



# Proclaiming

# The Gospel

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." - [Romans 1:16](#)

January-March 2006  
Vol. 15 No. 1

Editor - [Evangelist Mike Gendron](#)

*"Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."  
(Eph. 6:11)*

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## Satan's Six Strategic Assaults on the Christian Faith

Some evangelical leaders have been joyfully announcing there is a great spiritual revival taking place in our country. However, a closer and more discerning look reveals there is a countless infiltration of deceivers masquerading as messengers of Christ who are counterfeiting the Christian faith. "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." ([2 Cor. 11:14](#)). These legions of liars are all part of Satan's insidious assault on the only true faith. Satan's ultimate goal is to thwart God's harvest of lost souls by holding them captive with his fatal lies. His relentless attacks are strategically aimed at six targets:

- The **Supremacy** of God's Word
- The **Sufficiency** of God's Son
- The **Singularity** of God's Gospel
- The **Sovereignty** of God's Grace
- The **Security** of God's Children
- The **Sanctity** of God's Church

### The Supremacy of God's Word

Satan's all out assault on the Word of God began in the Garden of Eden. Disguised as a charming serpent, he persuaded Eve to dismiss God's word and believe his lie. First he created doubt by asking: "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" ([Gen. 3:1](#)). Then Satan convinced Eve that God's word was not true and could not be trusted. He said: "You surely shall not die!" ([Gen. 3:4](#)).

Now the Father of Lies uses this same strategy to deceive the world through all of his religions. He uses religious leaders to ask: "Has God indeed said, 'The wages of sin is death'"? ([Rom. 6:23](#)). Then speaking through the Roman Catholic Church, he says: "You surely shall not die - venial sins do not bring

eternal death, only temporal punishment" (Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC], para. [1863](#)).

Satan's attack on the word of God is understandable because it is the supreme authority for the Christian faith and it brings forth eternal life to those who believe it ([1 Pet. 1:23](#)). Nothing else possesses its divine character. Scripture is absolutely trustworthy because it is true and given by the inspiration of God ([2 Tim. 3:16](#); [John 17:17](#)). The Bible is also the only book that foretells the future and it does so with great precision and detail. It is sacred and never to be altered ([Prov. 30:6](#)). In fact, God gave a strong rebuke to those who would pervert the Word of God with the words of men ([Jer. 23:36](#)).

Yet men like Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message*, have chosen to do just that. Peterson's *Message* is such a shrewd perversion of God's Word that many of his verses do not even resemble Scripture. To make matters worse, *The Message* is quoted nearly a hundred times by Rick Warren in *The Purpose-Driven Life* which has sold an unprecedented 26 million copies. There are many other men who foolishly pervert the Word of God including Roman Catholic bishops. They dare to say that their traditions, when added to Scripture, make up one single deposit of the Word of God (CCC, [97](#)). By doing this the bishops elevate their tradition to the same authority as Scripture and to their advantage, become the supreme authority for faith (CCC, 85).

### The Sufficiency of God's Son

The adversary's attack on God's Son is skillful because Jesus is Author and Perfecter of  
(see [Assaults on page 2](#))

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

the Christian faith. He alone is able and sufficient to save sinners completely from sin ([Heb. 7:25](#)). His one offering for sin makes believers perfect forever ([Heb. 10:14](#)). His blood is sufficient to purify every believer from every sin ([1 John 1:7](#)). His death was sufficient to cancel the eternal sin debt of every believer ([Col. 2:14](#)). Paul described the sufficiency of Jesus when he wrote: "In Him you have been made complete" ([Col. 2:10](#)). Every spiritual blessing that anyone could ever desire or need is found in Christ Jesus.

