



Jesus Knocking at the Door, by Del Parson, © 1983 IRI

# The Catholic Mission Field in Our Backyards

How to help open the eyes of your Catholic friends and family to the  
Truth about the Salvation of Jesus Christ.

By Giselle Aguiar

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# There's a Catholic Near You!

**25%** of Americans call themselves Catholic. However, they cannot all truly call

themselves “Christian”. A Christian is someone who follows Jesus Christ, is born again, and has a personal relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. **Most Catholics don't.** Sure, they know *who* Jesus is as part of the Holy Trinity -- God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Of course, there are a few “Charismatic Catholics” who may be born again, but they still hold to some of the religious rituals of the Roman Catholic Church. Nevertheless, millions of people are lost simply because they've never been told **the truth of the Gospel and the Salvation through Jesus Christ**. Furthermore, they missed the crucial step of inviting Jesus into their hearts.

**Catholics have “head” knowledge of who Jesus is.** They know He's the Son of God. They understand who the Holy Trinity is -- and that's one of the hardest things to explain. Unfortunately, they believe that the Holy Spirit is a distant entity in Heaven and that only bishops, cardinals, and, of course, the Pope have access to Him. They are missing having the power of the Holy Spirit living inside of them -- having a relationship with the Trinity. To me, that is just plain sad. The Holy Spirit is one of the many benefits of salvation.

I grew up Catholic (links to my full testimony are at the end). However, I am grateful that I was never indoctrinated. Thank God the Catholic School my parents wanted to put me in wouldn't take me because they were both divorced, married (not in the Catholic Church), then they had me. In their eyes, I was a b\_\_\_\_\_d child. I did go through catechism, First Communion, Confirmation -- all the motions, nothing accomplished. Yes, that's me in traditional First Communion garb in 1964. And, I'm holding the traditional Children's Missal and a rosary.



All the rites, rituals, and regulations did nothing for me. Hence, when I went away to college, I left the church.

Today, as a born-again Christian, God has put it in my heart to use the spiritual gifts He's given me to reach Catholics (I call them **Halfway Christians**). They have “head knowledge” of who Jesus is, but they don't have “heart knowledge”.

# Where the Roman Catholic Church Went Wrong

**Being a history buff**, I'm fascinated with church history. My interest in church history began with a simple bible study in my church in Florida. I wondered: How did we transition **from the church in the Book of Acts to where we are now?** In my research, I uncovered who came up with ideas, rules, and rituals that became dogmas and doctrine, to truly enslave people in a religion that tries to sell you a ticket out of a place that doesn't exist! That, my friend, is a scam.

My goal with doing this deep dive on where the Catholic Church went wrong (and strayed from the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ) was not to knock Catholics, but to **reveal the truth**.

Now, I do want to acknowledge the good works that Catholic Charities does all over the world. I can't deny that. However, **idolatry with good works and righteous acts is like filthy rags covering up your sin...**

## That's from the Book of Isaiah:

*You welcome those who gladly do good, who follow godly ways.*

*But you have been very angry with us, for we are not godly.*

*We are constant sinners; how can people like us be saved?*

*We are all infected and impure with sin.*

*When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.*

*Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.*

*Yet no one calls on your name or pleads with you for mercy.*

*Therefore, you have turned away from us and turned us over to our sins. (Isaiah 64:5-7 NLT)*

It's like telling a judge that you'll gladly give 10% of your take from a bank heist and donate it to charity if they'll give you a get-out-of-jail-free card. **It just doesn't work that way.**

## There's a Catholic Near You

Everybody knows or is related to a Catholic person. Knowing about even a few of these "fabrications" will help you better talk to your friend or relative and **at least get them thinking**. You want to stick a pebble in their shoe.

In researching books and websites on Roman Catholic Church history, I couldn't find anything on who or when baby baptism was invented. It wasn't until I was doing research for an article for my series on

World Religions and Paganism that I discovered it originated from an ancient, pagan practice by the Druids.

### **You want them to start thinking: *Am I Missing Something?***

So that the next time they are attending Mass, and they look around at all the statues and candles, and smell the incense, they will wonder if they are in the wrong church. Moreover, they will be curious enough to start ***reading the Bible daily*** so they can discover the truth for themselves. Get them to start questioning what they are hearing and learning in the church. As they look around at the statues of Mary and the saints, they'll start seeing them as the **idolatry that God detests**.

You're probably not going to get them to say the sinner's prayer right then and there. Or start attending your church. Again, ***you just want to put a pebble in their shoe***. It'll be an annoying sense that ***something is not right***.

Pray that their eyes, minds, and hearts are opened to the truth of Jesus' salvation through a gift of grace that no human can ever do on their own. Pray that the Holy Spirit will soften their hearts and open them to the truth.

***There's no heart too hard for Jesus!***

## Pray Before an Encounter

Here are some Bible verses to help you gain strength, courage, and boldness and prepare yourself for facing your friends or family members...

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline (or sound mind).” (2 Timothy 1:7 NLT)*

*“The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13 NLT)*

*“After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31 NLT)*

Holy Spirit, please sharpen and empower my spiritual listening and speaking. Give me wisdom and guidance. Tell me what to say as I speak with \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord Jesus, I pray for \_\_\_\_\_. Soften his, her, or their heart(s) to accept the truth of your Good News. Thank you for your salvation, in your name I pray, Amen.

# Where the Roman Catholic Church Went Wrong

*A deep dive to uncover where church leaders strayed from the Gospel Truth*

## Proven Truth #1: Baby Baptism Absolutely Does Not Equal Salvation!

**I was baptized** in the Roman

Catholic Church when I was 6 months old. In my 30s, I decided I wanted to go back to church. The first church I was taken to, in Miami, was a huge Baptist church. I went to the singles ministry Sunday school, and they kept asking me, “When was I baptized?”



I said, “As a baby.”

“You need to be baptized again.” They would reply quickly.

However, none of them could explain to me WHY I needed to be baptized again. (I explain how God finally led me to an explanation I could wrap my brain around in my testimony at the end.)

### Where did Baptizing Babies Start?

Certainly not from Jesus, Peter, or Paul! In the New Testament, we do not find anything about baby baptism. So why did the church start baptizing babies instead of **new believers** being baptized after they repented of their sins?

I looked through ancient church documents and other online sources, but I couldn't find anywhere who invented it, or when baby baptism started. It wasn't until I was researching world religions for a series of blogs that I discovered that baby baptism is an ancient pagan practice of the Druids.

They would put newborn babies in a running stream to remove any evil spirits!

It seems that as the Roman Catholic Church expanded throughout Europe in the Middle Ages, to appease the Pagans, they adopted pagan practices to help them feel at home. Which is the same thing that Constantine did in the 4th-century Roman Empire. (See Proven Truth #2 next.)

By the 2nd century (100s), the church that Jesus Christ started already practiced infant baptism. All of a sudden, they believed, as the Jews did back in the Old Testament, on circumcision, that you cannot become part of the Abrahamic Covenant without being baptized as an infant.

By the way, we get other pagan practices from the Druids, like Halloween, the Day of the Dead, jack-o'-lanterns, trick or treat, even tree-hugging and nature worship.

## Baby Dedication vs. Baby Baptism

Today, many non-denominational churches do “baby dedications”.

My church has a lot of young families, thus they have baby dedications often. Parents will bring their children up on stage and introduce themselves. The kids could range in age from infants to 8 years old. (There really isn't an age limit.)

The pastor then reads an oath — it's a vow the parents and/or guardians take to raise the child in a Christ-centered home, teaching them the Bible and the truth about Jesus Christ as soon as they can learn. Then the people in the congregation take a vow to assist, as they can, to raise and train these children in a Christ-centered way.

