ireland and Queen of Heaven*

As a young Catholic I travelled to Britain and Europe. I also travelled to the town of Knock on the West Coast of Ireland. In the town of Knock I saw Ireland's national shrine to the Virgin Mary. Mary was supposed



to have appeared outside the Catholic Church in Knock in 1879 along with St John and St Joseph.

The news spread of the apparition of Mary and Knock became a place of Pilgrimage for Catholics who revere Mary. A new place of worship was built in 1976 and was called the Church of Our Lady Queen of Ireland. The construction of an international airport was organized by the parish priest, James Horan, and it was opened for pilgrims in 1985. Knock is simply a place of idolatry and deception for many. When I was in Knock I saw **signs over the taps in the church grounds indicating they contained "Holy Water" and many stores in the town made their money from selling crucifixes and statues of Mary.**

Supposed apparitions of Mary have occurred in many other parts of the world causing **people to flock to shrines where she is worshipped.** Wherever she has "appeared" you will find people praying to her and given over to idolatry.

## *The Virgin Mary*

Mary is called, *The Queen of Heaven*, in Catholic Church doctrine. Yet the New Testament never refers to her as such. The only reference to the *Queen of Heaven* in the Bible is found in the book of Jeremiah where the Queen of Heaven is a heathen goddess.

Israel had provoked the Lord to anger. Entire families were involved in the evils of idolatry.

*“The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to **the queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may **provoke me to anger**” (Jer.7:18).*

God used Jeremiah to warn the people against their idolatry but they would not listen. They said:

*“As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the Lord, we will not hearken unto thee. But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, **to burn incense unto the queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil” (Jer.44:16-17).*

The Israelites paid a heavy price for their idolatry and so will everyone that is involved with the worship of the *Queen of Heaven* today:

*“And this shall be a sign unto you, saith the Lord, that I will punish you in this place, that ye may know that my words shall surely stand against you for evil” (Jer.44:29).*

God’s Word makes it very clear that we are not to put other gods, graven images, or idols before Him.

*“I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have **no other gods before me**.*

*Thou shalt not make unto thee **any graven image**, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt **not bow down thyself to them**, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me” (Exod. 20:2).*

## *Tradition or Truth*

As a Roman Catholic I believed that Mary was the Queen of Heaven and that she could answer prayers. I was taught a number of prayers that were specifically directed to her and I knelt down and prayed before the images of her.

I thank the Lord that after my conversion to Christ my eyes were opened to see that this was idolatry. In my ignorance I had been praying to Mary and other Roman Catholic saints.

Has the Roman Catholic Church changed today in its promotion of the unbiblical doctrines of Mary? The answer is, No. A quick look at a booklet published for **World Youth Day in 2008** which summarizes Catholic doctrine clearly reveals that the Church still promotes devotion and prayers to Mary. It reads:

*“Even after her assumption into heaven she continues to intercede for her children...The faithful see in Mary an image and an anticipation of the resurrection that awaits them and they invoke her as **advocate, helper, benefactress and mediatrix**”. (Page 69, *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, St Paul’s Publications, Strathfield NSW).*

### *Praying to the Dead is Necromancy*

When you study the Bible in relation to prayer you will find that all prayers are to be directed to God and not to Mary or any other saint. Jesus never gave a hint that His mother was capable of miracles or that she could answer prayers. When someone prays to any other person, living or dead, then that person is raised to the level of God Himself. God makes it clear that seeking contact with anyone who has died is **necromancy** and is forbidden in Scripture. God told Israel:

*“When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a **consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer**. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord...” (Deut.18:9-12).*

Out of hundreds of passages in Scripture on prayer there is not one that prescribes prayer to anyone but God. When Jesus



## *The Virgin Mary*

taught His disciples to pray it was to God the Father who was in Heaven. Today Spiritist mediums seek to make contact with the dead and cause demons to impersonate those who have passed away in order to bring souls into bondage. The apparitions of Mary are therefore similar demonic delusions.

The Scriptures also make it clear that we have **one mediator** between God and man and that mediator is never Mary.

*“For there is one God, and ONE mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”* (1 Tim.2:5).

Jesus Christ is our High priest who ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb 7.25).

Mary, *The Queen of Heaven* in Roman Catholicism, is NOT the humble handmaid of the Lord described in the pages of the New Testament. She is a Queen before whom Catholics bow.



Catholicism claims that Mary was sinless yet the Bible shows that she was not for she stated **that God was her Saviour**. If she needed a Saviour she must have been a sinner like every other descendant of Adam. The Bible states:

*“And Mary said, My soul does magnify the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in **God my Savior**”* (Luke 1:46-47).

Catholicism has elevated and given Mary Divine powers not found in the New Testament. Mary is never seen again in the pages of the Bible after Acts 1:14. She was not revered by the disciples, and was never mentioned in all of Paul’s Epistles.

Sincere people in the Catholic Church are taught many lies in relation to Mary. Her Biblical role has been terribly distorted and she has been made into an idol by the false doctrines of Rome. John wrote:

*“Little children, keep yourselves from idols”* (1John5:21).

## *Tradition or Truth*

### *The Immaculate Conception:*

After I became a Christian I realized that Roman Catholic theology distorted the true character of Mary and gave her Divine powers that are not Biblical. When I read the Bible I discovered that Jesus honoured Mary as His mother **among** women but never elevated her **above** other Godly women (Luke 2:41-49, Matt.12:46-50). As already pointed out, **Mary rejoiced in "God her Saviour"** so the whole idea that she was sinless can only be a falsehood.

It may be argued that because Jesus was sinless He could not be born by a woman capable of sin otherwise He would also be sinful, however, the same reasoning must apply to Mary since her mother was a sinner.

Jesus is referred to in Scripture as the Word of God. It is one of the Divine titles given to our Lord in John 1:1,14 and Rev.19:13. The Bible is also called the Word of God because it reveals God to us.

When God inspired His prophets to write the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit gave them the words to write. These prophets were not perfect and like any other son of Adam could sin, yet the Scriptures they produced were the perfect Words of God, complete and without error. The Scripture was not tainted because God used imperfect vessels to write it.

In the same way, when God chose to bring the Living Word of God into the world to reveal Himself to mankind, He used Mary, an imperfect vessel, and the Son of God was not tainted in any way. Jesus did not inherit a sinful nature from Mary. If Joseph had been Jesus' father then He would have inherited the Adamic sinful nature but Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and God was His father. He was the Son of God.

### *The Origin of Mary-Worship*

Unfortunately the Catholic Church promotes a misplaced devotion to, and adoration of, Mary. Catholics are encouraged to pray to her. Yet it is clear from the Scriptures that only God can answer prayers, and that we are not to pray to any created being. Idolatry may be defined as the worship of any created

## *The Virgin Mary*

person or thing. Jesus Christ came from heaven and within the Godhead was eternally the uncreated Son of God. Mary was born like any other person and is a created being. It would therefore be idolatry to worship Mary.

During my years in the Catholic Church I was taught to pray a number of prayers to Mary. Some of those prayers had titles like: *Hail Holy Queen* and, *Hail Mary*. These prayers appeal to Mary as an **intercessor**. A quick look on the internet reveals that Mary-worship is current Catholic teaching. On [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org) there are listed more than ninety different prayers that Catholics may pray to Mary.

One of the prayers published at [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org) is *The Prayer to Our Lady Mother of Mercy*. This prayer elevates Mary to the level of Deity. It reads:

“Blessed Virgin Mary, who can worthily repay you with praise and thanks for having rescued a fallen world by your generous consent! Receive our gratitude, and **by your prayers obtain the pardon of our sins.**”

This prayer describes Mary as one that has rescued a fallen world and that through her prayers, Catholics are able to obtain forgiveness of sins. This is totally contrary to Biblical truth. The Bible states:

“For there is **one God**, and **ONE MEDIATOR** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all” (1Tim.2:5).

The history of Mary-worship is an interesting study for there are many practices within the Catholic Church which have their origins in paganism. If you study ancient world religions you will find that a number of them have adopted the worship of a mother and child Deity. Ancient Babylonian statues show Semiramis and her child. The Egyptians had the goddess Isis which was represented as standing on a crescent moon. Isis we are told, bore a divine son called Horus.



The Egyptian depictions of Isis standing on a crescent moon and crowned with stars are

## *Tradition or Truth*

very similar to statues of Mary with 12 stars about her head in some Catholic Churches today. Worship in early Rome also incorporated the worship of a virgin and a child. We have already seen what Jeremiah wrote about the worship of the Queen of Heaven; a Babylonian Deity. The women made cakes as offerings and wept for Tammuz her husband who was supposed to return from the nether-world each Spring. When Ezekiel was shown the idolatry of the people in the Temple at Jerusalem he wrote:

*“Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD’s house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz”* (Ezek. 8:14).

These people were praying to the Queen of Heaven to bring Tammuz back to give new life to nature after the winter.

### *How Paganism Entered the Church:*

In early Church history, particularly in the **fourth Century**, paganism infiltrated the Church as compromising Church leaders allowed aspects of pagan worship to be practiced. Statues of pagan entities were given the names of martyrs to fit in with a church that was compromising with the world and the roots of Mother and Child worship began to enter the church.

In ancient Ephesus the goddess Diana was worshipped as the goddess of virginity and motherhood. It was at the *Council of Ephesus* in AD 431 that the Church officially adopted the worship of Mary and she was called the *Mother of God*. Nestorius, the Bishop of Constantinople, opposed this teaching and maintained the two natures of Christ but was condemned. He quite rightly affirmed that Mary was the *mother of Christ* but not the *mother of God*.

Whilst Mary is the Mother of Jesus, to say that she is the **mother of God** is wrong. Mary was not even in existence at the beginning of creation when Christ created all things. Micah prophesied that the One who would be born at Bethlehem had no beginning but was *“from everlasting”*: Christ was pre-existent before His birth at Bethlehem (John 1:3; Matt.2:5-6).

*“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that*

## *The Virgin Mary*

*is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2).*

At the incarnation the Son of God took on Himself human form as John stated:

*“The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).*

Speaking of Christ Paul wrote:

*“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and **took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:** And being found in fashion **as a man**, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow” (Phil.2:6-10).*

God has highly exalted Christ but stating that Mary is the Mother of God elevates Mary to a position of Divinity which is foreign to the Bible. As a Catholic, I gave devotion and prayers to Mary that belonged to God alone. I was also encouraged to pray to statues depicting Mary, Jesus and Joseph.

When God gave the ten commandments He made it clear to His people that they were not to have any other God's before Him and that they were not to make, or bow down to any graven image (Exod.20:1-5).

The Catholic Church maintains that Mary is the “mother of God” and this has provoked great controversy in the Church. Mary could not be the mother of God for God was before all time, the creator of the universe.

The Bible says,

*“**God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself**” (2Cor.5:19) and Paul wrote that, “**God was manifest in the flesh**” (1Tim. 3:16).*

Jesus Christ was both Son of God and Son of man and He referred to Himself most frequently as “*the Son of man*”. Paul

## ***Tradition or Truth***

wrote:

*“For there is one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus**; Who gave himself a ransom for all” (1Tim.2:5-6).*

In the time of the Apostles there were those who denied the perfect humanity of Jesus Christ and John wrote:

*“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who **confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh**. This is a deceiver and an antichrist” (2John 1:7).*

In order to become the Saviour of mankind Jesus had to be truly man. He was sent from heaven by the Father to dwell as man among men. Jesus had a human spirit which he could dismiss when He died on the cross. When Christ died on the cross (Luke 23:46), God did not die. God cannot die but as God incarnate He lay down His physical life to atone for sin.

In the Epistle to the Hebrews we read:

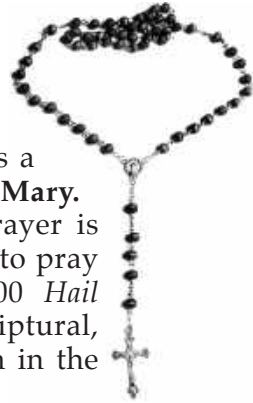
*“Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but **a body hast thou prepared me**” (Heb.10:5).*

The miracle of the incarnation produced the perfect man Christ Jesus and God the Son dwelt in Him. Mary therefore was not the “mother of God” but the mother of Jesus Christ and “*the handmaid of the Lord*” (Luke 1:38).

### ***The Rosary***

An important part of my early Catholic upbringing involved saying the Rosary in which prayer beads are used. The Rosary is a repetition of prayers and **the majority are to Mary**. In sections of the Rosary, *The Hail Mary* prayer is repeated ten times. Traditionally, if one was to pray the full Rosary it would consist of at least 200 *Hail Marys*. While prayers to Mary are totally unscriptural, **vain repetition** of prayers, is also forbidden in the Bible. Jesus said:

*“But when ye pray, **use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do**: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking” (Matt 6:7).*





## *The Virgin Mary*

The Prayer Beads that are used in the Rosary are of a pagan origin. Other religions such as Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism, use prayer beads. Just as praying to Mary has no place in Christianity neither does the Rosary and there is no mention of such things in the Bible.

### *The Perpetual Virginity of Mary:*

The Catholic Church teaches that Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Jesus. Numbers of Catholic girls over the centuries have been encouraged to become nuns and live in convents where a life of celibacy was imposed on them as they sought to model their lives on the virgin Mary. Many nuns have been ignorant of the fact that **Mary did not remain a virgin after she gave birth to Christ**. The Catholic Church has robbed them of the joys of marriage and motherhood by its false doctrine concerning Mary. Although Mary married Joseph, according to Catholic doctrine, she remained free from sexual relations with her husband. The unscriptural doctrine of celibacy for nuns, priests and brothers has wreaked havoc within the church and society and is a clear departure from the faith. The Bible says:

*“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the **latter times** some shall depart from the faith...**Forbidding to marry**, and commanding to **abstain from meats**”* (1Tim.4:1-3).

The doctrine of celibacy in the Catholic Church has contributed to the sexual abuses inflicted upon children by clergy of religious orders within the Church, world-wide and cost the church dearly.

In 2013 the Australian Government set up a Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Evidence was heard from various churches and organizations.

Nearly 2,000 Catholic Church figures, including priests, religious brothers and sisters, and employees, were identified as alleged perpetrators in a report released by the Royal Commission (ABC.net.au 7th. Feb. 2017)

Australian Catholic Archbishop Anthony Fisher said: “Gruelling as it has been, this was a Royal Commission we had to have... Understandably, the failure of Church leadership, has caused many

## *Tradition or Truth*

to question the validity of our Catholic faith if such crimes can be committed by those acting in the name of the Church.” (2017 Lenten Address, Sackcloth and Ashes, Catholic Communications, Sydney Archdiocese)

Unbiblical forced celibacy has wreaked havoc in the Catholic Church. The Bible states that *“a bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife... one that rules well his own house, having his children in subjection”* (1Tim.3:2-4). Peter was not celibate; his wife’s mother was healed by the Lord (Matt.8:11; Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38) and yet Catholic Theology says he was the first Pope. As mentioned before, Mary did not remain a virgin either but was a normal wife and mother after the birth of Jesus.