For these reasons Satan attacks the sufficiency of Christ with a vengeance. The prince of this world has convinced many that they need Christ plus psychology, or Christ plus rituals and sacraments or Christ plus purgatory and indulgences or Christ plus law-keeping and good works. His agents deny Christ's work of redemption is finished. They foolishly believe they have the power to call the Lord Jesus back down from heaven to offer Him again and again on their altars. These slanderous assaults on the sufficiency of Christ not only rob the true Jesus of His glory but point the lost to another Jesus who is unable to save them without help from others ([2 Cor. 11:4](#)). Satan offers other mediators but God has given us only One ([1 Tim. 2:5](#)). Satan offers other saviors but God has given only one Name ([Acts 4:12](#)). Ministers of the devil who deny the sufficiency of God's Son must preach another gospel to instruct people what *they must do* to be saved. Another Jesus always produces another gospel.

### **The Singularity of God's Gospel**

You would think Paul's undisputed condemnation of the Judaizers for perverting the Gospel would keep the Gospel pure within the professing church. However, the Gospel of Rome is a much greater distortion. It requires Catholics to receive sacraments, keep the law, attend weekly sacrifices and do works of mercy for their salvation (CCC, para. [815](#); [1032](#); [1129](#); [2068](#)). Satan's relentless assaults against the Gospel continue to come from two distinct enemies - legalism, which is most prominent in Roman Catholicism, and [antinomianism](#), which is most noticeable throughout liberal Protestantism. When the "Father of Lies" enters the pulpit, he does not deny the Gospel but perverts it with additions or subtractions. Any perversion of the Gospel is ultimately the Devil's delusion which keeps his captives in bondage. With

so many perversions in the church today, there is a desperate need for the preaching of the pure Gospel of God. It alone has the power to save sinners from the punishment, power and ultimately, the presence of sin ([Rom. 1:16](#)).

### **The Sovereignty of God's Grace**

One of the strongest expressions of God's sovereign grace is given by Paul: "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world... In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved" ([Eph. 1:4-6](#)). Clearly it is the will of God, not man's will that determines who will be graciously adopted into The Father's eternal family ([John 1:12-13](#)). Yet Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Episcopal churches all teach that the will of man determines who can become a child of God. Consider the teachings of Rome. "Baptism... makes the neophyte a new creature, an adopted son of God...and co-heir with Him" (CCC, [1265](#)). "The church and the parents, would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God, were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth" (CCC, [1250](#)).

Sovereign grace is the only means by which our merciful God saves sinners ([Eph. 2:8-9](#)). Satan, being fully aware of this, created an alternate way of salvation that nullifies or suspends God's saving grace. His system of works-righteousness is found in all the religions of the world. From [Buddhism](#) to [Zoroastrianism](#), the devil's influence is found in teachings that say you must do good works to merit God's favor or appease His justice.

### **The Security of God's Children**

The Prince of Darkness knows he can never kidnap the children of God who have been delivered into the glorious light of the Son, but he can make their walk ineffective. His most effective tool is deception. He uses false teachers to lie about the power and promises of God which are explicitly revealed in the Gospel of grace. The very promise of the Gospel is eternal life backed up by the power of almighty to keep those He has saved. This divine gift of everlasting life can never be lost, revoked or rejected once received ([John 10:28](#); [Rom. 11:29](#)). Christians who are uncertain about the eternal duration of their salvation are often paralyzed in their walk with Christ. They stumble in doubt and feel

[\(See Assaults on page 8\)](#)

## **The Ministry of Proclaiming the Gospel**

### **OUR PURPOSE**

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

### **OUR METHOD**

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

### **OUR NEWSLETTER**

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

### **OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH**

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

### **OUR PROVISION**

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

## Catholic Majority on the Supreme Court?

If Samuel A. Alito Jr. is confirmed to the Supreme Court, a majority of its nine justices for the first time will be Roman Catholics. For 150 years, from 1836 to 1986, there was usually just one Catholic -- and never more than two -- serving on the Supreme Court at a time.