## The Truth About Baptism

John the Baptist performed the first baptisms in the New Testament. “Baptizo” in Greek means to “dip or immerse”.

### John the Baptist Prepares the Way

*It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; ...<sup>2</sup> Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> Then John went from place to place on both sides of the*



*Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. (Luke 3:1-3 NLT)*

## Jesus' Baptism

<sup>29</sup> *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29 NLT)*

<sup>13</sup> *Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"*

<sup>15</sup> *But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.*

<sup>16</sup> *After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." (Matthew 3:13-17 NLT)*

This was also where the Holy Trinity was revealed. Which is one thing the Catholics do understand. So, this is a passage you can explain to them that this was the first time the Spirit came down to earth.

## Early Church Writings on Baptism c. 50-150

### The Didache

The Didache — which means “teaching” in Greek — aka, “The Lord’s Teaching Through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations”, indicates where sprinkling began and why.

*“The text, parts of which constitute the oldest extant written catechism, has three main sections dealing with Christian ethics, rituals such as baptism and Eucharist, and Church organization.” [Wikipedia](#)*

*Chapter 7. Concerning Baptism. “And concerning baptism, baptize this way: Having first said all these things, baptize into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, in living water. But if you have no living water, baptize into other water; and if you cannot do so in cold water, do so in warm. But if you have neither, pour out water three times upon the head into the name of Father and Son and Holy Spirit. [Affusion] But before the baptism let the baptizer fast, and the baptized, and whoever else can; but you shall order the baptized to fast one or two days before.” [The Didache](#)*

Basically, what the writers of the Didache were telling early church leaders is that when you have a new believer, baptize them however you can. First, look for “living water” — a lake, river, the ocean, or sea.

If there's no living water nearby, then any other water — a “mikvah” (Jewish bath), or Roman bath, even a tub or pool. If there are none of those, pour water on them. ***That's how sprinkling started.***

***The problem with “effusion” (sprinkling) is that you lose the representation of dying to your old self and rising anew to your new, reborn, sinless self.***

***Also, you can't ask a baby to fast one or two days before.*** You'll have one cranky baby. That's for ADULTS. ***A new believer should ponder the repentance of their sins, surrender their lives to Christ, and consider what baptism means to them.***

No babies were ever baptized. They were dedicated to God.

## When did the Church Divert?

*“The Christian church knew no form of baptism but immersion until the Middle Ages, when the Roman Catholic church—which itself had previously always baptized by immersion, introduced the practice of sprinkling or pouring. The great Catholic theologian Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) said, “In immersion the setting forth of the burial of Christ is more plainly expressed, in which this manner of baptizing is more commendable.” The Catholic Church did not recognize other modes until the Council of Ravenna, held in France in 1311.<sup>3</sup>*

## What is Baptism?

Baptism is an external symbol of an inward transformation.

[John Barnett explains it very nicely....](#)

1. ***BAPTISM ALWAYS PORTRAYS my new relationship with God.***
2. ***BAPTISM ANNOUNCES MY PLEDGE of allegiance to Christ, as I am baptized into the name of the Triune God, and fellowship with Him.***
3. ***BAPTISM ALWAYS PARALLELS a confession of faith.***
4. ***BAPTISM WAS ALWAYS PART of the obedience of faith. Faith demands action, and an immediate action is baptism!***
5. ***BAPTISM WAS ALWAYS PRESENTED as a command. An unbaptized Christian is alien to the New Testament. Baptism was not an option; it was obedience to a command.***



6. *BAPTISM WAS ALWAYS ONLY FOR THOSE WHO HAD ALREADY PERSONALLY confessed Christ. Only believers were baptized. No infants or children who could not confess Him for themselves were baptized!*
7. *BAPTISM WAS ALWAYS TO PORTRAY purification.* <sup>3</sup>

## **What does the Roman Catholic Church Believe about Infant Baptism?**

Infant baptism is part of the **7 Sacraments** that buy you “grace points” to purchase your way into Heaven.

Roman Catholic baby baptism is the first sacrament on your way out of Purgatory (We’ll dive into who invented Purgatory shortly.)

The Sacraments of the Catholic Church are: *“efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us.”*

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1131)

*The first dose you ever get, you get at infant baptism. That’s why infant baptism is absolutely required because it is the first dispensation of infused grace. And according to Catholic Theology, at that point, grace is infused into you.*

*That grace becomes an energy in you, moving you toward justification, toward righteousness as you cooperate by good works.”*<sup>3</sup>

### **Baptism by itself cannot save a person.**

All baby baptism does is wet the baby.

You have to believe first. Jesus said...

*“Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.”* (Mark 16:16 NLT)

## Why Do Some Protestant Churches Still Do Infant Baptism?

It was from the Catholic Church that Protestant, Lutheran, and Reformed churches inherited the form of sprinkling or pouring. The Church of England (Anglican and Episcopalian) did not begin the practice of sprinkling until 1645. The Eastern Orthodox Church has never permitted any mode but immersion.

*Those three are kind of a little bit Romanistic and Reformed also. Why do I say that? They believe in infant baptism. They believe that you get into the Covenant by baptism. What the Jews used to have circumcision for has become Baptism today. The Roman Church says that God is done with Israel [“replacement theology”] and will never pick up with them again, and the Church has become the new Israel. Circumcision becomes baptism. The priesthood of the Old Testament becomes the priest of the New Testament. The sacrifices of the Levitical system become Mass. Moses and Aaron and the High Priests become the Pope. They have basically taken the Old Testament and given all New Testament names to it and they have built this whole works-salvation thing that the Jews had.<sup>3</sup>*

### “The Three Surprises of Heaven”

Charles Spurgeon wrote about this over 140 years ago...

*“My first surprise in Heaven will be that I get there. [Now, that’s humility!]*

*“The second surprise is all the people that I was sure were going to be there, won’t be. “The third surprise is all the people I didn’t think were going to be there are there.”*

Charles Spurgeon

### My Catholic Family

Personally, I don’t know if my non-church-attending, Roman-Catholic-raised father is in Heaven. I don’t know if my devout, Roman Catholic mother, who spent a year and a half in a Born-Again Christian nursing home, will be there either. Some people I do expect to see there are my Uncle Waldo, my Aunt Blanca, and the cousins, whom I know knew Jesus, my friends who’ve died from cancer and COVID, and most of my church families.

# Giving Satan a Foothold

## Give Satan a Foothold, and Sin becomes like a Cancer

**When biblical writers talk about sin**, they use the analogy of yeast.

When a baker adds yeast to dough, a little bit will penetrate the whole mound of dough. That's what sin is like. Cancer is like that, too.

Not long ago, a dear friend of mine died of cancer. It started as ovarian cancer, but it metastasized — it spread — to some of her vital organs — liver, spleen, and stomach. Cancer is like sin. One little cancer cell multiplies as it feasts on good cells and finally takes over and eventually kills the person.

Sin starts as a little sin that grows bigger and bigger, feasting on good character and morals, until it finally takes over a person's life and eventually kills them.

Look around the world today and think about this. This even applies to the church! It started way back with Constantine in the 4th century, 300s AD. He gave Satan a foothold in the church. He literally opened the door and basically said, "Satan, have your way with the church."

# Proven Truth #2: How Paganism and Idolatry Started in the Church

## As we continue persuing where

Catholic church leaders strayed from the Gospel Truth or God's Word, we have to look at the Roman Catholic Church in two lights: **Pre-Reformation and Post-Reformation**. When Roman Emperor Constantine came on the scene, that's where we first see the unholy blending of pagan rituals and traditions.