Mary’s marriage to Joseph was not consummated until **after** the birth of Jesus for Joseph *“knew her not TILL she had brought forth her firstborn son”* (Matt.1:25), but after Jesus was born Mary had other sons and daughters for we read:

*“While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him”* (Matt.12:46).

Psalm 69 is a Messianic Psalm and prophetically refers to the fact that the mother of the Messiah had other children.

*“I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother’s children”* (Ps 69:8).

When Jesus preached in the synagogue at Nazareth the people were amazed and said,

*“What wisdom is this which is given unto him...Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him”* (Mark 6:2-3).

### *The Assumption of Mary:*

Another error that the Catholic Church promotes is the Assumption of Mary. This doctrine was made official by Pope Pius XII **as recent as 1950** and is celebrated on the 15th of August each year. It teaches that Mary died but, like Christ, ascended bodily into Heaven and that Mary is now the Queen of Heaven.

We know from Scripture that John took Mary and cared for her after Christ died on the cross (John 19:27). Mary was much

## *The Virgin Mary*

older than John and tradition says that John went to Ephesus but there is no record of Mary's death. John was incarcerated on the isle of Patmos and in all probability Mary died beforehand.

It is claimed that a 5th century Patriarch of Jerusalem named Juvenalius had a request from the Byzantine Empress Pulcheria for relics of Mary but since they could not be found she was told that Mary had been taken to heaven! After 400 years, most of which were years of pagan persecutions, it is highly unlikely that any bones or even graves would be identified. John died about the year A.D.100 at Ephesus but nobody knows of his burial or could find his bones so it is even more unlikely that Mary's bones would ever be found.

In the Book of Revelation the exalted risen Lord Jesus Christ is seen by John on the throne of Heaven. Surrounding His throne are twenty four thrones occupied by elders and none of them have Mary seated upon them (Rev 4.2-4). Neither does Mary share the throne of God for in Rev.22:3-4 we read of the throne of God in the New Jerusalem:

*"The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face."*

There is a total absence in the Biblical record that Mary is mediating at the throne of God or that she is contributing in any way to the salvation of sinners.

Mary died and her soul is now in heaven while her body remains in the earth like that of every other believer who has died since the day of Pentecost. She is one of a great multitude of redeemed sinners who have died, trusting in Christ alone, and her body will be raised at the Rapture of the Church.

*"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout... and the **dead in Christ shall rise first**: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"* (1Thess.4:16-17).

Soon after becoming a Christian I discovered that my **devotion to Mary was idolatry** and the Roman Catholic Mary in whom I trusted, was not the humble handmaiden of the Lord described in the Bible.

***Tradition or Truth***

**CHAPTER 2 Review Questions.**

1. What did Isaiah the prophet foretell about Mary in the Old Testament? (Page 12).....  
.....
2. The Catholic Church teaches that Mary performs miracles today. How many miracles of Mary are recorded in the Bible? (Page 13)  
Seven miracles       None       At least fifteen miracles
3. According to the Catholic Church Mary has made miraculous appearances on earth. What has been the result of these appearances? (Page 14).....  
.....
4. Mary is called the *Queen of Heaven* in the Catholic Church. Who is the *Queen of Heaven* in the Old Testament book of Jeremiah? (Page 15).....
5. When a Christian prays their prayers should be to. (Page 17)  
Any Saint       God and Mary       God alone thro' Christ
6. The Church teaches that Mary is mediator in Heaven. (Page 17) .  
In light of 1 Timothy 2:5, is this True  or False
7. It has been claimed that Mary was sinless. (Page 18) . Is this  
True  or False
8. Is it Biblical to pray repetitive prayers to Mary such as when the Rosary is used? (Page 22) .....
9. According to the Bible, did Mary remain a virgin after she gave birth to Jesus? Give reasons why or why not. (Page 24).....  
.....  
.....
10. Devotion to Mary is: I \_ \_ \_ t \_ y. Fill in the blank letters. (Page 25)

## CHAPTER 3 - Sacred Images and Statues

*“Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt **not make unto thee any graven image**, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt **not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them**” (Exodus 20:3-5).*

**S**tatues of Jesus and the “saints” were a normal part of my Catholic faith as I grew up. We had a religious statue in our home as well as crucifixes and images of Mary. There were statues in the Catholic schools and churches where I attended and there was always an image of Jesus on the cross and statues of Mary. At times we would pay for candles that were sold in the church and then light them and leave them before the statue of Mary as we directed our prayer requests to her.

As a devout Catholic I saw nothing wrong at all in praying and kneeling before a statue but when I became a Christian God’s Word revealed to me that in fact I had been involved in idolatry. Bowing before an image is idolatry in God’s eyes and it is expressly **forbidden in the Scriptures**.



The Catholic Church sanctions the use of statues of Mary, Joseph and Jesus as well as statues of multitudes of the “saints” and even of their popes.

The *Vatican Insider* reported in past years on the world’s largest statue of Pope John Paul II which was erected in Czestochowa, Poland:

*“The city of Czestochowa is a popular destination for Catholic pilgrims who go there **to pray before the black Madonna painting**. The statue of John Paul II weighs 10 tons and is 13.8 metres tall...During the inauguration ceremony the statue was blessed by the Archbishop of Czestochowa” ([www.vaticaninsider.com](http://www.vaticaninsider.com)).*

No doubt many Catholics will flock to this statue to bring their petitions before the late Pope.

## *Tradition or Truth*

Throughout the world, **wherever a Catholic Church is built, idolatry is introduced to the region in the form of statues, images and the Mass.**

When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments he warned about the consequences of idolatry.

*“Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image”* (Exod.20:3).



The Catholic Church has completely ignored this command; although it is in the Catholic Bible, the Second Commandment is totally removed from the **Catechism** of the Catholic Church. (See: Section 2, *The Ten Commandments, Catechism of the Catholic Church* at [www.vatican.va/archive/ccc](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc))

However, although the Catholic Church has removed the Second Commandment (Exod.20:4-5) from its Catechism, it still has Ten Commandments. It does this by dividing the Tenth Commandment into two separate Commandments, (Exod.20:17). It is a serious thing to deceive people by taking away from God's Word (Deut.4:2; 12:32).

The nation of Israel came under severe judgment from the Lord **because of their continual idolatry.** In fact the Lord sent them into captivity for seventy years in order to cure them of their idolatrous practices (Jeremiah ch.25:4-12).

Throughout the Bible there are multiple warnings against idolatry, Deut.4:16-18; 7:25-26, Isaiah 31:7; 44:6-20; 45:20; 46:6-7; Jer.10.2-5, 51.17-18, Dan.5:23; Hab.2.18-19; Psa.115:4-8; Rom.1:22-23; Col.3:5; 1 John 5:21; Rev.9:20-21.

Many Catholics, including clergy, are ignorant of the fact that worshipping idols and the false sacrifice of the Mass, puts them under the dangerous influence of demonic forces.

Paul warned us about the false sacrifices of the Gentiles:

*“What say I then? that **the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?** But I say, that the things which the*

*Gentiles sacrifice, **they sacrifice to devils**, and not to God: and I would not that you should have fellowship with devils. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils” (1Cor.10:19-21).*

At the Mass, the host is held up by the priest as the literal body of Jesus; as **a sacrifice to be worshipped: this is idolatry.**

Every Easter a Monstrance is placed on the altar in Catholic Churches for people to adore. A Monstrance is a vessel **shaped like the sun** and within its center is placed a communion host for Roman Catholics to venerate. Catholics kneel before this golden sun believing that in the centre of the sun, is the body of Jesus in the communion host. Satan has corrupted the truth of the Gospel and even has an idolatrous sun image for Catholics to venerate at the time they celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ.



The Christian faith from its very beginnings was in opposition to idolatry. In Acts 19 we read that Paul preached in Ephesus over a period of two years and his preaching had an effect on the whole of Asia. Many turned from lifeless idols to the living God. The economy of Ephesus had many who made idols and when the people abandoned idolatry the economy of Ephesus began to suffer (Acts 19.23-27).

Catholics should abandon their idols and place their faith in Jesus Christ alone and be like the Thessalonian Christians who *“turned to God **from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven”** (1Thess.1:9-10)*

### *Australian Catholic Idolatry*

In Australia Catholic idolatry is still promoted in every Catholic Church and school. The Convent of the Sisters of St Joseph at North Sydney is considered by many Catholics to be a very special place. Within the grounds of the convent is a museum dedicated to Mary MacKillop who was made Australia’s first Catholic “Saint” by Pope Benedict XVI. The Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel stands next to the convent. Her remains have been placed in the Chapel.



## *Tradition or Truth*

Mary was one of the Sisters of St Joseph and died in 1909. After only four years as a nun she was excommunicated by the Church when she exposed sexual abuse of children by a Catholic priest. The bishop responsible reinstated her from his deathbed and in 2009 the Archbishop of Adelaide, Phillip Wilson publicly apologized for her wrongful excommunication.



In the North Sydney Chapel Catholics come to **kneel and pray to Mary MacKillop** at her tomb. Kneelers can be seen each side of her tomb. On the Mary MacKillop internet site there is the Prayer Space section which says

“Pause and share with Mary the longings of your heart. Ask her to intercede to God on your behalf for your needs and the needs of our world.”

In the Chapel one can view a vessel containing a relic of Mary MacKillop. The relic is a single strand of her hair and nearby are the words: “We can venerate this relic of St Mary”. Part of her nun’s habit can also be viewed inside the museum.

Scripture prohibits communicating with the dead which the Bible calls **necromancy**, but unfortunately the Catholic Church still encourages it.



The Bible tells us that if a person calls upon the dead (**necromancy**) then they are an abomination to God: *“There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee”*(Deut.18:10-12).

The Bible has numerous instructions on prayer but there is not one verse in the entire Scriptures that tells us to pray to the dead, or any "saint" including the Virgin Mary. Jesus said:

*"No man cometh unto the Father, **but BY ME**"* (John 14:6).

*"I am the door: **BY ME** if any man enter in, he shall be saved"* (John 10:9).

*"If any man thirst, **let him come UNTO ME**, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive"* (John 7:37-39).

The Bible states that there is only "one mediator between God and man"(1 Tim 2.5). Jesus Christ is our one and only High Priest, who ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb.7:25).

### *Idolatry in the Last Days*

The Bible teaches that, in the last days before Christ returns, a world ruler will arise out of the Revived Roman Empire as explained by Daniel in chapters 2 and 7 of his prophecy, who will set up his image and many will be led into idolatry (Rev.ch.13; 2Thess.2:3-4).

Unfortunately the Popes and Priests of Rome are preparing their people to receive for themselves this "Man of Sin" and his idolatrous image. **Idolatry in the Catholic Church will lead many to accept the deceptions of the future Antichrist** who

*"deceiveth them that dwell on the earth...saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should **make an image to the beast**, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto **the image** of the beast, that **the image** of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the **image** of the beast should be killed"* (Rev.13:14-15).

When I trusted Christ for salvation I could no longer kneel before the idolatrous host held up by the Priest nor could I bow before other images. When a person is saved the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in them and their body becomes the Temple of the Holy Spirit. The New Testament commands us:

*"What agreement hath the temple of God with idols?...Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord... and I will receive you"* (2 Cor.6:16-17).

*Tradition or Truth*

*CHAPTER 3 Review Questions.*

1. In Exodus 20.3-5 the Scriptures forbid.....(Page 27)
2. Throughout the world wherever a Catholic Church is built then what is introduced to the area? (Page 28).....
3. Why did God send Israel into Babylon for 70 years? (Page 28)  
.....
4. The Bible teaches in Romans 3:22-23 that there were some that would change the glory of the incorruptible God into an.....  
.....(Page 28)
5. What is the Monstrance which is found on the altars of the Catholic Church at Easter time and how has Satan corrupted the truth of the Gospel with it? (Page 29).....  
.....
6. Complete the sentence: (Page 29) The effect of Paul's preaching in Ephesus was that: Many turned from lifeless idols to the.....  
.....
7. Inside a chapel in North Sydney, Australia, are the remains of Mary MacKillop. Those visiting the chapel are encouraged to bring their prayers to this dead nun.  
Calling on the dead is what?..... (Page 28).
8. Sacrifices to idols are not to God but really to what?  
(Page28-29).....
9. Complete the sentence: (Page 31) Idolatry in the Catholic Church will lead many to accept the ..... of the future A..... .
10. When a person becomes a Christian whilst in the Catholic Church what should they then do according to 2 Cor 6.16-17?  
.....  
..... (Page 31)

## CHAPTER 4 - The Sacrament of Baptism

*“And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and **they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him**” (Acts 8:34-39).*

**T**he baptism of infants is the first of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church some of which, it is claimed, are essential to the salvation of the individual. A search of the entire Bible will reveal that the word “sacraments” is not mentioned once in Scripture yet the Catholic Church teaches that some

*“are **necessary for salvation** because **they confer sacramental grace, forgiveness of sins, adoption as children of God, conformation to Christ the Lord and membership in the Church**” (Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2005, Page 83).*

This statement from the *Compendium* (Summary of the Catholic Catechism) is absolutely false. Salvation is by faith in Christ **alone**. Christ is the only one who can provide forgiveness of sins. Salvation is never found in any sacrament of the church or any religious ceremony. The Bible makes it clear that salvation is *“not of works”*. Salvation is all of grace, it is a **free gift for all who personally receive Christ as their Saviour**.

The Catholic Church is not alone in teaching that infant baptism procures salvation for innocent babies. Some Protestant churches practise this rite also. However, if any church teaches that salvation is provided in an ordinance or a sacrament then that church is in serious error. The Bible states:

*“For **by grace** (undeserved favour) **are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast**” (Eph.2:8-9).*

*“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us” (Titus 3:5-7).*

## *Tradition or Truth*

### *Baptism in the Catholic Church*

The present Pope teaches that baptism in the Catholic Church makes a person a child of God. Pope Francis writes in regard to baptism:

“It makes us members of the Body of Christ and of the people of God...baptism passes faith to our children. In effect, as from generation to generation life is transmitted, so too from generation to generation, through rebirth at the baptismal font, grace is transmitted.” (*The Sacraments of Grace, Catholic Truth Society 2014*).