## Magazine Apologizes For Ad

A Jesuit magazine has apologized after publishing an advertisement for a Virgin Mary statue wrapped in a condom. The headline for the ad read, "Unique Contemporary Religious Art Work for Sale." In the text, the statue was called "Extra Virgin," and was described as "a stunning 22 cm high statue of the Virgin Mary standing atop a serpent wearing a delicate veil of latex." The statue's maker said he placed the ad as a protest against Vatican opposition to the use of condoms to stem the spread of the AIDS disease. ([AP, 12/22/05](#))

## Pope Immune From Sexual Abuse Cases

A U.S. judge dismissed Pope Benedict from a civil lawsuit lodged against him and other Roman Catholic church officials that accused them of covering up sexual abuse of a minor by a seminary student. The judge agreed with a motion filed by the Vatican that Pope Benedict enjoyed "head-of-state immunity" in the case. The church's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, headed by Pope Benedict when he was a cardinal, played a central role in the conspiracy to conceal the abuse that occurred. The Church has been hit by numerous lawsuits since in the U.S. since it was discovered that priests accused of molesting children were moved from parish to parish to hide abuses. (Reuters, 12/23/05)

## Pope Pursuing Methodists

Pope Benedict XVI encouraged Methodist leaders to join a landmark 1999 agreement between Lutherans and the Vatican on how humankind achieves salvation. In his first meeting with the World Methodist Council, Benedict urged the council to endorse the *Joint Declaration on Justification* as a significant step towards full visible unity in faith. (RNS, 12/10/2005)

## Steeling the Mind Conference San Juan Capistrano

Another great conference is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, February 17-18 at Ocean Hills Community Church in San Juan Capistrano, CA. Join us as we fortify our minds with biblical truth! The line-up of speakers and their topics include: Mike Riddle, *UFO's and the Bible*; Larry Vardiman, *The Age of the Earth - Thousands NOT Millions*; Chuck Missler, *Bio Tech or Bio Terror*; Mike Gendron, *Satan's Big Six*; Gary Frazier, *The Incredible Key to Bible Prophecy*; Gerald Robison, *The Entire Old Testament in 55 Minutes*; Dave Reagan, *God's Plan for the Ages*; Kent Hovind, *The Dangers of Evolution* and Skip Heitzig, *The Bible's Top Ten*.

For more information or to register, please call 800-977-2177 or visit [www.compass.org](http://www.compass.org).

## Where Mike Is Speaking

Jan. 6-7 **Remember the Reformation Believers Chapel**

Dallas, TX (214) 239-5371

Jan. 19-20 Various Churches  
Sydney, Australia

Jan. 21-26 Various Churches  
Melbourne, Australia

Jan. 27-30 Various Churches  
Brisbane, Australia

Feb. 10-12 **Village Bible Church**  
Carol Stream, IL (630) 668-4647

Feb. 18-19 **Steeling the Mind Bible Conf.**  
Ocean Hills Community Church  
S. Juan Capistrano, CA (800) 977-2177

Mar. 18-19 **Grace Bible Church**  
Brandon, FL (813) 662-9622

Mar. 31 **Dallas Theological Seminary**  
Dallas, TX (214) 841-3795

Apr. 5-8 **Tulsa Int'l Prophecy Conference**  
Tulsa, OK (888) 835-6978

May 20 **Steeling the Mind Bible Conf.**  
Philadelphia, PA (800) 977-2177

July 17-21 **ABWE Baptist Missions Conf.**  
Harrisburg, PA (717) 703-3497

*To schedule Mike Gendron to speak at your church or event, contact him at:*  
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## Quick Quotes

*"A sublime and perfect model of sanctity is Mary Most Holy, who lived in constant and profound communion with Christ. Let us invoke her intercession, together with that of St. Benedict."*

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, 7/10/2005

*"Mary has watched with motherly care over the pontificates of my venerated predecessors, each of who, with great pastoral wisdom, guided Peter's ship along the route of authentic conciliar renewal. I ask you to join me in spirit, at the foot of the statue of the Immaculate Conception, which is an act of filial devotion to Mary, to entrust to her the beloved city of Rome, the Church and all of humanity."*