*"The least that a study of this kind could contribute to all Christians is to direct our attention back to the days of a purer, unencrusted, tradition-free Christianity."*<sup>1</sup>

William Stewart McBirnie, Ph.D.

## A Brief History of the Very Early Church

### 1-590 – Early Church Times

When you study church history, you must realize that **God's timing was and is perfect**. He sent Jesus into the world at just the right time. He gave us the Holy Spirit and birthed the "church age" in an era when the apostles could take advantage of...

### The Jewish-Greek-Roman New Testament World

- Roman Empire – covered the whole Mediterranean region
- Citizenship – Paul was a citizen of Rome
- Law – Jewish law and Roman law
- Language – Greek (common) and Latin (legal)
- Pax Romana – peace throughout the empire
- Transportation – the Roman roads and shipping lanes – made it easy for Paul to travel
- Moral Decline – the need for a savior<sup>3</sup>

## 30-100 AD – Apostolic Age – through the death of John of Patmos

The Book of Acts tells the story of how the church grew and spread throughout the Roman Empire, but many of the apostles went further. For example, Thomas went to India, and James, son of Zebedee, went to Spain. I recommend "[The Search for the Twelve Apostles](#)" (Amazon Link), 1973, by William Stewart McBirnie, Ph.D., which goes into detail of not just the 12 but of other apostles who helped spread the Good News.

McBirnie also traces where the apostles and disciples ended up — where their bodies are buried and/or where their relics ended up. (I'll get into relics in a bit.)

However, the spread of the church also led to its persecution by the Romans.

## 50-313 AD – The Time of the Martyrs

Several Roman emperors contributed to the persecution of the church: Nero, Trajan, and Decius. Diocletian was the worst. He, in 10 years, almost wiped out the whole church. He killed all pastors, burned church buildings, and Bibles. Portions of Bibles survived because people would tear them apart and distribute them. No complete Bibles are dated earlier than 313 — only remnants.

*"The blood of the saints (martyrs) is the seed of the church."*

Tertullian

That's how the church grew so quickly. Roman soldiers who were killing mass groups of Christians would see how they were not afraid. They sang. They looked up with longing to see Jesus. Many of the soldiers converted.

## The Difference between Romans and Christians

### Romans

- Rome loved power.
- Rome loved powerful gods.
- They considered Caesar their lord -- a god -- divine.

### Christians

- Christians valued meekness and humility.
- Their God died on a Roman cross.
- Jesus Christ is Lord.

So, how did they come together?

## 313-590 AD – The Christian Rulers – the Byzantine Era

This is the start of the “Romanism” of Jesus’ church.

The Christian Church was growing by leaps and bounds throughout the Roman Empire.



Constantine basically thought, “If you can’t beat them, join them!” (Map from Mike Golay’s presentation at the [Awaiting His Return Conference, Sept. 24, 2021](#), via [Behold Israel!](#).)

### 313 AD – The Edict of Milan

Constantine, the first “Christian” emperor (we really don’t know if he was born again or baptized), legalized the Christian church, stopping persecution. Still, there was paganism. But, this is the first “freedom of religion”.

There were 2 Emperors: Constantine and Licinius. They met in Milan “concerning the welfare and security of the realm”. They decided that “of the things that are of profit to all mankind, the worship of

God ought to be our first and chiefest care, and that it was right that Christians and all others should have freedom to follow the kind of religion they favored; so that God who dwells in heaven might be propitious (show favor) to us and to all under our rule.”<sup>2</sup>

## Converting the Roman Empire to Christianity

Converting the whole Roman Empire to Christianity didn't happen overnight. There was no mass conversion of pagans. (Source: [Constantine the Great video](#).)

- Churches were free of certain taxation and legal actions against them.
- Bishops took a more secular authority based on their relationship with Constantine.
- Dioceses: Regional governance – secular at first, but eventually the church took over.
- The Bishop of Rome started to get more authority.
- A blurring began as to where religious authority started and secular authority began. Increasingly, **you needed to be a Christian to hold a government office**. (Further Reading: [The Truth about the Catholic Pope. Papal Authority & Infallibility](#))

The problem is that ***you cannot become a Christian by edict or declaration***. Salvation comes through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. A person must repent of his or her sins – surrender their old life to Christ and be baptized. Then commit to following Jesus.

In 325 AD, at the Council of Nicaea, Constantine gathered all the Bishops from around the Empire, and they established the [Nicene or Apostles' Creed](#).

However, Constantine, in an attempt to unify the people who were accustomed to pagan worship and the Christians, integrated many of the pagan traditions into the church. ([This included the celebration of Jesus' birthday](#).)

### 326 AD – Julian on Christianity

One of the “Apostolic Fathers”, Emperor Julian of the Western Roman Empire, had a problem with the worship of the martyrs — those who died during the prior persecution. **They were raising them to the level of Jesus**. He noted that people were worshipping the tombs of Peter and Paul in Rome. He quotes Jesus, who said in Matthew 23:27...

*“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity.”* (Matthew 23:27 NLT)

He was basically saying that tombs are unclean. Stop worshiping them!<sup>2</sup>



The worship of saints and martyrs continues today.

### What does “worship” mean to the Roman Catholic Church?

Worship, in the Roman Catholic Church, doesn’t mean what you may think. It’s not at all just singing songs and praying. It’s...

- **Venerating** -- raising Mary and the saints higher than Jesus. This includes religious processions and feast days (a pagan Roman custom).
- **Burning candles, incense, and bowing before statues of Mary and the saints.** Like the nun shown in the picture at St. Peter’s. I saw this when I was in Italy. There’s a statue in one of the cathedrals with a misshapen foot from millions of people rubbing it for a blessing.
- **Praying to them, thinking these dead people can be a link between you and God, and somehow they can help you.** They were human. They are dead. Thus, they can’t help you!

### Relics

Relics are things – bones, blood, items of clothing, crosses, even skulls of saints and martyrs that are worshiped.

*Relics are considered holy objects associated with holy people such as Jesus or the saints. The use of relics was by no means a new phenomenon, it existed previously in Judaism, Buddhism and several other religions. In a world where people believed that evil and the Devil existed all around in the natural world, it was comforting to believe that good was also something that could be seen and touched. The motivation for most pilgrimages was to see and touch something holy and consequently benefit from being in contact with good.*

[Source](#)

There are 2 types of relics: *brandea*, where someone could rub a cloth on a tomb of a saint, thus rendering the cloth “holy”. Gee, that brings to mind tearing clothing off a celebrity. Then there are *bodily relics* — actual body parts. In Naples, they worship a vial of blood of San Gennaro, in hopes that he’ll keep the volcano, Vesuvius, from erupting again.

You can visit these relics and take a tour of the Roman Catholic Churches of Europe. That’s called a Pilgrimage. Relics were sold, bodies were exhumed, and bones were separated. There were counterfeit relics. **Seriously, how can you know that it’s the real thing?** [I go into more detail here, covering where Jesus admonishes the church in Pergamum for their idolatry](#) (And that was in 95 AD).



### ***What is this woman kissing?***

This is at Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral. It's the adoration of the holy crown of thorns supposedly worn by Jesus Christ during the Passion. ***Seriously, how does anyone know that that is the REAL crown of thorns that Jesus wore?!***

A few years ago, the people of the tiny island of La Palma, Canary

Islands, Spain, held several processions lifting high statues of Mary in hopes that she would intercede for them and stop the Cumbre Vieja volcano from erupting and destroying everything.

**Eventually, however, we see the church start to elevate *tradition* over the Word of God.**

The church in the 4th century (300s) embraced many of the traditions of the priests of the pagan religions of the time.