“Parents are charged with guarding the faith given to their children at baptism....By asking the church for faith for their children through the sacrament of baptism, Christian parents have the task of helping their children to grow so that they “may be witnesses for all of us: also for us priests, bishops, everyone,” the pope said during a Mass in the Sistine Chapel... “I invoke the Holy Spirit upon them and their children so that this sacrament, which is so simple yet at the same time so important, may be lived with faith and joy,” the pope said. ([www.catholicnews.com](http://www.catholicnews.com), Jan 2017)

This false doctrine of baptismal regeneration for innocent babies simply cannot be found in the Bible. Jesus made it clear that little children are innocent when He told the people:

*“Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven”* (Matt.18:3-4).

David knew that he would dwell in the house of the Lord for ever (Ps.23:6) and when his new-born child died he said:

*“But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me”* (2Sam.12:23).



## *Baptism*

The Catholic Church however, teaches that infants need to be baptized to remove the guilt of original sin as the *Compendium* states:

“Baptism is necessary for salvation for all those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed...**Baptism takes away original sin,** and all punishment due to sin” (*Compendium 2005 pages 92-93*).

Whilst every human being is born with **a nature prone to sin**, there is not one Bible verse to indicate that baptism takes away either Adam’s, or our sins, or is necessary for salvation. In Jeremiah’s day the Jews blamed their fathers for their sin. They had a saying:

*“The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children’s teeth are set on edge...”*

But God said:

*“...every one shall die for his OWN INIQUITY: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge”* (Jer.31:29-30).

To Moses God said:

*“Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book”* (Exod.32:33).

The whole concept of children being guilty for what Adam did is unjust and foreign to Scripture. We all stand alone before God and are responsible for our own actions. Sadly, we all have inherited **a nature that is prone to sin** but until we reach the age of understanding we are not accountable. We are not responsible for our parents’ sins and our parents cannot obtain absolution for us. Paul wrote:

*“As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God”* (Rom.14:11-12).

In the New Testament when people received the good news of the Gospel; **that Christ died for our sins and rose again;** they believed on Christ and **then** obeyed Christ’s command to be baptized in obedience to Christ’s command:

*“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”* (Mark 16:15-16).

Those who refuse **to believe** in Christ are those that are damned.

## *Tradition or Truth*

**The repentant thief on the cross was not baptized** yet Jesus gave him the assurance of his salvation prior to his death on the cross. Jesus said: *"Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise"* (Luke 23:43).

The thief was unable to do anything towards his salvation; **he could only look in faith to Christ for his eternal home.**

The teaching of Baptismal-regeneration gives false hope and robs people of the truth of the Gospel and salvation in Christ alone. As a baby I was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church by our local priest. My parents were given the false assurance that I had become a child of God. The simple truth was that salvation was never imparted to me as a result of my baptism. The Bible says:

*"As many as received Him (Christ), to them gave He the power (authority) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name"* (John 1:12).

Faith requires the exercise of the will and a baby is too young to make that choice. Others could not choose for me and after I attained the age of understanding, it was my responsibility to trust in Christ alone to be saved.

There is not one instance in the whole of the New Testament where a baby or infant was baptized. Baptism is always associated with those who have **understood** the Gospel as the following Scriptures will show: Matt 28:19; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:34-38; Acts 9:17-18; Acts 10:34-37; Acts 16:11-15; Acts 16:29-34.

When the Ethiopian Eunuch heard the Gospel preached by Philip he said:

*"Here is water, what hinders me from being baptized?"* Philip replied, *"If you believe with all your heart you may...and they went down, both of them into the water...and he baptized him"* (Acts 8:37-38).

John the Baptist was baptizing at *"Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there"* (John 3:23). That would not be necessary if John was sprinkling those who came. Obviously he immersed them for the Greek word *"baptizo"* means *"to dip or immerse"*.



## *Baptism*

It was only after I had understood the Gospel that I realized I needed to be baptized in accordance with the Scriptures. The Scriptures clearly show that baptism is only for those **who have believed** and is by immersion in water signifying our identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom.6:4-5).

Dear reader, if you are in a church that teaches baptismal regeneration then consider the dangers of this unbiblical doctrine. If you have trusted Christ alone and know you are saved through faith in Him, but haven't obeyed Christ's command to be baptized by immersion, then you should obey Him (Matt.28:19-20).

### *The Meaning of Biblical Baptism*

In Paul's Epistle to the Romans he explains the meaning of Biblical baptism:

*"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life"* (Rom.6:3-4).



After a sinner realizes that he or she is guilty before God and looks by faith to Christ who died for our sin, there should be a public testimony to that fact by symbolically identifying with Christ, in His death and in His resurrection. When Christ died He identified with my sin and when He rose He showed that He would never again identify with sin, but He rose in resurrection life and power.

Similarly, as the believer is immersed beneath the water it indicates that he or she is buried with Christ, signifying that their sin has been taken by Christ and as they rise out of the water, they indicate that they have left their old sinful way of life and now intend to walk in newness of life with Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Christ identified with us on the cross and we should be willing to publically identify with Him in the waters of baptism and then walk in newness of life with Him. Baptism does not save

## *Tradition or Truth*

us but it is an outward testimony **to others** of the unseen work of God's grace that has taken place in our heart.

### *Limbo*

The Roman Catholic Church once taught that babies could end up in a place called Limbo. Limbo was said to be a place where unbaptized infants were excluded from heaven. In 1255 Thomas Aquinas, an Italian Monk, indicated that children in Limbo are aware of their lost destiny but feel no regret.

The purpose of Limbo as far as the Catholic Church was concerned was to force parents to commit their children to the church as soon as possible. The false doctrine of Limbo has caused great grief to multitudes of mothers who have never had their babies baptized prior to their infant's death. They have tragically believed that their unbaptized, deceased babies, would never see heaven. Imagine the unnecessary physiological torment that millions of grieving Catholic mothers have suffered because of the false doctrine of Limbo. **Now, Limbo doesn't exist!**

Years before Pope Benedict XVI ascended to the Papal Office **he had rejected the claim that children who had died unbaptized cannot attain salvation.** In 2007 Benedict authorized the publication of a 41 page document called "The Hope of Salvation for Infants Who die without Being Baptized". Writer for the *Telegraph.co.uk*, Nick Pisa reported:

"Babies who die before being baptized will no longer be trapped in Limbo following a decision by the Pope to abolish the concept from Roman Catholic Teaching."

The discarding of Limbo illustrates how fickle the traditions of the Catholic Church really are. What may be essential doctrine in the reign of one Pope may be discarded under the reign of his successors. Little children below the age of understanding are eternally secure. God's truth never changes and the psalmist wrote: "*For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven*" (Psalm 119:89).

God never changes and His Truth never changes. The very fact that Catholic doctrine can change to suit the mood of the day is a sure indicator that the traditions of the Catholic Church are not the Truth of God's Word.

CHAPTER 4 Review Questions.

1. Salvation is found in: (Tick the correct box)

Keeping the Sacraments  A free gift  Baptism

Good Works  (Page 33).

2. What is the Biblical definition of **grace** and what is a key verse in the New Testament that illustrates grace as being the basis of salvation? (Page 33).....

.....

3. Pope Francis states that baptism passes faith to our children. Tick the correct answer. Is he right? Right  Wrong  (Page 34).

4. The *Compendium* (A summary of the Catholic Faith) states:

“Baptism takes away original sin” True  False  (Page 35)

5. When did people get baptized in the New Testament?

.....(Page 36)

6. In Luke 23:43 the repentant thief on the cross was unable to get baptized before he died. How was he saved? (Page 36).

.....

7. What does the Bible teach about where young children go after death? (Page 34).

.....

8. How many accounts of infant baptism are given in the New Testament? (Page 33).

None  Seven  At least 500

9. What does the Greek word for baptism (*baptizo*) mean?

..... (Page 37)

10. Catholic theology teaches Limbo is a place where unbaptized infants are **excluded** from heaven (Page 38)

a. Did Pope Benedict XVI believe this Catholic doctrine?.....

b. What has the doctrine of Limbo done to the mothers of unbaptized children?.....

## CHAPTER 5 - The Sacrament of Confession or Reconciliation.

*"I acknowledge my sin **unto thee**, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions **unto the LORD**; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah"* (Psalm 32:5).

**T**he Second Sacrament of the Catholic Church is the Sacrament of Confession or Reconciliation.

As a young child in the Catholic Church I received the Sacrament of Confession which was required before I could take my first Communion. I would enter a confessional box inside the church where the priest would hear me confess my sins, absolve me of my sins, and give me penance to do. The penance I received was usually to pray a number of prayers to either God or Mary.

**The supposed advantage of Catholic Confession** is outlined in the following article which can be found at *Catholic Answers* on the internet under the title, *The Forgiveness of Sins*. Quote:

"Is the Catholic who confesses his sins to a priest any better off than the non-Catholic who confesses directly to God? (Their answer) Yes.

**First**, he sees forgiveness the way Christ intended.

**Second**, by confessing to a priest, the Catholic learns a lesson in humility, which is avoided when one only confesses through private prayer.

**Third**, the Catholic receives sacramental graces the non-Catholic doesn't get.

**Through the sacrament of penance sins are forgiven** and graces are obtained.

**Fourth**, the Catholic is assured that his sins are forgiven, he does not have to rely on a subjective feeling." (*Catholic Answers at Catholic.com is an official Catholic Apologetics organization which is dedicated to bringing Catholic teachings to the world on the internet.*)



*Can a Priest Forgive Sins?*

The Bible never suggests that we need to confess our sins to a priest. In the Old Testament, the priests offered sacrifices that simply pointed forward to the sacrificial death of Christ.

*“And every (Jewish) priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man (Christ), after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God” (Heb.10:11-12).*

The New Testament reveals that leaders in the Church are not priests dispensing forgiveness but shepherds (pastors) of God’s flock. There were no confessionals in the early Church. Christ never intended that believers should confess their sins before a priest. It didn’t happen in the days of the Apostles nor in the early Church period.

The whole practice of priests granting absolution and prescribing penance was first defined by Alexander of Hales who died in 1245. He entered the order of St. Francis in 1222 and was the first Franciscan to obtain the degree of doctor and to teach in the University of Paris, which he continued to do till 1238. Having empowered priests to grant absolution from the guilt and penalty of sin, the door was opened to the practice of selling indulgences. See Schaff’s *History of the Christian Church*, Vol.5, ch.13, para.106

Again we must ask the question, If the priests did not grant absolution until the 13th century, how did all the Christians get forgiveness for more than a thousand years beforehand?

By claiming the power to pronounce the forgiveness of sins the priest adopts a mediatorial role between us and God. Christ was the sacrificial Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29) and He is the **only mediator** between God and man.

*“For there is one God, and ONE mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim.2:5).*

Thankfully, because of the death of Christ, we have **direct access** to the Father and we can ask God our Father in Heaven to forgive us our sins. In the Lord’s prayer we are told to ask our heavenly

## ***Tradition or Truth***

Father to “*forgive us our sins*” (Luke 11:4) and when Jesus told the man sick with the palsy, “*Thy sins be forgiven thee*” the Jews said, “*Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?...*”

Jesus replied that He had said it  
“*that ye may know that **the Son of man** has power on earth to forgive sins...*” (Mark 2:9-10).

Only God can forgive sins and  
“*If we confess our sins, **he (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness***” (1 John 1:9).

David prayed:  
“*I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah*” (Ps.32:5).

Most Roman Catholics have no idea of the Biblical teaching of justification. When sinners realise their sinfulness and trust in Christ for salvation, **God justifies them freely and imputes the righteousness of Christ**. Christ’s righteousness is credited to his account.

“*For he has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*” (2 Cor 5:21).

The believer doesn’t have to rely on subjective feelings of forgiveness but on the **sure promises** of God’s Word. **God alone forgives and justifies the believer in Christ**.

“*Therefore being justified BY FAITH, we have peace* (present tense) *with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Rom.5:1).

If a believer sins, we have an  
“*advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and He is the propitiation for our sins*” (1John 2:1-2).

The whole concept of performing penance to merit forgiveness is a works-based system of salvation and the Bible says,  
“*By grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: NOT of works, lest any man should boast*” (Eph.2:8-9). “*The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Rom.6:23).

*We Are to Forgive One Another*

After we have trusted in Christ for salvation God takes us into His family and we become the **children of God** (John 1:12). God the Father forgives us **for Christ's sake** and the Bible says,

*"be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, even as **God for Christ's sake** hath forgiven you" (Eph.4:32).*

This does not mean that we instantly become sinless and while we are in these mortal bodies we will fail our heavenly Father and grieve Him. Christians strive to be *"obedient children not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance"* (1Peter 1:14) but sometimes we will fail and the Bible states:

*"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth **every son whom he receiveth**. If ye endure chastening, **God dealeth with you as with sons**; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, **whereof all (sons) are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons...** Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Heb.12:6-11).*

When we become a child of God, we receive the Holy Spirit of God who dwells in us and **will never leave us (Heb.13:5)**. He is **the guarentee of our eternal inheritance** (2Cor.1:22; Eph.1:14). Our bodies become the *"temple of the Holy Spirit"* (1Cor.6:19) and thus when a Christian sins, the Holy Spirit is grieved and we are chastened by God in order to perfect God's work in our life and conform us more to the likeness of Christ (Heb.12:5-11). Complete perfection will only be achieved when we receive our resurrection body as John wrote:

*"Behold, what manner of love the Father **hath bestowed upon us**, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, **NOW are we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but WE KNOW that, **when he shall appear, we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1John3:1-3).*



## *Tradition or Truth*

In the meanwhile, Jesus said that we should forgive **one another** when we are offended. Peter asked,

*“Lord, how often shall my brother sin AGAINST ME, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven”* (Matt.18:21-22). *“If he repent, forgive him”* (Luke 17:3).

When Jesus told the disciples *“Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained”* (John 20:23), He was **not** suggesting they forgive **sin against God** but against themselves just as the Lord’s prayer states, we are to *“forgive those that trespass against us”*. Only the person offended can forgive the offense and that is why no priest has any power to forgive sin against God. God can forgive us because Christ has loved us, even while we were sinners, and has paid the debt of our sin. We again remind the reader that God now can forgive us **for Christ’s sake** as Paul wrote:

*“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake HATH forgiven you”* (Eph.4:32).

**All sin is against God** and many sins are **also** against our fellow man. To restore a fractured relationship with others I need to ask their forgiveness but I need also to recognize that all sin is offensive to God and I should come to God and ask Him to forgive me because Christ has made that possible through His death on the cross.

No true believer need trust any man or priest for forgiveness of sins. Christ alone is our High Priest.