The biggest and worst sin is ***idolatry***, which is **paganism**. God hates the worship of idols, images, statues, icons, Mary, and the saints. **The Roman Catholic Church is a blend of nearly all the major elements of the world's religions.** Robes, beads, candles, images, relics, orders of priests, hierarchy of bishops, cardinals, and popes. The use of incense was a very pagan worship practice (Note the picture at the beginning of this section).

Many Christians died during the persecution years because **they wouldn't even burn incense** to any of the Roman gods or emperors. ***They chose death before disobeying two of God's commandments.*** (Exodus 20:3-6)

Paganism also extends to celebrating the "Day of" a particular saint or the patron saint of a city or cause. Another reason to party. (Further Reading: [So Many Gods](#))

TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH BY  Microsoft

**#EFEFotos** | One month after the eruption in **#LaPalma**, the Nivarian Diocese has requested the celebration of a rogative in different sanctuaries of the island. In the image, a religious act in the hermitage of the Virgen del Pino, with the volcano in the background. EFE/Miguel Calero 📷



📷 european pressphoto agency, Cabildo de La Palma and Miguel Calero

12:30pm · 19 Oct 2021 · Twitter Web App

## Where Do You Worship?

So, the next time you are in a Roman Catholic Church, take a look around. What do you see? Statues? Candles? A priest shaking the incense burner? Robotic rituals? People kissing inanimate objects? Are you rubbing a saint's foot to be "blessed" or to knock off some Purgatory time?

Friend, ***doing all that is a sin!*** And Jesus wants us to stop sinning! To repent! Walk away from the Catholic Church! ***You won't lose a salvation you didn't have in the first place!***



# Proven Truth #3: Purgatory, the Biggest Deception of the Catholic Church

*If Purgatory exists, then Jesus suffered torture, sacrificed His life, and died for nothing.*

**The truth is that Purgatory does not exist!** It is an invention of the Roman Catholic Church, and it has been exploited for centuries.

I remember when my dad passed away in 1993, and I went to Puerto Rico to be with my mom. We went to visit his older half-sister, and she said to us, “I’m praying for him every day.” Mom appreciated it. I didn’t know what to say. Mom regularly paid the Catholic Church to “say a Mass” for my father.

At the time, I was attending a Progressive church. I wasn’t born again, yet, but that sounded weird. I didn’t get it. It had been years since I had been in a Catholic Church, and I had forgotten all about Purgatory. Apparently, my mom and aunt believed my dad was there and that prayers and masses would shorten his sentence. (Those are called “**indulgences**” and I’ll get into more details on them in the next section.) However, **no one knew how long the sentence was**. And that’s just it. **No one knows how long their sentence in Purgatory is – because it doesn’t exist!**



## What is Purgatory?

*Roman Catholicism describes Purgatory as “a place or state in which are detained the souls of those who die in grace, in friendship with God, but with the blemish of venial sin or with temporal debt for sin unpaid. Here the soul is purged, cleansed, readied for eternal union with God in Heaven.”*

*The suffering in Purgatory is twofold: physical pain and separation from God. The suffering in Purgatory is necessary because the person has not made complete satisfaction for sins and is not ready to see God because of imperfection. The length of suffering in Purgatory is determined by the person’s degree of sinfulness. The time of suffering can be shortened through the prayers and good works of living adherents. This is based on [2 Maccabees 12:43-45, 56](#). The souls of the departed are purified by fire in Purgatory, as suggested in [1 Corinthians 3:14-15](#), according to Catholic interpretation.<sup>3</sup>*

Of course, the passage in 1 Corinthians is taken out of context...

*<sup>10</sup> Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.*

*<sup>12</sup> Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. <sup>13</sup> But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. <sup>14</sup> If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.*

*<sup>16</sup> Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? <sup>17</sup> God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.*  
(1 Corinthians 3:10-17 NLT)

First of all, they left out that this fire happens on the [judgment day! That's in Revelation – after the rapture and the great tribulation. Those who are born again will face the judgment seat, but are forgiven and free. If you're not saved, then you go to the lake of fire – hell.](#)

## Who Invented Purgatory?

The invention of Purgatory dates back to the 6th century. Here is a timeline and an explanation of who was responsible.

### 590 – 1517 – [Middle or Dark Ages](#)

**590 – 593:** The Western Roman Empire fell, but the Eastern, Byzantine Empire under Justinian was hanging in there. Most of the population was illiterate. Enter Pope Gregory I — [the first pope](#). With Western Europe without any single leader, Rome (the church) claimed supremacy over the military government.

But the concept of Purgatory was actually developed before this by Augustine of Hippo (354-430).

*“He so emphasized the value of the two sacraments that the doctrine of baptismal regeneration and sacramental grace were logical outcomes of his views.”*

Christianity Through the Centuries, Earle E. Cairns, 1996, Zondervan.

Pope Gregory I (Gregory the Great) in Dialogues, wrote c. 593, taking the concept further...

*As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire.*

[Wikipedia](#)

They were mixing up different things.

The Purgatory Penitential Book was developed — invented — that’s why they stuck the Apocrypha in the Old Testament to help explain the concept of Purgatory in 2 Maccabees.

## Your Response to 2 Maccabees

Your response when someone brings this up is that ***Jesus Christ fulfilled all of the Old Testament with His sacrifice on the cross, taking our sins away once and for all.***

*“All means ALL and that’s all all means.”*

J. Vernon McGee

He also defeated death by rising from the grave three days later -- the Resurrection. They know what the resurrection is. They just understand why, and that is because of it, ***believers are saved by grace.***

## All Souls Day — the Day of the Dead

At the end of the 10th century, the church established All Souls Day, which is now celebrated on November 1...

*“...this remembrance helped focus popular imagination on the fate of the departed, and fostered a sense of solidarity between the living and the dead. Then, in the 12th century, the elaboration of the theology of penance helped create a notion of Purgatory as a place to complete penances unfinished in this life.”*

[Wikipedia](#)

So, now they need a day to party to celebrate the dead and hope they are in heaven? There’s more in the section on Indulgences.

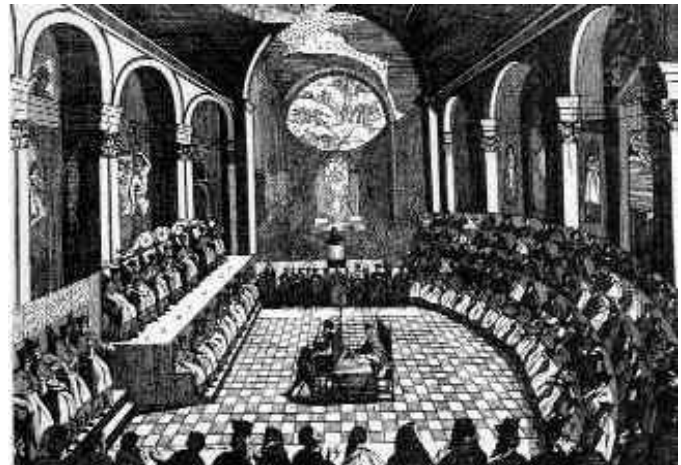
## 1245 – The Council of Trent

Renaissance depiction of the Council of Trent

>>>

*Dogma is an official system of principles or doctrines of a religion, such as Roman Catholicism.*

[Wikipedia](#)