*“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he has consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith”* (Heb.10:19-22).

Every doctrine that is put before men in the name of God must be checked that it agrees with the Scriptures (Acts 17:11). **There is no Biblical warrant for the Confessional Box or confession of sins to a priest.** In fact the only confession made to priests in the New Testament was disastrous. When Judas confessed

his betrayal of Jesus to the priests he was unable to find any help or relief. He found indifference towards his confession and immediately committed suicide (Matt.27:3-5).

The devastating effects of the Roman Catholic Confessional system in Australia and around the world are well documented by the former Catholic Priest, Charles Chiniquy who wrote of his experience in a book: *Fifty Years in the Church of Rome*, and another entitled, *The Priest, The Woman and the Confessional*.

Chiniquy is not the only one that has warned of the dangers of the Confessional. The abuses and evils of the Confessional were well documented during the Reformation Period.

Paul warned against those that preached another Gospel (Gal.1:8). The Catholic Church continues to preach **another Gospel** with her many added man-made traditions and the confessional box is just one of these. God wants the believer in Christ to know that they are free from all condemnation and the Bible says:

*“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, **who also makes intercession for us**”* (Rom.8:34).

Dear Catholic friend, look to Christ **alone** for the forgiveness of sins and to the sure and certain hope of a home in heaven. Then walk with Him day by day, reading and meditating in His Word and enjoying His fellowship as He leads you through life until the day that you are blessed in His presence.

*Tradition or Truth*

**CHAPTER 5 Review Questions.**

1. Who did David confess his sins to in Psalm 32, and who provided him with forgiveness for his sins? (Page 42).

.....

2. Do Catholics believe that they have an advantage over non-Catholics in confessing their sins to a priest? (Page 40)

.....

3. How many verses in the Bible indicate that we should confess our sins to a priest? (Page 44).....

4. The Apostles were priests that heard confessions of their people.

a. True     b. False  (Page 44)

5. If Priests did not absolve people of their sins till the 13th Century, then how did people find forgiveness of sins prior to the 13th Century? (Page 41).....

6. Roman Catholic priests give penance to their people after they have made their confession. Does the Bible teach that penance merits forgiveness?    True     False  (Page 41)

7. What is Biblical justification? (Page 42).....

.....

8. Write down two Bible verses that show that salvation is a **gift** from God and not a result of works (Page 42)

.....

.....

9. Name three things that happen to a person when they accept Christ as Savior. (Page 42)

.....

.....

10. Finish the sentence on Page 44:

“Every doctrine that is put before men in the name of God must

.....

.....

## CHAPTER 6 - The Sacrament of the Eucharist

*“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do **in remembrance of me**. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, **in remembrance of me**” (1Cor.11:23-25).*

**G**rowing up in the Catholic Church I received four out of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church, Baptism, Confession, the Holy Eucharist (Communion) and Confirmation.

In this chapter we will deal with the Holy Eucharist which is Communion in the Catholic Church, also known as the Mass.

The *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* says:

**“The Eucharist is the very sacrifice of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus which he instituted to perpetuate the**



## *Tradition or Truth*

**sacrifice of the cross** throughout the ages until his return in glory. Jesus Christ is present in the Eucharist in a unique and incomparable way. He is present in a true, real and substantial way, with his body and his blood, with his soul and his divinity". (See *Compendium of the Catechism*, St Paul's Publications, Strathfield NSW 2005, pages 95 and 97).

The *Compendium of the Catechism* of the Catholic Church also tells us on page 83 that the sacraments in the Catholic Church are "**necessary for salvation**".

One of the main reasons I left the Roman Catholic Church was because of the errors of the Sacrifice of the Mass which were explained in a tract given to me by a friend. The tract contained verses from the book of Hebrews.

One verse that really stood out was Heb.10:11. The writer to the Hebrews warned those in his day of Jewish priests who continued to offer daily sacrifices that could **never take away sins**. These sacrifices were ordained by God before Christ came; they were not mere human tradition yet God said in His Word,

*"And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, **which can never take away sins**: But this man (Christ), after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God"* (Heb.10:11-12).

The whole concept of "perpetuating the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages" is a denial of the sufficiency of Christ's "**one sacrifice for sins for ever**". The *Epistle to the Hebrews* was written after the death of Christ who paid the ultimate price for our sins. Christ's sacrifice on Calvary was a complete and efficient atonement for the sins of all mankind, for all time (1 John 2.2).

### *Christ's Death a Finished Work*

When Jesus was on the cross He cried out, "*It is finished*" (John 19.30), signifying the fact that His sacrifice for our sins was completed and atonement had been made once and for all.

Nowhere in the whole of Scripture do we find Communion ever a sacrifice for our sins. Luke records in his Gospel the Last

Supper:

*“And he (Jesus) took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this **do in remembrance of me.** Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22:19-20)*

The bread and the wine were representative memorials of Christ’s body and blood. There is no way the disciples could have taken the Lord’s words to mean His literal flesh and blood while He was with them. The Roman Catholic Mass is a denial of the finished work of Christ on the cross for our sins. The Lord’s supper which the Lord instituted was a **remembrance** feast to emphasize the importance of the sacrifice that Christ was about to offer on the cross.

### *The Mass not Found in Scripture*

In Catholic theology, it is claimed that Peter was the first Pope yet Peter **makes no mention** in his Epistles of the Mass.

The Apostle Paul is highly regarded by many Catholics and he writes about the Lord’s Supper in his *First Epistle to the Corinthians* but never gives instructions to celebrate the sacrifice of the Mass. Paul writes:

*“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: **this do in remembrance of me.** After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: **this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.** For as often as ye eat this **bread**, and drink this **cup**, ye do shew (proclaim) the Lord’s death till he come” (1 Cor.11:23-26).*

Biblical Communion was a **memorial** of what Jesus Christ has done for us in shedding his blood for our sins. It reminds us of His once-for-all sacrifice until He returns.

In Catholic theology the priest claims the power to turn the bread and the wine into the body and blood of the Lord Jesus and

## *Tradition or Truth*

then to offer it as a sacrifice. This is called “Transubstantiation” which means that the Roman Catholic priest offers Christ on a sacrificial altar for the sins of the people and the wafer and wine are changed into the actual body and blood of Christ.

However, the Lord Jesus ascended **bodily into the heavens** where He sits at the right hand of the Father and no priest has the power to bring Him, or any part of Him, back from heaven to earth to re-sacrifice Him for the sins of any person.

### *The Mass is Idolatry*

**The Mass is not only a denial of Christ’s finished work on the cross but it is also idolatry.** God hates idolatry and will punish all idolaters that do not receive the forgiveness available in Christ alone. The Bible says:

*“...idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev.21:8).*



The communion wafer and the contents of the golden cup become idols before the people in the Mass. The laity are encouraged to kneel before the communion elements in worship as they are told it contains the real body and blood of Jesus Christ.

The *Compendium of the Catechism* of the Catholic Church actually states on page 97:

*“The worship due to the sacrament of the Eucharist, whether during the celebration of the Mass or outside it, is the worship of latria, that is the adoration given to God alone... The church encourages the faithful to make frequent visits **to adore the Blessed Sacrament** reserved in the Tabernacle”. (Note: Every Catholic Church has a Tabernacle behind the altar where they keep the Blessed Sacrament, which is the Communion Wafer.)*

According to Catholic teaching the Communion Host in the Mass is to be **worshipped as God**. This is a grave error. **The sincere Roman Catholic is turned by their priests, who claim to represent God, to idolatry.** They are turned from the true



sacrifice of Christ to a false sacrifice that can never, ever remove their sins.

The priests who claim to represent God, are in fact being used by Satan to deceive millions into embracing idolatry and a false Gospel. Paul warned Timothy that in the last days there would be those bringing false teaching to the people.

*“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats**, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth” (1Tim.4:1-3).*

### *Eating Christ's Flesh*

Roman Catholics take literally the words of Jesus in John chapter 6 when He said:

*“Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you” (John 6:53).*

But they ignore Jesus' explanation which He gave to those who had difficulty understanding Him:

*“Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?*

*When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? **What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?** It is the spirit that quickeneth; **the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life**” (John 6:60-63).*

Jesus pointed out He would **physically ascend into heaven** and therefore nobody could eat His literal flesh! After Jesus rose from the dead He appeared to the disciples and said:

*“Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; **for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.** And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet” (Luke 24:38-40).*

## *Tradition or Truth*

The words that Jesus spoke in John's Gospel chapter 6 were to be taken in a spiritual sense as the context indicates. He had just likened Himself to the "manna" that came down from heaven for Israel when they came out of Egypt and said:

*"I am the living bread that came down from heaven"* (John 6:51).

The manna was bread from heaven for Israel in the wilderness and was an illustration of the fact that Jesus came from heaven and *"the Word was made flesh"* (John 1:14) who would ascend back to heaven *"where he was before"* (John 6:62). They could not eat His flesh while He was with them nor could they when He returned to heaven. The people knew it was impossible to literally eat His flesh or drink His blood and His words had a spiritual message.

### *History Denies the Mass*

A quick view of Church history will show that the Mass was unknown in the early Church. There is no record that Jesus, Peter, Paul, John, Timothy, nor any other disciple, ever celebrated the Mass. **The Mass did not become an official doctrine until the Lateran Council in 1215** under the direction of Pope Innocent III. If the Sacrament of the Eucharist is so essential to the salvation of souls how did men get to heaven during the more than 1,000 years before the Church proclaimed it to be a sacrifice of Christ's body?

From 1545 - 1563 The *Council of Trent* was held. This was a Roman Catholic Council held in an attempt to destroy the progress of the Protestant Reformation. It approved many of the unbiblical beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church. In Canon 1 of the *Council of Trent* it is stated.

*"If anyone shall deny that the body and blood together with the soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore entire Christ, are truly, really and substantially contained in the sacrament of the most holy Eucharist, and shall say that he is in it only as a sign, or in a figure, or virtually-- let him be accursed"*.

As a consequence, the Roman Catholic Church has persecuted many that have opposed their false doctrines over the years. In fact **millions have been murdered** by the Church for

standing up for Biblical truth or even for translating and printing the Bible. Inquisitions have been organized by the Church against those suspected of opposing the errors of the Mass.

If the Bible teaches that the sacrifices of the Old Testament could **never take away sins** but only looked forward to Christ's sacrifice, how can the Catholic Church claim that the sacrifices of the Mass, which have no Biblical basis, be efficacious, especially when we remember **the Mass did not become a doctrine of the Church until more than 1,000 years after Christ had died?** We ask again, If the Mass is an essential sacrament for salvation since AD1215, how did anyone obtain salvation before that date?

Search the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and **you will not find one verse** that states that participating in the Mass will cleanse your heart from sin.

Dear Catholic Friend, look to Christ **alone** for the full and final sacrifice for all your sins and not to the priests or the Mass, .

*“By the which will we are sanctified through **the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.** And every (Jewish) priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can **never take away sins:** But this man (Jesus Christ), after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever,** sat down on the right hand of God” (Heb.10:10-12).*

Christ completed the work on the cross and all that remains is to acknowledge that you are a guilty sinner before God and trust in Christ for His perfect pardon and then you will be made a child of God with complete security and assurance of eternal life and heaven.

***Tradition or Truth***

**CHAPTER 6 Review Questions.**

1. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that the sacraments in the Catholic Church are necessary for salvation. Does the Bible teach that sacraments are necessary for salvation?

(Page 48) .....

2. Fill in the blank words, Page 48:

“The whole concept of perpetuating the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages is a ..... of the sufficiency of Christ’s one ..... for sins forever.”

3. When Jesus cried out from the cross “*It is finished*”, He announced that His sacrifice for the sins of the world was complete and atonement for sins had been made once and for all.

True  False  (Page 48).

4. How many times do we see the Mass celebrated by a priest in the Bible? (Page 53) .....

5. Finish the Sentences Page 50

a. The Mass is not only a d..... of Christ’s finished work on the cross but it is also i.....

6. The communion wafer and the contents of the golden cup become idols before the people at Mass (Page 45) True  False

7. Finish the sentence Page 50.

“The sincere Roman Catholic is turned by their priests who claim to represent God, to .....”

8. When did the Mass become an official doctrine of the Catholic Church? (Page 52).....

9. Finish the Sentence, Pages 52-53.

“millions have been murdered by the Church for standing up .....”

## CHAPTER 7 - The Sacrament of Confirmation

*“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also **after that ye believed**, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is **the earnest (guarantee) of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession (our body), unto the praise of his glory” (Eph.1:13-14).*

**A**s already indicated, I received four out of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church during my childhood: Baptism (Christening), Confession, the Holy Eucharist (Communion) and Confirmation. In this chapter I would like to deal with the sacrament of Confirmation.

In Australian Roman Catholic Churches many children at the age of twelve are confirmed in parish churches by the local Bishop. The *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* pages 90 and 94 says:

*“Christian initiation is accomplished by means of the sacraments which establish the foundations of Christian life. The faithful, born anew by Baptism, are strengthened by Confirmation and then nourished by the Eucharist... The effect of Confirmation is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit like that of Pentecost. The original minister of Confirmation is the Bishop.”*

*R.E.Source*, an on-line initiative of the *Catholic Education Office Melbourne*, provides details of the sacrament of Confirmation:

*“Confirmation seals us with the Holy Spirit, strengthens us for service, invites us to, and equips us for, witness to Christ. The actions of the sacrament of Confirmation are two-fold. Firstly the Bishop extends his hands over the heads of those to be confirmed and **calls the Holy Spirit upon them**. Then the candidates come before the Bishop who anoints each one’s forehead with Chrism (concentrated perfumed olive oil) and pronounces the words: “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit” ... **Through the agency of the bishop**, it is the Holy Spirit who strengthens us, inspires us, encourages us to*

## *Tradition or Truth*

be able to live as those who consciously turn to Christ as the source of their life.”

The sacrament of Confirmation like the sacrament of the Mass is not found in the Bible and presents several distortions to the truth of the Gospel.



### *The Holy Spirit Received When We Believe*

Biblically, a person today receives the gift of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. When a person trusts Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour they have the assurance from God’s Word that the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in them (John 14.16, 1 Cor 6.19-20).

No one is saved or receives the Holy Spirit as a result of any man-made ordinance of the Church. Salvation comes through faith in Christ alone.

*“For by **grace** are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift** of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”* (Eph.2:8-9).

The bishops or priests of Rome, or any other Church, are unable to exercise any Divine powers that enable them to impart the Holy Spirit to other individuals.

Unfortunately multitudes of Catholic clergy do not even possess the Holy Spirit themselves because they have never been converted to Christ. They are trapped in a false system that leads many away from faith alone in the saving work of Christ. The bishops, priests and cardinals in the Roman Catholic leadership continue to make sacrificial offerings in the Mass whilst being ignorant of **the one sacrifice** that can cleanse them from all sin.

*“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man*

## Confirmation

*(Jesus), after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God” (Hebrews 10:11-12).*

When Paul communicated with the Ephesian believers he helped them to understand the process of conversion which included receiving the Holy Spirit.

*“That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom **ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also **after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise**, Which is the earnest (guarantee) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory” (Eph.1:12-14).*

As we look at the passage above we can see how people are converted:

1. The Gospel, or Good News of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection, is proclaimed through the preaching of the Word of God to the unsaved.

2. The sinner believes on Christ and receives Him as Saviour.

3. The believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit when he/she believes. No baby can believe when sprinkled but God seals all **believers** as soon as they consciously **trust Christ** for salvation and this is the **guarantee** of our eternal inheritance.

The Bible says:

*“God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should **NOT PERISH**, but **HAVE everlasting life**” (John 3:16).*

Every saved person is assured of everlasting life and of resurrection to life when they will receive a new body like Christ’s resurrection body (1 Thess.4.15-17; Phil.3:21).

The Catholic Church will point to several Scriptures which indicate that the Apostles laid hands on individuals in order for them to receive the Holy Spirit but this was only at the beginning of the Church. The Holy Spirit came on **Jewish disciples** on the Day of Pentecost at the Church’s beginning. Israel had rejected her Messiah and God was turning to the Gentiles. The ability to lay hands on people to receive the Holy Spirit and to perform miracles was **foundational** to the Church and did not continue.



## ***Tradition or Truth***

### ***A False Assurance***

Confirmation in the Catholic Church, and other churches, gives the one who is being confirmed a false assurance that they are a child of God and that they now possess the Holy Spirit. **Assurance of our salvation** can never be received from a Bishop administering an ordinance of the church but comes to the believer through faith in God's dear Son, the promises of God in His Word, and the Holy Spirit Himself who

*"bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God"*  
(Rom.8:16).

The Apostle John wrote to Christians in his day to show them that they could have assurance of salvation in Christ. He made no mention of any tradition of the church:

*"And this is the record, that **God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know THAT YE HAVE eternal life"** (1 John 5:11-13).*

If we have received Christ into our heart by faith **then we have Christ and eternal life**. Receiving Christ is the same as believing:

*"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, **even to them that believe on his name"** (John 1:12).*

As outlined previously the Catholic Church teaches that the faithful are born anew by infant baptism, strengthened by confirmation and then nourished by the Eucharist. (Compendium page 90).

No one is born again because of baptism or strengthened by the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation. A baby is incapable of believing on Christ when christened so there is nothing to confirm when older.

*"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God"*  
(Rom.10:17).

A person must be capable of hearing and understanding the way of salvation in God's Word in order to believe. A person's faith in Christ is confirmed by the work of the Holy Spirit Himself

changing our desires and behaviour:

*“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2Cor.5:17).*

In addition, the Holy Spirit will witness with our spirit, giving us an inward assurance, that we are indeed a child of God.

*“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that **we are** the children of God” (Rom. 8:16).*

The sacrament of Confirmation can add nothing to the work of the Holy Spirit that takes place the moment a sinner places his complete trust in Christ for salvation.

### *Little Children are Innocent*

Little children are safe in the kingdom of God until they come to the age of understanding when they must choose to accept Christ or reject Christ. Jesus said:

*“It is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish”(Matt.18:14).*

Babies were not christened when Jesus spoke those words.

### *After Conversion What?*

Having understood the Gospel that we are sinners in God’s sight, but that Christ took the wrath of God on the cross when He *“bore our sins in His body on the tree”* (1Peter 2:24) and having called on the Lord to save us, the Christian should obey the Lord in believer’s baptism and continue by the Holy Spirit’s power to live a life well pleasing to Him. (Galatians 5:22-26)

A fruitful life lived in the Holy Spirit’s power will confirm to a lost world the reality of the living Christ in us.

*“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light” (Col.1:9-12).*

***Tradition or Truth***

**CHAPTER 7 Review Questions.**

1. How many sacraments does the Catholic Church have?  
(A) 2  (B) 7  (C) 12
2. How many times are the sacraments of Confirmation and the Mass found in the Bible? (See page 56).  
.....
2. How does the Catholic Church say a person can receive the Holy Spirit? (Page 55).....  
.....
4. According to the Bible, when does a person receive the Holy Spirit ? (Page 56) .....  
.....
5. The Bible teaches that nobody can receive salvation by any religious observance or sacrament.  
True  False  (Read Page 56).
6. Read Ephesians chapter 2 verses 8 to 9 on page 56 and finish the sentence: We are saved by .....  
.....
7. Why are there so many unconverted priests in the Catholic Church? (Page 56).....
8. What are the ingredients of a true conversion to Christ as outlined in Ephesians 1:12-14 ? (Page 57).....
9. The first Epistle of John chapter 5 and verses 11 to 13 on page 52 states that every genuine believer in Christ can have assurance of eternal life: True  False
10. When we believe in Christ for salvation, how does God the Holy Spirit confirm that we are a child of God? Page (53).....  
.....

## CHAPTER 8 - The Sacrament of Holy Orders

*“A bishop then must be blameless, **the husband of one wife**, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre (money); but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that **ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection** with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule **his own house**, how shall he take care of the church of God?) (1Tim.3:2-5).*

**T**he sixth sacrament of the church is **Holy Orders**. In this sacrament men are incorporated into the life of the Church as bishops, priests and deacons. *Catholic Online*, (an internet Catholic information service) comments on the role of priests:

“If Christ wished to live on and continue his work in the Church, the first thing he had to do was to provide for the continuance of his sacerdotal and mediatory function. Above all, if Christ wished to renew the sacrifice of the Cross throughout the ages and all over the world as the sacrifice of the New Law in the Holy Mass, **he had to allow other men to share in his priesthood**. For if there is to be a true sacrifice, there must be a priesthood ordained and authorized by God from whose hands God will accept the sacrifice... The priesthood is ordained in the first place for the offering of sacrifice and therefore for the solemnization of the Church’s formal worship.”

This statement makes it clear that every priest is considered a mediator between the Catholic worshipper and God and that priests are ordained to offer sacrifices on behalf of their people.



As a Roman Catholic I believed that the priest was my mediator and so every Sunday I participated in the sacrifice of the Mass. It was through the priesthood and the Mass that I believed I received the forgiveness of sins.

## *Tradition or Truth*

After I became a Christian I realized that the sacrament of holy orders was not in the Bible. In fact Christ never called His disciples to offer the Mass or to say confessions and I stopped attending the Mass after I read in the book of Hebrews that no earthly priesthood could take away sins. Even the priesthood that God ordained in the Old Testament could not offer any sacrifice that took away sins. Those Jewish priests offered sacrifices that were meant to point forward to **the one sacrifice of the Lamb of God** that alone could take away the sins of the world. The Bible says:

*“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man (Christ), after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God”* (Heb 10:11-12).

Israel had a high priest but the Bible teaches that he was to foreshadow Jesus as our High Priest and that His sacrifice on the cross was the **only sacrifice** that could provide full and final atonement for our sins. (Hebrews 4:14 - 5:3). Again and again through the Epistle to the Hebrews Christ is described as our High Priest.

The New Testament indicates that every true Christian is a priest unto God and the sacrifices that we offer are the sacrifices of praise as we read:

*“By him therefore let us offer **the sacrifice of praise** to God continually, that is, **the fruit of our lips giving thanks** to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for **with such sacrifices God is well pleased**”* (Heb.13:15-16).

Peter says the same thing:

*“Ye (plural; all of you) also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ”* (1Peter 2:5).

Never do we find anything in the Bible about a hierarchy of priests in the Church who are to mediate between man and God. In fact the Bible states expressly that Christ is the **ONLY mediator** between God and man.

*“For there is **one God**, and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time”* (1 Tim.2:5).

*Church Leaders are NOT Priests*

The New Testament teaches that God sets aside men for leadership in the Church. The apostles and prophets were **foundational** to the Church (1Cor.3:10; Eph.2:20) and pastors, teachers and evangelists **continue** in the Church (Eph.4:11-13). Paul wrote that Christians

*“are built upon **the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together **groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord**: In whom ye (all of you) also are builded together for an **habitation of God through the Spirit**” (Eph.2:20-22).*

Each believer is a living stone in the Temple of God, and God by His Holy Spirit, dwells in His Church on earth.

The mediatorial priesthood instituted in the Old Testament was made null and void when Jesus died and became the only mediator. The Old Testament sacrifices only **looked forward** to the perfect Lamb of God who died on the cross for the sins of the world. When John the Baptist first met Jesus he exclaimed, *“Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”* (John 1.29).

Leaders in the Church were never referred to as “priests” until the 3rd century, when Cyprian (d. A.D.258), referred to them as “*sacradotes*”, a term totally foreign to the New Testament (Schaff’s *History of the Christian Church*, Vol.2, page 126). Contrary to the New Testament, Cyprian tried to replicate the Old Testament Levitical priesthood in the Church and that’s what the Catholic Church has done.

*Celibacy of the Priesthood*

The normal New Testament pattern of leadership reveals that church leaders are to be **married males** and must also have their household in order.

*“A **bishop (Elder)** then must be blameless, the **husband of one wife**, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; One that rules well his own house, having **his children** in subjection with all gravity” (1Tim.3:2,4).*

## ***Tradition or Truth***

*Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well” (1Tim.3:12). (See also Titus 1:6-7)*

The sacrament of Holy Orders in the Catholic Church allows **deacons** to marry but priests, monks, religious brothers and nuns all must take on the vows of celibacy and this enforced celibacy has done immense damage in the church for centuries.

The history of the Church reveals that celibacy was not practiced in the Church until Pope Siricius (AD 385) forbade sacerdotal marriage and the practice was not legalized until the Trullan Synod in AD 692 (Schaff’s *History of the Christian Church* Vol.II, page 412).

There are many within the Roman Catholic institutions who sincerely believe that in joining the priesthood or the convent they are in fact giving their lives for the service of Christ. In my own childhood our family received love and care from dedicated nuns who helped us in times of need and as a Roman Catholic, I received the whole of my school education from sincere nuns and religious brothers. However, good works does not justify unscriptural practice.

### ***Sincerely Wrong***

The Bible makes it clear that even though people might be sincere in their religious belief, they can be sincerely wrong. When Paul wrote to the Romans he was concerned that there were those who were religious, specifically amongst his own Jewish people, yet who did not really know the Lord.

*“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that **they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.** For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish **their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Rom 10:1-3).***

In Matthew chapter 7 Jesus spoke about those who in the day of judgment will be condemned. They were sincerely religious, but sincerely wrong. They did many wonderful things in the name of Christ, but sadly they never knew Him (Matt.7:16-23).



Jesus said:

*“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matt.7:21).*

The sad thing about many sincere Catholics in religious orders is that, unknowingly, they are not serving Christ or doing His will. Jesus met those who wanted to do the works of God in the city of Capernaum and told them what pleased God. They had asked,

*“What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, **that ye believe on him whom he hath sent**” (John 6:28-29).*

Everybody who seeks to serve God must first know what pleases God. What pleases God above all else is when one places their faith in the sacrificial death of Christ alone for salvation.

When anyone truly trusts Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, God works a miracle in their heart and they are made a child of God. When Catholics are converted to Christ they are immediately at odds with the teachings of their Church. They no longer need a priest to mediate or offer sacrifice to God. Christ is their sacrifice and their mediator. They realize that the Roman Catholic priesthood has no power to forgive sins and that the Mass offered by the priest is idolatry and powerless to bring pardon for sin.

Many Roman Catholics around the world have left the church of their ancestors to join those who faithfully preach and teach the Bible. They have discovered that it is in Christ alone that they have salvation and not in any church system or in any good works that they may have done.

### *The Consequences of Celibacy*

Enforced celibacy in the Roman Catholic Church has deprived multitudes of the joy of marriage which was instituted by God. The marriage relationship was meant to protect men and women from the sins of adultery and fornication.

## *Tradition or Truth*

The Bible says:

*“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge”* (Heb.13:4).

Experience has shown that celibacy in the Catholic Church has caused vast numbers of clergy to fall into deep sin. When any person in a religious order does not know Christ as their Saviour they do not have the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit to empower them to live a holy life. As a consequence, many unsaved, unmarried clergy, un-aided by the power of God, find themselves trapped in sexual temptations which they cannot overcome.

Sexual abuse amongst clergy, even involving children, has devastated many and may be attributed to the sacrament of Holy Orders. Geoffrey Robertson QC published a book in 2010 called, *The Case Of The Pope* in which he documented numerous cases of child sexual abuse within the Roman Catholic priesthood. Robertson states:

*“Sexual abuse of children by priests in the Catholic Church has been at a level considerably above that in any other organization...”* (Page 8 *The Case Of The Pope*, Penguin Books 2010).

*“Clerical sex abuse has not been isolated or sporadic... On the contrary the *Murphy Commission* described it as **endemic in Catholic boys institutions in Ireland**, and class actions in the US have so far netted almost \$1.6 billion for over 10,000 victims... Similar patterns have been observed in Germany, Malta, Australia and Canada...perpetrators have been harboured and helped to evade justice by rules endorsed by successive Popes (*Case Of The Pope*, Page 138).*

### *The Papacy*

Prior to my conversion to Christ I travelled to Rome to see the spiritual capital of my faith. I was excited to be able to stay in the ancient city and visit the many “holy” sites associated with my Catholic faith.

When in Rome, I was able to see the spiritual leader of my faith, Pope John Paul II, and one Wednesday morning, heard a short

address from the balcony window that faced the crowds in St Peter's Square. Along with the assembled crowds, I believed that I looked into the face of God's true representative on earth. I had been taught that the Pope was the true successor of St Peter the Apostle.

In just a few short years after my visit to Rome I became a Christian and I discovered that I had been completely wrong in my estimation of the Papacy. As I became more aware of the Bible it was clear to me that leadership in the Church that Christ founded never had a Pope or an order of priests as is seen in Roman Catholicism, that Peter was not the first Pope, and that there has not been an unbroken succession of Popes ever since.

If you study God's Word you will find that a system of priests was contrary to the practice of the Church in the days of the Apostles and that there are good reasons why Peter could not have been a Pope as stated in Roman Catholic tradition.



*Christ is the Head of the Church*

Peter was not the Universal Head of Christ's Church at Rome nor has any Pope been since. The Scriptures state that Christ alone is the head of the Church and that

*"God...the Father of glory... hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all"* (Eph.1:17,22-23).