**The official designation of Purgatory as dogma:**

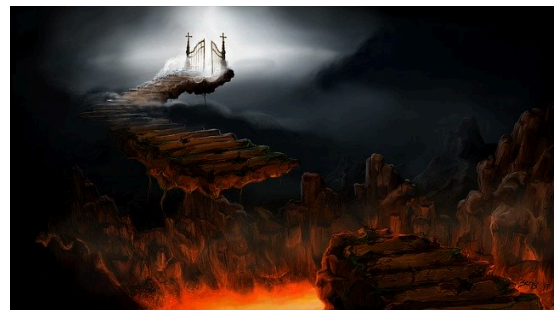
*“...are said to believe and to affirm that the souls of those who after a penance has been received yet not performed, or who, without mortal sin yet die with venial and slight sin, can be cleansed after death and can be helped by the suffrages of the Church, we, since they say a place of purgation of this kind has not been indicated to them with a certain and proper name by their teachers, we indeed, calling it Purgatory according to the traditions and authority of the Holy Fathers, wish that in the future it be called by that name in their area. For in that transitory fire certainly sins, though not criminal or capital, which before have not been remitted through penance but were small and minor sins, are cleansed, and these weigh heavily even after death, if they have been forgiven in this life.”*

[Wikipedia](#)

I mentioned relics in the last section, and here’s Dr. Barnett’s video on relics and Purgatory...<https://vimeo.com/381497395>

## The Deception of the Catholic Church

Growing up Catholic, I was led to believe that if you didn’t go to confession each week or even go to mass on Sundays, you’d go to hell. But if you were good, and you observed all the rules and rituals of the Catholic Church, then you’d go to Heaven — **eventually**. You first needed to spend some time in Purgatory.



## How do you get out of Purgatory?

You supposedly rack up “grace points” by going to confession, Mass, saying your “Our Fathers” and “Hail Marys”, and relatives can pray and even buy you out of Purgatory with indulgences.

## Does Purgatory Exist?

In one word — **NO**. Again, Purgatory was invented by the Catholic Church leaders in the Middle Ages, well after Jesus died for our sins, at the Council of Trent.

Then there was the period of the Renaissance in Europe, and the start of global exploration. Church building construction was at its height, and ***the church needed money to build and fund explorations. That's why they invented Purgatory. Yes, men invented it. It doesn't exist.***

Basically, Purgatory is not “better than hell and worse than Heaven.” The church based it all on the fact that humans are not perfect — we ALL sin. And no matter how many good works we did, we still were not good enough to get into Heaven — no one is. So, when you die, you go to Purgatory.

The only problem is that ***it doesn't exist***. It's not anywhere in the New Testament that shows us clearly ***how to get into Heaven — by the Grace of God and belief in Jesus Christ.***

## Purgatory: The Biggest Ponzi Scheme Ever

How do you shorten your time in Purgatory? The church issued indulgences: parishioners bought them to guarantee a shorter stay in Purgatory. People could even purchase them for family members — even after they were dead. The problem with all this was that it was all lies fabricated by a hierarchy of fallible, powerful men who wanted to live richly and build beautiful cathedrals. Here's what collectors said in churches when selling indulgences

*“When a coin in the coffer rings, a soul from Purgatory springs!”*

Martin Luther, the Great Reformer, saw the whole indulgence scheme for what it was, and that started the Protestant Reformation. Luther discovered the Gospel truth simply by reading the Gospels. (Further Reading: [After the Reformation of the Catholic Church: No Change at all](#))

Indulgences still exist in the form of Catholic ***masses for the dead***. A former priest tells the story of a woman who asked him after her husband's funeral, “How many masses do I have to buy to get him out of Purgatory?” The priest couldn't answer her. He then did some research and discovered the truth and eventually left the Catholic Church. [Watch this video.](#)

**When the Pope first got on Twitter, he promised that if you followed him, you'd spend less time in Purgatory. Seriously. You don't believe me? Google it.**

## **Proof that Purgatory Doesn't Exist from the New Testament**

You won't find the word "Purgatory" or any concept like it mentioned at all in the **New Testament**. What you do find is proof that if you believe that Jesus is the Christ and that He died once and for all for the forgiveness of your sins, and if you repent of your sins, you will have a 1-way, non-stop ticket to Heaven. You don't layover in a place that doesn't exist.

Here is the Gospel Truth, along with what you can say to your Catholic friend or family member...

### **Just Before Jesus Raised Lazarus from the Dead**

*Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"*  
(John 11:25-26)

Jesus said, "...live, even after dying..." **Not suffer, then live.** Jesus suffered on the cross for us — in our place. He was our Redeemer.

### **At the Last Supper**

*"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."*  
(John 14:1-3 NLT)

Jesus said, "In my Father's house (or home)". I hate to burst your bubble, but **God is not in Purgatory!** He is in Heaven, and Jesus was resurrected to defeat sin and death, and He is preparing a place for His believers. [Are you good enough to have a seat at God's table?](#) Not without [Jesus](#)! Not convinced yet?

### **At the Cross**

When Jesus was crucified, two criminals hung on crosses on either side of Him.

*One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!"*

*But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”*  
*And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:39-43 NLT)*

Notice Jesus didn’t say, “But first, since you were a criminal, you have to spend some time in Purgatory, and your family can buy your way into Heaven.” ***Are you starting to see the light?***

## The Roman Catholic Church is Wrong

When it comes to [salvation](#), the Catholic Church is just plain wrong. You don’t have to come under Rome to come under Jesus. Requiring you to go to confession each week just to be able to receive communion in Mass is wrong.

***It’s not where you go to church, it’s whether or not you’ve accepted the free gift of salvation.***

That’s what’s important. Without accepting Jesus as your personal savior, you will end up in only one place — **hell**. And no amount of money, no amount of prayers can get you from hell to heaven once you’re dead. That’s the hard truth...

*“You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.” (Colossians 2:13-14)*

## Is Purgatory Hell?

Considering that it doesn’t exist and there are only 2 options after your life here on earth is over — Heaven or Hell — then, yes, **Purgatory is Hell**. If you’re not going to Heaven, you’re going to Hell.

I believe there are many Catholics, Orthodox, Progressives, and, yes, “woke” people in hell crying & asking “Why?” They did what society, false preachers, popes, and priests told them to do. They went to church. They called themselves Christians. Furthermore, they did good works, volunteered, and served. Yet, they missed the crucial step of repentance and acceptance that leads to salvation through Jesus Christ only.

That so separated them from God that they will never get an answer.

## Here are more scripture passages proving of God's gift of grace...

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

(Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT)

*<sup>21</sup> But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. <sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.*

*<sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. <sup>24</sup> Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. (Romans 3:21-24)*

*Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. (Romans 5:1 NLT)*

*<sup>6</sup> And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved. (Romans 11:6 NLT)*

*So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.*

(Romans 8:1 NLT)

## You are forgiven for ALL of your sins—past, present AND future!

***If Purgatory exists, then Jesus suffered, sacrificed His life, and died for nothing!***

What that means, friend, is that since Jesus died once and for all, taking your sins away, if you say out loud that you believe that and ask Jesus to forgive you, AND you repent — say you're sorry — AND promise to stop sinning, you're good to go to heaven!

***Again, I say, if Purgatory exists, then Jesus suffered, sacrificed His life, and died for nothing.*** I don't know if my dad is in heaven or hell. He died of a massive heart attack in his sleep. I was living in Miami at the time, and I didn't know what true salvation was yet. Did he have a moment of repentance just before he fell asleep? I won't know until I die or am raptured — whichever comes first.

I have full Bible Studies on both the [Book of Romans](#) and [Ephesians](#) if you want to dig deeper into the truth of Jesus' gift of salvation. Remember this -- before you go into battle, arm yourself with the only offensive weapon in God's Armor -- ***the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God*** (Ephesians 6). I'm not saying that you are going to fight with your Catholic friend or family member. In fact, that's just what this guide is designed to do -- to help you start a conversation -- not a fight. With that said, depending on how indoctrinated the person is, they may or may not come back to quoting scripture out of context. You have to be prepared. Keep this ebook handy on your phone so you can quickly reference it as needed. You want to share the truth **IN LOVE**.