Jesus, not Peter, was the rock on which the Church

## ***Tradition or Truth***

is built. When Peter declared that Jesus was “*the Christ, the Son of the living God*”, Jesus said,

*“Thou art Peter (petros, a **small** stone), and upon **this rock** (petra, **great** rock) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”* (Matt.16.18).

It is clear that Jesus was **contrasting** Peter with Himself and not elevating Peter to the head of the Church. Jesus was saying, “Peter, you are only a small stone but on this great rock, **My deity**, I will build my church”.

In the Old Testament prophecies given one thousand years before Christ came, the Lord is referred to as “*the stone which the builders refused is become the head of the corner*” (Psalm 118:22). Psalm 118 is one of 16 psalms that are prophetic of Christ’s first advent and it indicates that Christ would be rejected by the nation of Israel, that He would die, and rise again. For example: “*The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death. Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD: This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter. I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. **The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.** This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it”* (Psalm 118:18-24).

Three times in the New Testament this psalm is quoted to emphasize that God the Father had exalted the One whom the nation had rejected. See Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1Peter2:7. Thus there is no doubt that Jesus was referring to Himself and not Peter as the great rock on which He has built His Church.

### ***Peter Refused to be Worshipped***

Peter knew that he was not to be revered or bowed down to, and he never accepted worship. When he came to the house of the Roman centurion, Cornelius, we read:

*“And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, **Stand up; I myself also am a man**”* (Acts 10.25-26).

*Peter was Married*

Popes, like priests throughout the Catholic Church, are not allowed to marry but Peter was married and Jesus healed his wife's mother who was sick with a fever (Matt.8:14).

Other Apostles were also married because Paul stated:

*"Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas (Peter)? (1Cor.9:5).*

One of the qualifications for leadership in the Church is that *"a bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre (money); but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) (1Tim.3:2-5).*

*Did Peter Lead the Church at Rome?*

If Peter was the first Pope of Rome then it is unusual that the scriptures show that the one who had pastoral concern for the Church at Rome was Paul rather than Peter. In Paul's Epistle to the Romans chapter 16 there is a list of over 20 people who were labouring for the Lord at Rome and Peter is not even mentioned. If Peter was the Head of the Church at Rome then you would think his name would be at the top of the list, or at the very least, that it would be listed somewhere in Paul's epistle. It wasn't.

There is not one word in the entire New Testament to suggest that Peter ever went to Rome. Peter was the **Apostle to the Jews** just as Paul was the **Apostle to the Gentiles**. It has been suggested that when Peter sent greetings from the Church at Babylon to the Jewish believers "scattered"



## *Tradition or Truth*

(1Peter1:1) through Asia Minor, he really meant Rome. It is more likely that Peter was writing from literal Babylon since there was a **large Jewish population at Babylon**. We know that many Jews never returned to Israel after the Babylonian captivity (606BC) and Jewish scholars in Babylon committed their oral traditions to writing in the Talmud before AD 200. The work continued to about AD500.

In the writings of the early Church Fathers, Irenaeus (AD120 - 202), stated that both Peter and Paul preached at Rome and laid the foundation of the Church there but there is not one word about Peter being the first Pope (See *Against Heresies*, by Irenaeus, Book 3, Ch.3). Far from being the bastion of conservative doctrine the Church at Rome soon added to the Gospel of Christ and Irenaeus was sent there about AD170 to correct it. When he arrived he found the Bishop of Rome, Eleutherus, had embraced the charismatic Montanist heresy. Irenaeus wrote:

“Indeed, they have arrived at such a pitch of audacity, as to entitle their comparatively recent writing ‘the Gospel of Truth,’ though **it agrees in nothing with the Gospels of the Apostles**, so that they have really no Gospel which is not full of blasphemy” (*Against Heresies*, Book 3, Ch.11).

So even toward the end of the **2nd century** the Church at Rome had ADDED to the Word of God with their own Gospel which Irenaeus states was in complete disagreement with the Gospels written by the Apostles. The practice of adding to what the Bible teaches has continued through the centuries and now is expressed in the traditions of the Catholic Church. The legacy of the Bishops of Rome has been that they have corrupted the simple Word of God.

### *A Warning of False prophets.*

The Apostle John, writing at the end of the 1st century, warned the early Church that the Antichrist would appear in the last days and that many antichrists had already come (1 John 2:18). He stated that the antichrists in John’s day had come out from amongst the Christians.

*“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us” (1John 2:19).*

The fact that there were antichrists in the early Church should not surprise us because Jesus also warned of false prophets who would be wolves in sheep’s clothing. He warned:

*“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matt 7:15).*

It is a sad reflection on Christendom today that it is, by and large, blinded to the fact that many antichrists are now on the scene, proclaiming their false doctrines to the multitudes. Every shade of error is accepted in the ecumenical church and the “interfaith movement” even dialogues with pagan religions!

### *The Pope uses God’s Name*

For centuries the Roman Catholic Church has given the name of God to the Papacy. Pope Francis, whom the press portrays as a humble man, takes the title of “Holy Father” for himself. The term “Holy Father” is only found once in all of Scripture and it is used by Jesus when He spoke to His Heavenly Father (John17.11). Jesus warned against calling religious leaders by the name of Father:

*“But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And **call no man your father upon the earth:** for one is your Father, which is in heaven (Matt.23.8-9).*

The present Pope presides over a billion followers on this earth and is served by many thousands of priests, bishops and cardinals. He takes the name of God and allows worship of himself. He conducts false sacrifices at St Peter’s in what is really a Pagan Temple at Rome full of graven images and crucifixes. As the Pope, he is also the head of the richest organization on the planet whereas Peter said, *“Silver and gold have I none” (Acts3:6).*

Today’s Papacy is being used by Satan to prepare many in the world for the final false religious leader called the Antichrist and the Beast, who, the Bible says in Daniel chapters 2 & 7, will arise over the **revived Roman Empire** just before Christ



## *Tradition or Truth*

returns. In Revelation chapter 17, John indicates the beast (Antichrist) will be ridden by a harlot woman, “arrayed in purple and scarlet”, “decked with gold and precious stones and pearls” with “a golden cup in her hand”. He identified her as one that is located on 7 mountains and was, at that time (A.D.96), that “great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth”. Rome is the city of 7 hills and ruled the world in A.D.96 (Rev.17:4,9,18).

The European Union is the revived Roman Empire and she has adopted the symbol of a woman, *Europa* riding a beast, is on her coins and in many other places. The evidence points to the Catholic Church as the woman riding the EU to power and the Antichrist will be the final head of the EU.

### *Papal Blessings and Indulgences*

After my conversion I had the opportunity to again travel through parts of Europe. This time I arrived in Rome, with a different outlook. My eyes had been opened to the fact that the Pope was not the spiritual representative of Christ on earth and I now saw that Rome was a place of Massive spiritual idolatry.

Whilst near the Vatican I noticed a store that was **selling Papal Blessings**. Papal Blessings are decorated parchments with a photo of the current Pope and the text indicates a particular blessing or Divine favour granted to the purchaser. Once a purchaser paid for the Papal Blessing the parchment would be delivered to the Vatican where it would be signed by an official and then the “blessing” would be sent back to the purchaser in the country from which they came.

Papal Blessings can still be purchased today as seen at [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia). The Office of Papal Charities receives requests for Papal Blessings. The current cost advertised is between 25-40 Euros depending on what model of blessing is chosen. The Web Site states that the Apostolic Blessing is granted for the following: Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriages, Priestly Ordinations, Religious Profession, Birthdays and Catholic individuals or families. The Archdiocese of Baltimore is advertising Papal Blessings currently on line from from \$15-\$120.

The *New York Times* 9 February 2009 ran an article under the heading, *A Door to Absolution Reopened*. It stated:

“In recent months, dioceses around the world have been offering Catholics a spiritual benefit that fell out of favor decades ago — the indulgence, a sort of amnesty from punishment in the afterlife — and reminding them of the church’s clout in mitigating the wages of sin.”

In 2013 I travelled to Ireland and whilst enjoying an Irish lunch I saw a certificate on the wall near our table. On inspection I found that it was an indulgence obtained from a previous Pope which read as follows:

**“Most Holy Father**

Mr and Mrs P... M.... & Family  
humbly prostrate at the feet of  
your Holiness, beg the Apostolic  
benediction and plenary  
indulgence to be gained at the  
hour of death, on condition that,  
being truly sorry for their sins,  
even although unable to confess  
them and to receive the holy  
Viaticum they shall at least invoke  
with their lips or heart the Holy  
Name of Jesus.”



The indulgence is signed presumably by an official at the Vatican.

History records the story of Johann Tetzel (1465-1519) who was a Catholic German Dominican preacher known for selling indulgences which allow a remission of temporal punishment due to sin, the guilt of which has been forgiven by the payment of money to the church. Pope Leo X made him commissioner of indulgences for all of Germany and it was his activities that stirred Martin Luther, himself a Catholic priest, to protest in 1517 by nailing his 95 demands to the cathedral door at Wittenburg and eventually to leave the Catholic Church.

Tetzel had a large box into which payments could be placed. He required people to confess their sins but had a price for various

## *Tradition or Truth*

sins and claimed that before the money hit the bottom of the box their sins were forgiven. He even sold indulgences for the sins of the deceased.

The whole question of indulgences underlines the changing nature of Catholic doctrine. God's Truth is absolute and never changes. The Bible never changes but Catholic tradition, which may be important to salvation in one generation, can be changed or even abandoned by a later generation. The *New York Times* report 9 February 2009 illustrates this:

“Like the Latin Mass and meatless Fridays, the indulgence was one of the traditions decoupled from mainstream Catholic practice in the 1960s by the Second Vatican Council, the gathering of bishops that set a new tone of simplicity and informality for the church. Its revival has been viewed as part of a conservative resurgence that has brought some quiet changes and some highly controversial ones, like Pope Benedict XVI's recent decision to lift the excommunications of four schismatic bishops who reject the council's reforms.

**The indulgence is among the less noticed and less disputed traditions to be restored.** But with a thousand-year history and volumes of church law devoted to its intricacies, it 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.”

In 2013 Pope Francis issued a decree announcing indulgences would be granted for participants in World Youth Day held in Rio de Janeiro that year.

The entire concept of paying money to obtain forgiveness is foreign to Scripture and **a denial of the Gospel** of Jesus Christ. Peter warned of false teachers who *“through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you”* (2Peter 2:3) and he stated:

*“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were NOT redeemed with*

## Holy Orders

*corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received **by tradition** from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1Peter 1:18-19).*

Dear Catholic friend, we want to point you to the true Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ. He, unlike the Pope, was a humble carpenter and was not surrounded with enormous riches. Jesus said:

*“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head” (Luke 9:58).*

Peter said:

*“Silver and gold have I none...” (Acts3:6).*

The Bible says that for our sakes He became poor and, taking on the form of a servant, became obedient to the point of death, bore our sins on the cross and rose from the dead (Phil.2:8-11). Christ alone can save, forgive sin, and give the certainty of a home in heaven.

The Bible says:

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift of God**: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph.2:8-9).*

The Church cannot save but you can be saved right now. Acknowledge your sin to Christ, place your full trust in Him and what He has done for you on the cross. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and **thou shalt be saved**” (Acts 16:31).*



*Tradition or Truth*

*CHAPTER 8 Review Questions.*

1. What verses in the book of Hebrews show us clearly that the sacrifices offered by priests are never able to take away sins? (Page 62)

.....  
.....

2. What is the only sacrifice found in the Bible that gives complete forgiveness for all sin? (Page 62)

.....

3. In the Early Church, How many priests offered the Mass according to the New Testament? (Page 63)

- (A) 7  (B) 12  (C) 0  (D) 144

4. Finish the sentence (Page 63) "The mediatorial priesthood instituted in the Old Testament was made....."

....."

5. Leaders in the Church were never referred to as priests until which century? (Page 63).....

6. What was Paul's concern about the Jewish people in his day? (Page 64).....

7. Complete the sentence on Page 64. "In Matthew chapter 7 Jesus spoke about those who in the day of judgment will be condemned. They were....."



8. Finish the sentence: "Enforced Celibacy in the Catholic Church has caused....." (Page 65)

9. Give two reasons why Peter was not the Universal Head of the Catholic Church? (Page 67-69).....

.....

10. What difference do you see between the Pope today and the Lord Jesus when He was on earth? (Page 75).....



.....



## CHAPTER 9 - The Sacrament of the Last Rites

*“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens...Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest (guarentee) of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be **absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord**” (2Cor.5:1-8).*

### *Anointing of the Sick*

**W**e now come to the seventh and final sacrament as prescribed by the Catholic Church, usually called *The Last Rites*, but more recently described as *Extreme Unction* or *The Anointing of the Sick*. The seven sacraments begin with the birth of a child and conclude at the time of death. They are designed to give the Church power over the individual during the entire life span as can be seen when we review the seven sacraments.

They are:

- 1) Baptism of infants,
- 2) Confession or Reconciliation,
- 3) Holy Eucharist (Communion)
- 4) Confirmation,
- 5) Holy Orders,
- 6) Matrimony,
- 7) Anointing of the Sick, or Last Rites.

We enter eternity at death and the Catholic Church’s sacraments are designed to assure adherents of entry into heaven but since these rituals are not found in the Word of God but have been added, modified, and changed over centuries of time, they can only give a false hope. Firstly, the priest has no Biblical power to perform such rituals and secondly, if an individual has already come to faith in Christ alone for salvation their eternal destiny is already assured by Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.

## ***Tradition or Truth***

The *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* states in regard to the sacrament of the Last Rites:

“Any member of the faithful can receive this sacrament as soon as he or she begins to be in danger of death because of sickness or old age. The celebration of this sacrament should, if possible, be preceded by individual confession on the part of the sick person. This sacrament can be administered only by priests (bishops or presbyters).

...this Anointing prepares the sick person for the journey to the Father’s house.” (*Compendium pages 102-103 St Paul’s Publications Strathfield NSW*)

Where possible the Catholic priest will give communion also to those that may be in danger of death. The *Compendium* states:

“Viaticum is the holy Eucharist received by those who are about to leave this earthly life ... is the seed of eternal life and the power of the resurrection”. (*Compendium pg 103*)

These *Last Rites* are **not mentioned even once** in the Bible and were not practiced until hundreds of years after the Bible was complete. Sadly, it is the final deception for many Roman Catholics before entering eternity; leaving them with a false hope. If the dying person is able to confess his or her sins, then the priest is there to offer a false assurance of forgiveness based on the doctrines of Rome.

Between death and eternity stands the priest as a mediator, yet the Bible teaches that there is only one mediator between God and man:

*“For there is one God, and **ONE mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time”* (1 Tim.2:5-6).