# Truth #4: The Great Catholic Scam – Indulgences – Money for Grace

**One of the main points of conflict** that [Martin Luther](#) had with the Catholic Church in 1517 was the sale of indulgences — basically money for grace. In other words, people supposedly could buy their way out of Purgatory. They could purchase an indulgence for themselves or a loved one, living or dead. I wrote an article about [penance being one of the 7 Sacraments](#) that a Catholic parishioner has to go through to be allowed into heaven. However, it never guarantees a passage into heaven — just shortens their sentence or time spent in Purgatory — **yet no one ever knew how long it was.**

My purpose with this deep dive into the history of the church was to uncover where these Catholic doctrines, traditions, rites and rituals first started. The truth is they were all inventions, ideas and creations by human leaders and completely and totally **unbiblical**. That is, not found anywhere in the Bible.

## Feudalism in the Middle Ages

After the fall of the Roman Empire and before the formation of countries like Spain, France, and England, there was feudalism. The feudal lords owned land, and in exchange for military protection, the serfs, or peasants, worked the land. The church owned a large amount of land in Europe, given to them by “pious and repentant men seeking to atone for a life of sin.”<sup>1</sup>

So, that started the concept that a wealthy person could buy [atonement](#) for their sins. This made the church and the Pope very powerful. (Further Reading: [The Truth about the Catholic Pope, Papal Authority & Infallibility](#))

## Indulgences

*The church teaches that indulgences draw on the [treasury of merit](#) accumulated by Christ’s superabundantly meritorious sacrifice on the cross and the virtues and penances of the saints. They are granted for specific good works and prayers in*



*proportion to the devotion with which those good works are performed or prayers recited.*

*By the late Middle Ages, indulgences were used to support charities for the public good, including hospitals. But the abuse of indulgences, mainly through commercialization, had become a serious problem which the Church recognized but was unable to restrain effectively.*

[Wikipedia](#)

That's where the [Reformation](#) comes in. Pictured above is the “coffer” used by Johann Tetzel to collect indulgences to help rebuild St. Peter’s Cathedral in Rome in the early 1500s. That thing is HUGE! What a scam! Imagine being a poor peasant farmer, and this guy tells you that for a price, you could guarantee that your dearly departed mother could leave the torture of Purgatory and go to heaven. That’s the scam that Martin Luther uncovered.

Unfortunately, the sale of indulgences continued after the Reformation. **The Reformation didn’t reform the Catholic Church like Luther had wanted.** They just kept doing what they were doing, and Luther and the other reformers started their own churches, which became known as Protestantism.

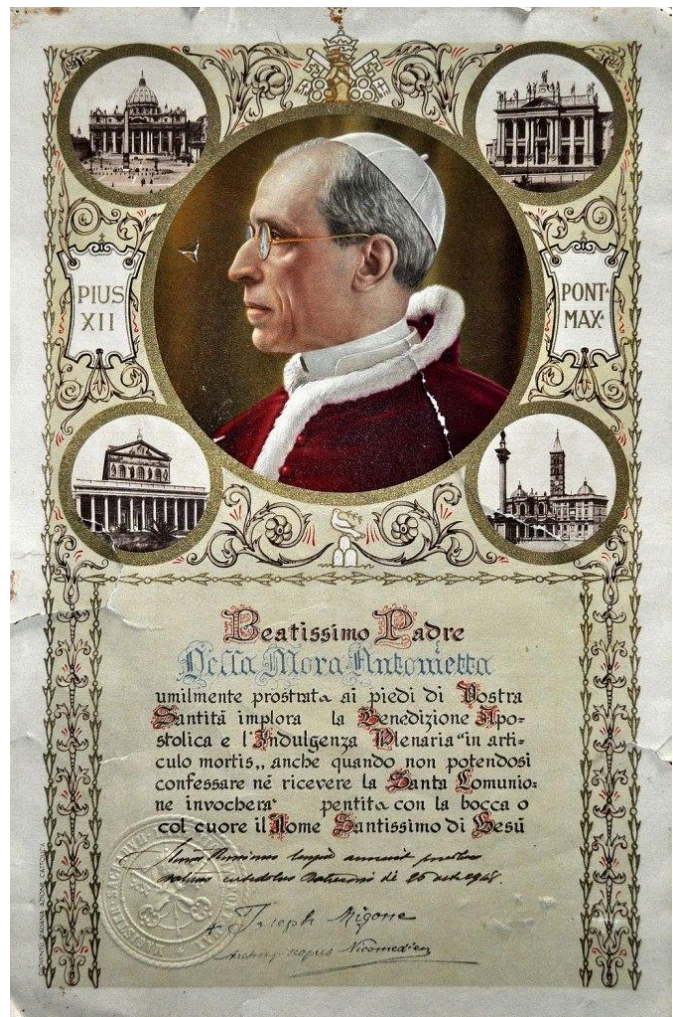
So, did the now *Roman* Catholic Church do away with indulgences once Luther shed light on their scam? Not exactly.

*On 4 December 1563, in its final session, the Council [of Trent] addressed the question of indulgences directly, declaring them “most salutary for the Christian people”, decreeing that “all evil gains for the obtaining of them be wholly abolished”, and instructing bishops to be on the watch for any abuses concerning them.*

[Wikipedia](#)

Yeah, right.

Pictured is an indulgence issued by Pope Pius XII to Della Mora Antonietta in 1948. (Translation: Most Holy Father, Della Mora Antonietta, humbly prostrate at the feet of Your Holiness, begs the



Apostolic Blessing and a Plenary Indulgence at the hour of death, even if incapable to confess or receive Holy Communion, if she is penitent and invokes, with mouth or heart, the Most Holy Name of Jesus.)

[Source](#)

An insurance policy?

## Other Forms of Indulgences

- Praying for the dead — a little too late
- Saying masses for the dead — also a little too late
- Following the Pope on Twitter — yes, with the first @Pontifex account in 2012, if you followed the Pope on Twitter, you would get a “get out of Purgatory” card. Just another scam!

I have a friend who’s 10 years older than me and she grew up Catholic all the way — Catholic school and even Catholic college. She’s now born again and she told me as a little girl she remembers that on All Souls Day, November 1st, one of the nuns would walk her class to the church where they would say prayers for the dead. They’d walk out of the church and back in again. She told me that she and her friends would compete to see how many “souls” they could save. What deception!

## The Gospel Truth

This is what all Christians — both Catholic and [Born Again](#) people agree on...

*For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.* (Romans 3:23 NLT)

However, where we differ is in [WHY JESUS DIED...](#)

*<sup>24</sup> Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. <sup>25</sup> For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, <sup>26</sup> for he was looking*



*ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.*

*<sup>27</sup> Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. <sup>28</sup> So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law. (Romans 3:24-28 NLT)*

Get that? “Not by obeying the law,” or the man-made dogma of the Catholic Church!

**Nothing you can do, by yourself, will ever make you good enough to get into heaven!**

***If Purgatory exists, then Jesus died for nothing!***

# Proven Truth #5: The Church Failed to Educate the People in the True Gospel

## The Gospel of the Salvation of Jesus Christ -- the Good News

-- is what the New Testament is all about. It's a shame that the Roman Catholic Church failed to educate people in the Gospel Truth for centuries. Here is how it all came about, and ***it all has to do with control...***

The original Biblical Canon was written in two languages: the Old Testament in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek. Between 285–247 BC, 70 Jewish scholars translated the Torah — the first 5 books of the Old Testament — into Greek. That was called the Septuagint, for the 70 scholars.