If the dying person is able to take Communion then the priest is there to administer a false sacrifice that will never take away their sins. The only sacrifice that can remove the stain of sin was made on the cross of Calvary and it cannot be repeated.

Before Christ came, the Jewish priests offered sacrifices for the people which were ordained by God but even these only “covered” sin until Christ, the **Lamb of God**, should come to offer Himself as the one and only, perfect sacrifice for sins.



After Christ had died and returned to heaven the Jews continued to offer sacrifices and the New Testament warned that those sacrifices could never forgive sins:

*“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can **never take away sins** (Heb.10:11).*

The Bible clearly draws our attention to the only One who can forgive sins; the Lord Jesus. He rose from the dead and offers forgiveness of sins to all who look to Him in faith as their Saviour. Nowhere in the New Testament do we find any man given the power to forgive sins against God or to offer a sacrifice for sins. We may forgive our fellow man when he offends us but all sin is an offence against God and only God can forgive us for what we have done against Him.

It was Christ who made the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world at Calvary, perfecting all those that would trust in Him. When He had offered **one sacrifice** for our sins He sat down at the right hand of God.

*“But this man, after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God...For by **one offering** he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (Heb.10:12,14).*

### *Assurance of Heaven*

Years ago I visited a dying Roman Catholic in her home. The priest had gone before me and I presume that he had given her the Last Rites on her deathbed. I quoted John 3.16 to her:

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.**”*

This verse summarizes how all people can be sure of heaven. God wants us to be saved and all can be saved by exercising faith in Christ alone. The *Last Rites*, administered by a priest, could never give this lady the assurance of heaven but God’s Word does. All who turn in faith to Christ for forgiveness of sin have the **assurance of God’s promises** and the inward witness of the Spirit of God that they are the children of God. The Bible says:

*“He that believeth on him is **not condemned**; but he that believeth not is condemned already, **because he hath not believed** on the*

## ***Tradition or Truth***

name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).

*"And this is the record, that **God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.***

*"**He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know THAT YE HAVE eternal life"** (1John 5:11-13).*

We can be absolutely sure of God's promises in His Word. The Scripture is God's Word and *"Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"*. They were given the words of God but the traditions of men have no Divine authority. These have been added by men, many centuries after the Bible was complete in spite of the solemn warning **NOT to add** to it:

*"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, **If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book"** (Rev.22:18).*

## ***Purgatory***

The doctrine of purgatory has long been held by the Roman Catholic Church without one word of support from the Scriptures. Many Catholics have given money to assist departed relatives to be released from the fires of purgatory. In recent times a Pope offered direct access to heaven with no need to go via purgatory if the faithful would visit a "holy site" in a particular year. The Pope had no authority to make such a statement and there is no such place as purgatory even mentioned in Scripture. We might well ask, How would the Pope know whether the departed went to purgatory?

If departed souls must be purged from sin in the fires of purgatory then **Christ's sacrifice on the cross must be inadequate** to make atonement for our sins yet the Bible states:

*"by one offering **He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified"** (Heb.10:14).*

The Last Rites, contrary to Scripture, was introduced long after the Church was formed in AD32 on the day of Pentecost, in fact it became official doctrine more than 500 years later. *Schaff's Church History* Vol.II, page 244 states:

*"At a **later period** we find requests for intercession in behalf*

of the departed when once, chiefly through the influence of Pope Gregory I (AD590 - 604), purgatory became an article of general belief in the Western church."

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* introduces the doctrine of Purgatory in paragraph 1030. It reads:

"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation, but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven."

The *Catholic Catechism* goes on to say that

"the church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God. The church also commends almsgiving, indulgences and works of penance **undertaken on behalf of the dead.**" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Profession of Faith*, Article 12 Paragraphs 1030-1032)

It is simply not true that Christians "from the earliest times" prayed for the dead and the whole concept of a priest offering a sacrifice for the sins of the people was foreign to the Church for centuries as *Schaff's Church History* indicates. History clearly shows that Communion was no more than a **thanksgiving** in commemoration of Christ's death. It was **never a sacrifice for sins** as is claimed for the Mass. Jesus said:

"This do in **REMEMBRANCE** of me" (Luke 22:19).

Paul wrote:

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew (proclaim) the Lord's death till he come" (1Cor.11:26).

The priesthood, and the sacrament of the *Last Rites* which the Catholic Church administers, were never instituted by God and cannot be found in the pages of the New Testament or even of the early Church writings. The *Last Rites* therefore gives a **false hope** to those who are about to depart this life.

## *Tradition or Truth*

All men need to know the simplicity of the Gospel. They need to know that the priesthood cannot stand between them and God. They need to know forgiveness does not come through a confessional but is freely available through Christ alone. They need to know that **the assurance of salvation** does not come through taking Communion but rather being in communion with God **through faith alone in Christ Jesus and His sacrifice** offered once-for-all on the cross for the sins of all mankind. The repentant thief on the cross received **immediate assurance** that he would be with Christ after death as soon as he called on the Lord. When God created man He made him *“a living soul”* (Gen.2:7) in the image of God, but when Adam sinned man became separated from God. Man is body, soul, and spirit, but at death the soul leaves the body for its eternal destiny. The issue that confronts mankind is, What lies beyond the grave, and how can we be sure in this life of eternal life?

The Bible teaches that at death the soul of the Christian, goes **immediately into the presence of Christ** on the merits of Christ's atoning death at Calvary. At the *“resurrection of life”* (John 5:29) the body and soul of each Christian is reunited and thus shares in the victory of Christ's bodily resurrection. Paul described this reunion as follows:

*“For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: **Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body,** according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself”* (Phil.3:20-21).

This event is described in 1Thess.4:16-17:

*“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first:** Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up **together with them** in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*

When an **unsaved** person dies the body lies in the grave and the soul goes to *hades* to await the *“resurrection of damnation”* at the end of time (John 5:29; Rev.20:12-15).

## *The Last Rites*

The Bible reveals that *“all have sinned”* (Rom.3:23) therefore all need salvation. However, *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son”*, the Lord Jesus, to pay the price for our sin when He offered *“one sacrifice for sins for ever”* (Heb.10:12) on the cross. The Apostle Paul wrote:

*“God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans.5:8).

The first thing we need to understand is that though we have sinned, God loves us and desires to bless all mankind. The Bible reveals the character of God and while God hates sin, and is *“angry with the wicked every day”* (Psalm 7:11), He is seeking sinners with the express purpose of bringing them into His loving favour. Peter wrote:

*“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is **longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance**”* (2Peter 3:9).

The problem is that man is incapable of appeasing a holy God and even the best works that we can do are inadequate to assure us of eternal bliss in heaven. Even if I could live sinless from this day forward, God requires that which is past. The Bible states:

*“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all **our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**”* (Isa.64:6).

The Bible clearly teaches that this salvation is offered freely by a loving God. It is a **gift** which **must be received** and which cannot be worked for or earned because Scripture states:

*“By **grace are you saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Not of works, unless any man should boast**”* (Eph.2:8-9).

When I was in the Catholic Church I was taught that I could only get to heaven by my efforts, by confession of sin, attending Mass, and by conforming to the practices of the Church. Some of the seven sacraments were presented as an essential part of my religion and apart from the Church there was no hope. This meant that it was the Church and not Christ, that claimed the power to gain my entry into heaven. Such a concept is entirely foreign to what the Bible teaches.

***Tradition or Truth***

**CHAPTER 9 Review Questions.**

1. Finish the sentence: The Last Rites therefore gives a  
f..... h..... (Page 81).
2. How many times is the Sacrament of the Last Rites mentioned in  
the Bible? (Page 78).....
3. We are all sinners and the only mediator that God has provided  
according to the Bible is? (Page 78).  
Every Priest  Jesus Christ  The Papacy
4. Why is Jesus called the "*Lamb of God*" in the Bible? (Page 78).  
.....
5. The Jewish sacrificial system could never take away sins. (Page 79)  
. True  False
6. What good news is there in John 3.16? (Page 79).  
.....
7. Finish the sentence (Page 82). The assurance of salvation does not  
come through taking.....
8. The Christian does not go to purgatory at death but immediately  
into the presence of the Lord (Page 82).  
True  False
9. Salvation is a free gift from God and is not obtained by doing  
good works. (Page 83). What two verses in Ephesians clearly  
illustrate this?.....  
.....
10. Can a person enter Heaven as a result of faithfully keeping the  
ordinances and rules of their Church?  
.....





## CHAPTER 10 - The Papacy's Future Foretold

*“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities” (Rev.18:4-5).*

**T**he Bible is a book containing many prophecies and many of these have already been fulfilled. Great cities and nations have risen and fallen exactly as foretold in the Bible. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome all appeared in the exact sequence as foretold by Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel.

The first advent of Jesus Christ was foretold in amazing accuracy; **His birth to a virgin from the tribe of Judah at Bethlehem; His ministry in Galilee; even His name.** He would be **despised and rejected** by His nation, **crucified between thieves, buried in a rich man's tomb and rise from the dead after three days.** Many, many more prophecies could be added; all were fulfilled precisely as recorded in Scripture.

Before Jesus went to the cross He told His disciples that He would return to heaven and that 50 days after His resurrection, on the feast of Pentecost, He would send the Holy Spirit to establish His Church. The Book of the Acts of the Apostles chapter 2 records the fulfilment of that prophecy.

Immediately before Jesus died He told His disciples that He would return in the last days (Matt.24 &25; Luke 21). Many prophecies from both the Old Testament and New Testament, describe signs that would appear in the *“end of the age”* prior to Christ's return; **the Jews would return to the land** after being scattered among the nations, then during a period of seven years, **the Jewish nation would repent of her rejection of Christ** and be blessed in the kingdom that Christ would set up on earth.

Prophecies about the Gentile nations indicate that **the Roman Empire would be revived in the last days** and in the final seven years before Christ returned, would be led by an evil personage

## *The Future of the Papacy Foretold*

described in the New Testament as “*the Beast*”(Rev.13:1),“*the Antichrist*”(1John 2:18), “*the Wicked One*” and “*the man of sin*” (2Thess.2:3-8).

This last seven years before Christ returns is called “*the great Tribulation*”, or “*the day of the Lord*” and Jesus said that it would be so horrific that “*except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved*” (Matt.24:22). Isaiah wrote: “*The earth is burned and few men left*” (Isa.24:6).

Jesus indicated that in the final days of history before He returns, **Christendom would become exceedingly corrupt**. He likened Christendom to a woman mixing leaven in three measures of flour “*till the whole was leavened*” (Matt.13:33). Leaven in the Bible is a symbol of evil.

Paul described this last-days apostasy as follows:

*“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that **in the latter times** some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats...”* (1Tim.4:1-3).

*“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night**. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape”* (1Thess.5:1-3).

The final book of the Bible, The Revelation, gives a chronological description of the horrors of the seven-year tribulation. **It begins in chapter 6** with seven seal judgments, followed in chapters 8 and 9 by seven trumpet judgments, and during the last 1,260 days (42 months), by seven vial or bowl judgments poured out on the earth as described in chapters 16 thro’ 18. **In chapter 19 Christ returns** to smite Antichrist and the nations that follow him, and in chapter 20, Christ reigns over the earth for 1,000 years before the earth is finally renovated by fire and there is a new heaven and earth that is eternal as described in chapters 21 and 22.

## *Tradition or Truth*

Before this awful time of judgment begins all true Christians will be suddenly removed at what has been called the Rapture (catching away) of the Church (1Thess.4:17). All over the world true believers will instantly disappear. After the Christians have gone, the nation of Israel will turn to the Lord and preach the Gospel of the Kingdom during the first half of the 7-year Tribulation (Matt.24:14). This is one of the signs that Jesus gave to the Jews that the Tribulation had begun Jesus said:

*“Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come”* (Matt.24:40-42). See also Luke 17:34-36.

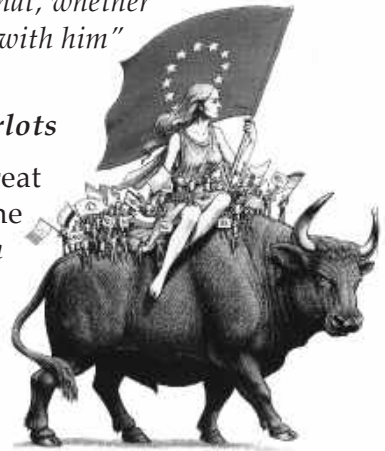
Paul wrote:

*“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness...For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him”* (1Thess.5:4-5, 9-10).

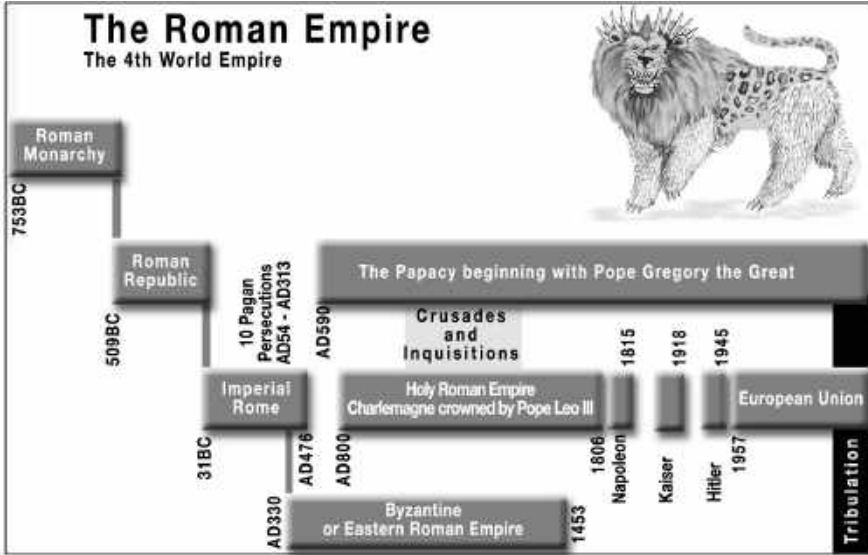
### *Mystery Babylon - The Mother of Harlots*

In the final days of the seven-year Great Tribulation, the Bible describes the judgment of God on “*Mystery Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth*” (Rev.17:5). Who is she?

We know that Babylon was where idolatry flourished shortly after the Flood in Noah’s day, and from there, it spread throughout the world. The tower of Babel was specifically designed for the worship of the sun, moon and stars, and the EU parliament building at Strasbourg has an **unfinished tower to replicate the Tower of Babel** which could not be completed when God confused the languages. The EU flag has the 12



## The Future of the Papacy Foretold



stars of Mary on a blue background and the symbol of the woman riding the beast has been adopted by the EU in keeping with the Greek myth that Zeus turned himself into a white bull to seduce the daughter of the King of Tyre. With the maiden on his back he leaped into the Mediterranean and took her to Crete. Her name was *Europa* from which Europe gets its name.