## Enter Rome

In 313 AD, Constantine declared Christianity to be legal, which stopped the persecution of the church. The main language of the Roman Empire was Latin (though Greek was second).

In 382, the whole Bible was translated into the [Latin Vulgate](#) by [Jerome](#). The church spoke Latin and taught in Latin. Keep in mind that books, before the invention of the printing press in 1440, were all handwritten and copied.

Without going into a whole class on how languages in Europe came about, suffice it to say that as the Roman Empire fell and countries and kingdoms formed, so did the languages. By the end of the 7th century (600s), the Latin Vulgate could barely be distinguished, and within 200 years, Latin became a dead language. ***Except in the Roman Catholic Church.***

So, we have the people speaking their regional languages, and the church still preaching in Latin. ***Only well-educated people learned Latin.*** Moreover, only wealthy people could afford to be educated.

***In other words, common people could not be trusted to know their faith!***

## Faith of Wonder

Since the common people depended on the church for direction on how to live, solve problems, follow rules, etc., the church was able to teach them whatever was necessary to keep them coming, entertained, and *in wonder* or awe. Which explains the...

- Use of pagan idols, icons, and rituals
- [“Magic” of the Eucharist](#)
- [Veneration of the Saints](#)



They used the stories of martyrs and saints to show people how to live and do good works. They eventually took advantage of them by making them worship relics. ***You had to worship them for salvation.***

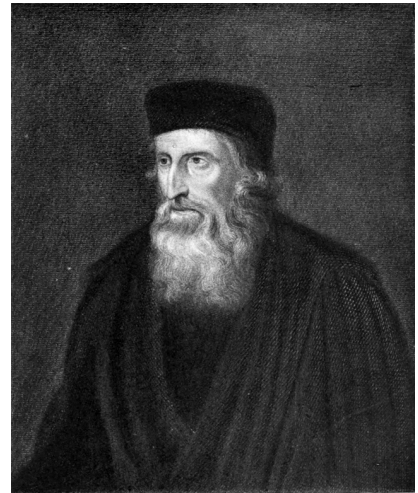
I don't know about you, but that sounds a lot like mind control -- ***brainwashing*** -- to me.

## Enter John Wycliffe

[John Wycliffe](#) (1320-1384) was a precursor to the Protestant Reformation. Wycliffe was very involved in politics in England between the king and the church. ([Image Source](#))

*Wycliffe had come to regard the scriptures as the only reliable guide to the truth about God, and maintained that all Christians should rely on the Bible rather than on the teachings of popes and clerics. He said that there was no scriptural justification for the papacy...*

*...In keeping with Wycliffe's belief that scripture was the only authoritative, reliable guide to the truth about God, he became involved in efforts to translate the Bible into English.*



[Wikipedia](#)

In 1382, the first copies of the Gospels were translated, and by 1888, the whole New Testament was available in Middle English. All of a sudden, the people now had the Gospel in their common language!

This, of course, angered the Pope and the church. Wycliffe was declared a heretic, and even though he died of old age, his bones were dug up by the church and burned. (A little overkill, don't you think?)

His followers, the [Lollards](#), were the first to preach the true Gospel since the church had deviated from the Bible. Later, after the start of the [Reformation](#), Luther translated the Bible into German.

Furthermore, with the invention of the printing press, the Renaissance, and the humanist method of learning, more and more people were able to read the Gospel Truth.

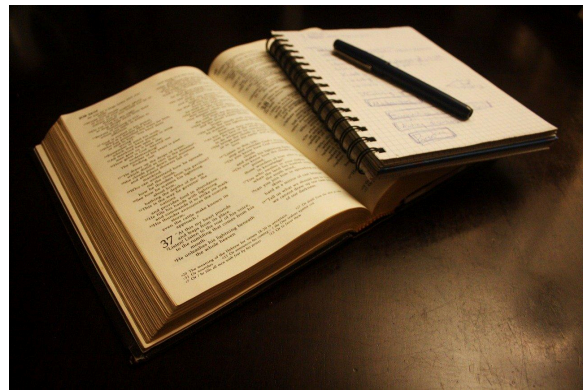
## A Church in Chaos

As you could imagine, the Catholic Church was in chaos. It wouldn't be until the Council of Trent, in 1545-6, that the Church would lay down the law. (Further Reading: [After the Reformation of the Catholic Church: No Change at all](#))

## Study the Bible!

### Paul told us...

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT)*



### Jesus told us...

*<sup>14</sup> "And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14 NLT)*

What's glorious is that there are [Bible Translators](#) (and one of them is Wycliff!) who are doing just that!

### Jesus also said...

*"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32 NLT)*

Further Reading: [You are not Free if You are a Slave to Religion](#)

## And finally, Jesus said several times...

*“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”*  
(Revelation 3:22 NLT)

Friend, the only excuse you have for NOT reading the Bible is laziness! Here are two free apps that make studying the Bible daily very easy!

- YouVersion Bible App: <https://bible.com>
- Through the Word: <https://throughtheword.org>

I could go on. Altogether, I uncovered even more areas that were invented or assumed by Roman Catholic Church leaders that led them further and further away from the true Gospel -- the Good News -- of the Salvation of Jesus Christ. Visit my website for further reading:

<https://giselleaguiar.com/2020/08/18/urgent-warning-escape-from-catholicism-now-and-run-to-jesus/>

## Epilogue

Upon all this research, my conclusion is that Catholics cannot, & should not, call themselves Christians. A true Christian would never put Mary and saints higher than Jesus. A true Christian believer follows Jesus only. Moreover, the believer knows that Jesus is the only way to heaven by the gift of grace, and you can't buy or earn grace points. That's a **false teaching**. False teachings go all the way back to the first century. We were warned by Jesus, Paul, Peter, and others to only trust in the Holy Spirit for the truth — that's **discernment**.

**We are living in the End Times, and there is no time to waste!**

# Understand Where the Catholics Are Coming From

**One of the reasons** I'm including all this history is so that born-again Christian believers will understand where Catholics are coming from. The more time a person spent in a Catholic "Parochial" School, the more indoctrinated or brainwashed they are. You have the...

- Truly devout and practicing Catholics who follow everything the church says, whether it's true or not. The problem is that they heard the lies so many times, that they believe them. They were told NOT to read the Bible -- to trust what the priests (fallible humans) say and what's in the Catholic Catechism -- or instruction book. Some time ago, Pope Francis actually encouraged Catholics to read the Bible. The problem is, it's hard to know where to start. Another one is, which translation? On my website I have a page with recommended Bible translations -- the ones that I used to better understand the Word. A Bible would be a great gift, as well as inviting your friend or family member to a Bible study.
- The "C & Es" -- those who only go to church on Christmas and Easter or for weddings or funerals.
- Then you have the totally lapsed Catholics who left the church completely and think they are OK on their own.

## Conversation-Starter Questions

Use questions to make your point. The questions you ask should guide the person to **prove your point**.

What do you think happens when you die?

What do you mean by that? (This would question any religious claim.)

How did you come up with that conclusion? (In other words, who taught you that? Or on what do you base that concept?)

What are you afraid of?

What do you like about your church? Or why do you attend that church? Or why did you stop going to church?

How did you come to that conclusion or belief?

Why do you believe that?

Are you a follower of Christ or a member of a denomination (or follower of a person or church)?

Answer: Follower - what does that look like? What does that entail?

If you died right now, would you go to heaven?

Do you have eternal life?