This harlot woman is undoubtedly a postate Christendom in the last days and is seen riding the Beast (Antichrist's kingdom - revived Roman Empire).

## *Tradition or Truth*

We know from prophecies in Daniel chapters 2 and 7 that Antichrist's kingdom during the last days will be the **revived Roman Empire**.

Daniel prophesied that there would be **four kingdoms** on earth before Christ returned. They were: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. In the days of the **fourth kingdom** Christ would come and smite the nations before setting up His everlasting kingdom on earth (Dan.2:44).

Identification of the harlot woman is made easy by many clues given in the Book of Revelation. chapter 17.

**CLUE NO.1** - The woman is "*sitting upon many waters*" v.1. We read, "*The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues*". v.15. This means she is **international** in her influence.

**CLUE NO.2** - "*the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication*" (Rev.17:2). **Idolatry** is called spiritual fornication throughout Scripture and she has spread her idolatry globally.

The City of Rome has influenced many nations for over 2000 years; more than 30 of the Emperors of the Holy Roman Empire were crowned by Popes. When Pilate asked Jesus, Are you the king of the Jews? Jesus replied:

*"My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence"* (John 18:36).

Within Rome, the Vatican City is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. The Vatican is acknowledged by the governments of the world as a sovereign state. The Vatican is both a **religious and political capital**. Rome exchanges ambassadors with other nations and ambassadors from around the world come to visit the Authorities in this city. The city of Rome continues to exercise worldwide political power throughout the nations. When the Pope visits other nations, he visits both as a religious figure and a Head of State. Over the centuries the Papacy has authorized murderous campaigns

## *The Future of the Papacy Foretold*

against nations yet the Pope is revered and loved by many people when he visits their lands.

Jesus told his true disciples what they could expect from the world:

*“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you”* (John 15:18-19).

Today Babylon lies in ruins but Rome continues to flourish as both a political and religious capital. The Vatican city continues to reign over the kings of the earth Rev.17:18.

**CLUE NO.3** - John saw *“a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns”* (Rev.17:3). The beast with ten horns (Dan.7:24) is the kingdom of Antichrist, the revived Roman Empire, which we see forming up today as the European Union (EU). The woman is **riding the beast to power** and directing the beast.

**CLUE NO.4** - The woman is *“arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, decked with gold, and precious stones and pearls”* (Rev.17:4 - she is exceedingly rich).

Purple and Scarlet: The Colours of the Roman Caesars were purple and scarlet which are the colours still worn by the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church today.

The *Our Sunday Visitor’s Catholic Encyclopedia* 1991 says:

*“..The color for bishops and other prelates is purple , for cardinals scarlet...”* (see pgs 175-178)

**CLUE NO.5** - The woman has a *“a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication”* (Rev.17:4). This cup is an idolatrous cup filled with spiritual fornication. The golden cup of the Mass claims to be filled with the very blood of Christ; the wine and wafer are worshipped and adored. The central activity of Roman Catholicism is the offering of the blood of Christ in **the golden cup of the Mass**. The Church encourages the faithful





## *Tradition or Truth*

to “make frequent visits **to adore the Blessed Sacrament** reserved in the Tabernacle.” (*Compendium of the Catechism*).

The Catholic Church uses Gold or Silver cups for the Mass. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* indicates that the chalice may be gold or silver but if the chalice is silver then the inside must be surfaced with gold. (See *Catholic Encyclopedia* Thomas Nelson, Inc, 1976 pp 103-104)

**CLUE NO.6** - The harlot woman is guilty of the blood of “*the martyrs of Jesus*” (Rev.17:6). According to Richard Bennett in the book, *The Untold History of the Inquisition* **millions of Christians have been put to the sword or burned at the stake by the Catholic Church** through the “dark ages” in Europe. The population of Bohemia was reduced from 3 million to one million in just seven years by Spanish armies sent by the Pope. Those who did not flee were put to death.

The St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre (1572) in France is well known. A targeted group of assassinations were followed by a wave of Roman Catholic mob violence against the Huguenots (French Protestants). The Massacre took place four days after the wedding of the king’s sister Margaret to the Protestant Henry III of Navarre (Henry IV of France) on 23 August 1572, and spread to other urban centres and the countryside. It has been estimated that 75,000 French Protestants were slaughtered. The Apostle John wrote prophetically of the harlot woman:

*“And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with **the blood of the martyrs of Jesus**”* (Rev. 17:6).

Long before the St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre, in AD800, Chalmagne was crowned Emperor of the **Holy Roman Empire** by Pope Leo III and conducted most of his more than 50 military conquests against so called “heretics”. The inquisitions that lasted for hundreds of years also left a trail of blood from Jew and Christian martyrs.

**CLUE NO.7** - We are left in no doubt about the location of the harlot woman’s operations because it is clearly defined in Rev.17:9 where we read that the seven heads of the beast which she rides, “*are **seven mountains on which the woman sitteth***”.



## The Future of the Papacy Foretold

Rome has always been known as **the city of seven hills**. Then just to be sure that we understand that she was located at Rome, John wrote:

*“And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth”* (Rev.17:18).

When John wrote in AD96 Rome was the city that ruled the world.



### The Vatican and the Beast

The relationship between apostate Christendom and Antichrist is clear. At the beginning of the Tribulation, the harlot woman RIDES the beast and guides the revived Roman Empire over which Antichrist will reign. However, half-way through the 7-year Tribulation, The relationship is fractured when Antichrist breaks a 7-year treaty with the nation of Israel (Dan.9:27) and moves into the rebuilt Temple at Jerusalem **proclaiming himself to be God!** He takes supreme control over the EU which at that time will be divided into 10 states or regions, and embarks on a mission to eradicate all religion so that **he alone is worshipped**. So we read:

*“And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall **make her desolate** and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and **burn her with fire**. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and **give their kingdom unto the beast**, until the words of God shall be fulfilled”* (Rev. 17:16-17).



The whole of Revelation chapter 18 describes **the awful**

## *Tradition or Truth*

**destruction of the harlot woman as Rome is burned** and all the financial systems which she controls go up in smoke. The ruthless dictatorial powers exercised by Hitler in WWII will be but a shadow of Antichrist's rule. Hitler's hatred for the Jews, 6 million of whom he destroyed in the holocaust, is a shadow of things to come.

The ecumenical movement today is seeking to bring all religions together in a world Church which will ultimately be controlled from Rome. John in his vision of the future, sees the flames consume Mystery Babylon the Great, the headquarters of apostate Christendom at the Rome and he hears a voice from heaven saying:

*"COME OUT OF HER, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities... How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, **I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning"** (Rev.18:4-9).*

When God appeals to "my people" He is indicating that within apostate Christendom, in local churches around the world, there will be a remnant that has not accepted the false doctrines and traditions of Christendom and God calls them **to separate from the idolatrous system.**

Much has been written about the wealth accumulated by the Catholic Church over the past 2,000 years. Gold looted from countries occupied by the Nazis including gold watches, rings, and other jewellery taken from millions of conquered people including those who died in gas chambers, was laundered through Swiss Banks, the Vatican Bank, and the Bank of Portugal. It is estimated that nearly 100 tons of gold was

## *The Future of the Papacy Foretold*

laundered through Swiss Banks with only 4 tons returned after WWII. The wealth tied up in priceless works of art, investment properties and share investments is so vast it would be almost impossible to value. No wonder the Bible says,

*“And **the merchants** of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet...and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men....**The merchants** of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, ...And **every shipmaster**, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, **What city is like unto this great city!**” (Rev.18:11-18).*

So what should a Catholic do when they come to faith in Christ alone? The Bible says:

*“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?...**what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?**...Wherefore **come out from among them, and be ye separate**, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (2Cor.6:14-18).*

The issues are very clear. The Church has no authority to add tradition to the Word of God, the Papacy and priestly system is unscriptural, the Mass is an idolatrous sacrifice and the whole concept of obtaining salvation by good works is a contradiction of the Gospel of Christ and the grace of God.

If you are a Roman Catholic and you have come to faith in Christ alone, the Lord is saying to you:

*“**Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities” (Rev.18:4-5).*

**For free literature or additional help contact the author, Vince Wall, C/- Herald of Hope, PO Box 4216, Marayong NSW 2148, Australia**

*Tradition or Truth*

*CHAPTER 10 Review Questions.*

1. The Bible has prophecies of the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Write down five prophecies concerning Christ's first advent.

(Page 86)....., ....., ....., ....., ....., ....., .....

2. Name two things that will happen to the Jewish nation prior to Christ's return? (Page 86).....

.....

3. What will happen concerning the Roman Empire in the last days? (Page 86).....

.....

4. The Bible teaches that in the last - days Christendom will Flourish  Become Corrupt  Enjoy a revival  (Page 87).

5. Write out 1 Thessalonians 4:17.....

.....

.....

.....

6. What happens to believers before the seven-year Tribulation period? (Page 88).....

7. The Catholic Church claims that the Golden cup used at the Mass contains. (Page 82)

Water  The Actual Blood of Christ  Holy Oil

8. Many Christians have been put to death by the Catholic Church throughout history. (Page 92) True  False

9. What will the Antichrist do with all religions during the coming Tribulation period? (Page 93) .....

10. What should a Catholic do when they come to faith in Christ alone? (Page 95).....

## THE WAY OF SALVATION

Throughout history humanity has tried to reach up to God through religion whilst others have tried to become acceptable to God by the good works that they do.

### RELIGION & GOOD WORKS both fail to reach God.

Many Catholics are sincere in their beliefs but they are sincerely wrong in thinking that the Catholic Church, the priesthood and sacraments will lead them to Heaven. The Bible says:

*“For **by grace** are ye saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is **the gift of God**: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works...”* (Eph.2:8-10)

### THE REAL PROBLEM IS SIN

*“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...”* (Isaiah 64.6).

*“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 6.23).

### ONLY ONE WAY TO HEAVEN

Jesus said,

*“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”* (John 14:6).

Peter said,

*“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12).

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

### DO I NEED A PRIEST IN ORDER TO BE FORGIVEN? The Bible says, No.

*“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering often times the same sacrifices, which can **never take away sins**: But this man, after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God”* (Heb.10:11-12)

## ***Tradition or Truth***

### **HOW DO I RECEIVE SALVATION?**

*“But as many as **received him**, to them gave he power to become **the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12).*

*“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord **shall be saved**” (Rom.10:13).*

### **CAN I BE SURE I AM SAVED?**

*“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (1John 5:13).*

*“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, **that we are the children of God**: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ” (Rom.8:16-17).*

Individuals become TRUE CHRISTIANS when they realize that they are a sinner separated from God who is Holy. They then SIMPLY TRUST in Jesus CHRIST who DIED on the cross paying the FULL AND FINAL PENALTY for all their SINS; once and for all.

### **GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN**

There are a few things that will help you to grow in the Christian life.

#### **1. Meet regularly with other Bible-believing Christians.**

*The early Christians “continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine (teaching) and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).*

#### **2. Study the Bible**

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim.2:15).*

#### **3. Live a life that pleases God**

*“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more” (1Thess.4:1).*

#### **4. Pray about everything**

*“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Phil.4:6).*

#### **5. Tell others the good news.** Jesus commanded His disciples to

*“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).*

You may contact the author: Pastor Vince Wall,  
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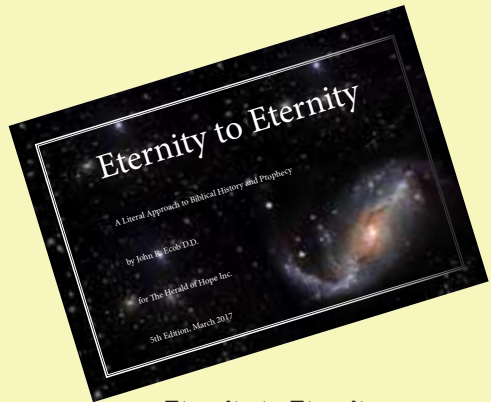
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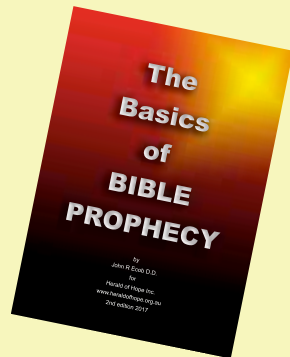
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*"He came unto His own, but His own received Him not.  
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Over many years the Jews added  
man-made traditions to the Word of God  
and when Jesus came He said:  
*"You reject the commandment of  
God, that you may keep your own tradition"* (Mark 7:9).

During His earthly ministry Jesus warned that  
Christendom would begin well but  
men would arise from within her ranks  
who would pervert the Truth.  
The leaven of false doctrine would permeate  
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Those prophetic words of the Lord Jesus  
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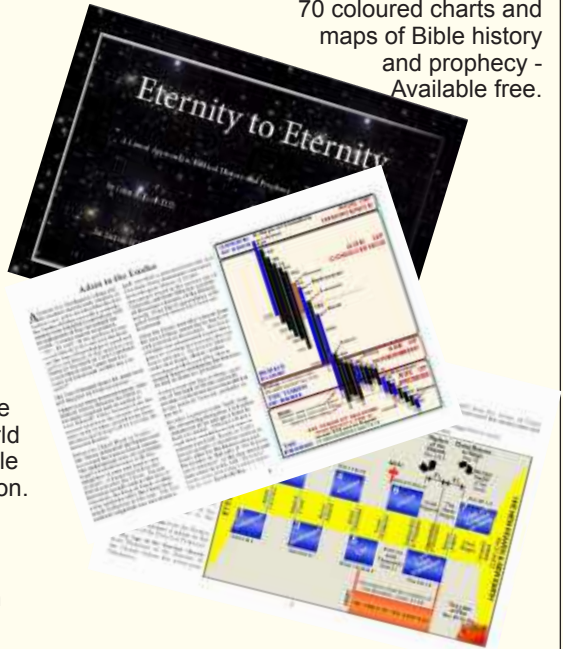
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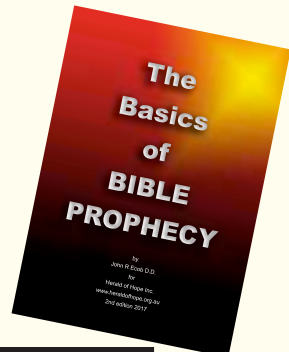
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