Are you CONFIDENT that you're going to heaven when you die?

(Unless someone is born again, they can't KNOW for sure that they're going to heaven.)

Do you know what the word "Gospel" means? (Answer: Good News)

(Related: <https://giselleaguiar.com/2020/06/24/what-is-the-gospel-what-is-the-good-news-of-jesus/>)

What do you think gets you into heaven?

Can you know for sure that you're going to heaven?

Imagine 2 doors. One says "Everlasting Bliss" and the other says "Eternal Torment". **How is that Good News?**

## Guiding Them to the Truth

Paul wrote in Romans 3:23

*For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (NLT)*

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (KJV)*

Whichever way you memorized this verse, it's key. We're all in the same boat.

Jesus, who was God's spotless and sinless sacrificial lamb, took on all our sins -- past, present and future -- with Him to the cross. When He died, He abolished the sins of all the people who believe this. Three days later, he rose from the dead. The resurrection changed everything. By rising from the dead, He defeated death. He created Everlasting Life for all the people who believe in Him.

Jesus is the ONLY person who ever came back after dying...

- Buddha didn't.
- Mohammed didn't.
- No Hindu god did.

## Point Out Scripture Verses

Would you be interested in seeing where this is in the Bible?

Jesus said...

*"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. <sup>2</sup> For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth."*

(John 17:3 NLT)

## Planting the Seed

Understand this from the very beginning: More than likely, you are not going to get your friend or family member to say the prayer and commit to Jesus right then and there. You're also not going to get them to start attending your church next Sunday.

***What you are doing is planting the seed of truth in their brains and hopefully in their hearts.***

As Greg Koukl says, you want to put a pebble in their shoe. You want to get them thinking. Maybe even reading the Bible. You want them to **start questioning** if the church teachings are biblical.

The best way to get them to start reading the Bible is to give your friend or family member one. Handing them a book that they're holding in their hands is more powerful than reading an app. Though the Bible apps are a good place to start, since they're free and easily accessible on a smartphone, holding a

book that is given by someone who cares about them is more valuable. ([Visit my website for suggestions on which Bible version would be best to give as a gift.](#))

Another thing you must understand, when you give someone the “God Pill”, ***what they do with it is up to them.*** They decide by themselves, for themselves.

***However, NOTHING will happen unless you give it to them.***

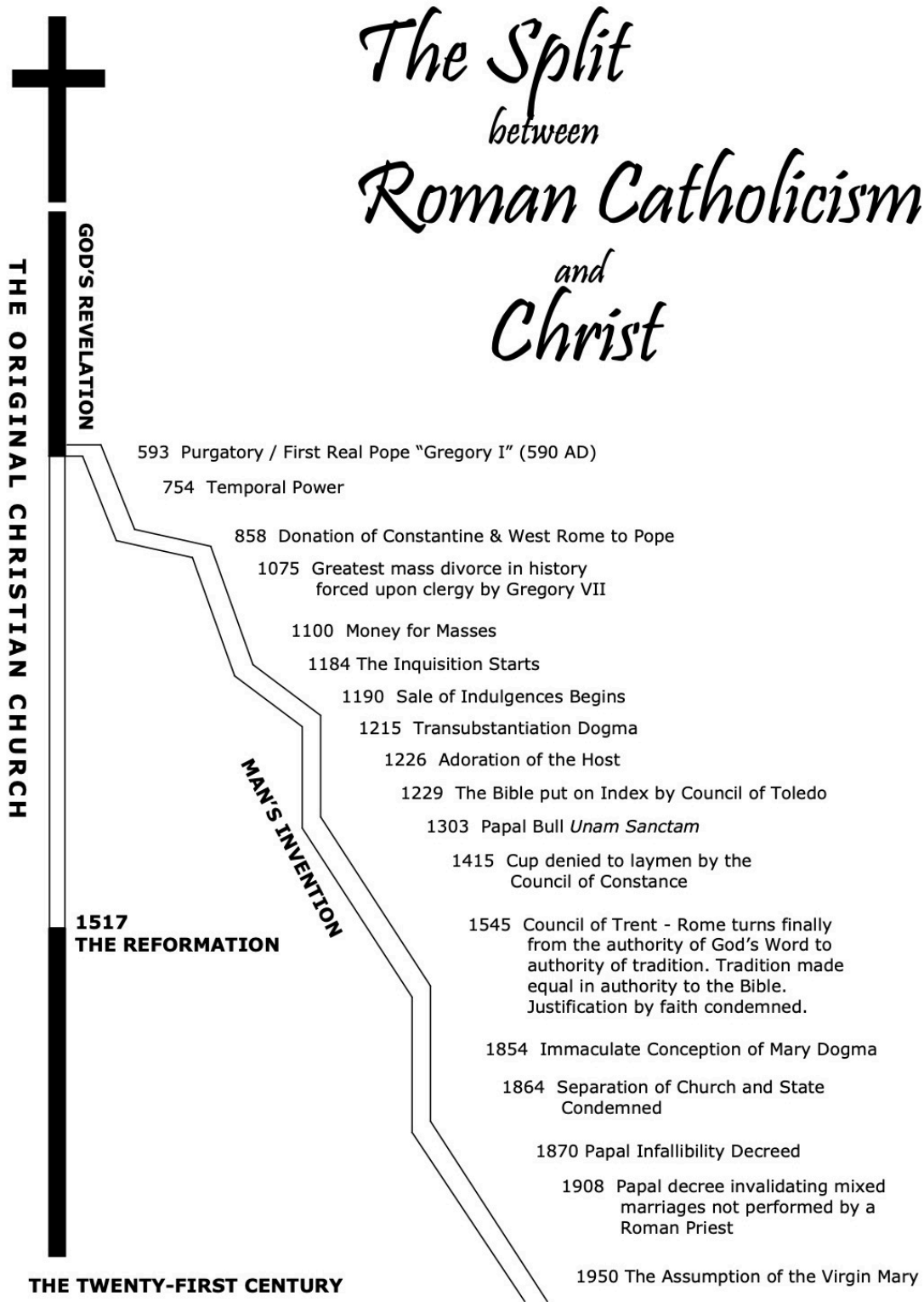
## **Where to Start Reading the Bible**

If you give your Catholic friend or family member a Bible, I suggest either the NIV or NLT. They are the easiest translations to understand. You will also need to guide them. If they start in the beginning, with Genesis, it will take them too long to understand the Gospel. If they start with Matthew, the first book of the New Testament, they’ll start reading the genealogy of Jesus and get bored. Tell them to start with...

1. The Gospel of John
2. The Book of Acts
3. The Book of Romans
4. The Book of Hebrews

Pray for them daily. ***Let God work His miracles on them.***

# Timeline of the “Christian” Church separating from the Gospel of Jesus Christ



Source: [Discover the Word Ministries](#), by [Dr. John Barnett](#)

## My Testimony...

- [From Catholic to Prodigal: Surviving College](#)
- [From Prodigal to Progressive: Surviving Hurricanes](#)
- [From Progressive to Born Again Christian: Surviving Unemployment](#)

## Notes

### Sources

1. [The Search for the Twelve Apostles](#), 1973, by William Stewart McBirnie, Ph.D.
2. [Documents of the Christian Church](#), 1999, 3rd edition, Edited by Henry Bettenson and Chris Maunder
3. [John Barnett](#)

### Online Resources

Greg Koukl, Stand to Reason: <https://www.str.org/search?q=catholics>

The Gospel According to Columbo: <https://www.str.org/w/the-gospel-according-to-columbo>

### Acknowledgements

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*Soli Deo Gloria! To God Alone Be The Glory!*