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, 12/8/05

*"With what indignation must the Lord look down upon that apostate harlot, called the Romish Church, when, in all her sanctuaries, there are pictures and images, relics and statues, and poor beguiled beings are even taught to bow before a piece of bread. I have seen thousands adore the wafer, hundreds bow before the image of the Virgin, scores at prayer before a crucifix, and companies of men and women adoring a rotten bone or a rusty nail, because said to be the relic of a saint. Let us, above all, never have any complicity with this communion of devils, and since our God is a jealous God, let us not provoke him by any affinity, gentleness, fellowship, or unity with this Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the earth."*  
Charles Spurgeon, from *A Jealous God*

## Priest Causes Catholics to Commit Mortal Sin

At least 1,500 people attended Christmas Eve Mass presided by an excommunicated Roman Catholic priest, despite warnings from the archbishop that participating would be a mortal sin. Priest Marek Bozek left his previous parish without his bishop's permission and was hired by St. Stanislaus Church. As a result, he was excommunicated for committing an act of schism. Despite the warning, Catholics and non-Catholics filled the church. "I'm not worried about mortal sin," said worshipper Matt Morrison, 50. "I'll take a stand for what I believe is right." When Bozek entered from the rear of the church, the congregation rose and greeted him with thunderous applause. (WP, 12/26/05)



# Seeking His Truth

## Letters to the Editor



In my 30's I was trying to establish my own righteousness through penance, indulgences, sacraments and rituals. Because of my horrible fear of Purgatory, I said many 30 day Novenas to Mary, many Stations of the Cross and wore Catholic medals like good luck charms. All of that changed when an evangelist began counseling me once a week for about 4 months. He showed me from the Bible that "we are justified freely by His grace" and Jesus said "it is finished". That's the best news a Roman Catholic can hear! I'm still amazed when I think of my salvation! The Bible says that Christ delivered me from the domain of darkness, and transferred me to the kingdom of His beloved Son ([Col. 1:13](#)). Since then the Lord has blessed us with a house 2 blocks from the largest Catholic Church in North Carolina. Over the years we have witnessed to Catholic priests and left several hundred Gospel tracts on cars while people were inside 'celebrating' Mass. We pray that your ministry will continue to grow and Roman Catholics will be saved and leave the wicked, depraved Catholic Church.

S.S., Pinehurst, NC

Your hatred for Catholics including John Paul II has been very evident. Our beloved Pope was loved by the whole world. His love penetrated many denominations and every class, rich or poor. Why would your group who claims to be Christian, target a family of believers who love to serve God their way? As a Catholic, you never understood its theology. You were never touched to know the essence of scripture and how it relates to the church, which is the pillar and foundation of truth. You judge people's faith but Christianity should be about loving all people. Catholicism is still growing and is the largest denomination in the world. You are obsessed with trying to bring a faith down because of ignorance.

Teresa L. Internet

*I am not the judge of the Pope or his religion, it is the Word of God that judges all things. Jesus said, "the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day" ([John 12:48](#)).*

*Is it hatred to warn people, who may be*

*lost in their religion, of the everlasting torment that awaits them? You are right that Christianity is about loving all people. However, genuine love is love based on truth ([1 John 3:18](#)). Sincere love is evidenced when one is acting in obedience to the truth ([1 Pet. 1:22](#)). You are also right that as a Catholic I did not understand its theology, that is, until I begin reading the Bible at the age of 34. Only then did my gracious Lord show me the Catholic gospel is a perversion of the true Gospel. He granted me repentance that led to a knowledge of the truth ([2 Tim. 2:25](#)). I pray you will also contrast Catholic theology with the Bible and God will bring you to the same conclusion.*

Thank you for what I think may have been one of the best articles you have written. [The Christian Church Needs To Be Evangelized](#) gave a clear concise view of what has been going on in most churches today as they head towards apostasy. This article is a definite "keeper" and one to give to people who may feel attacked when you expose the doctrinal errors that churches are embracing. I ask that you keep stories like this one coming.

S. W., Elmer, NJ

Thank you so much for your ministry Mike. If you were in Australia we'd be giving you the biggest non-stop hug. Your straightforward information has helped me reach out to my catholic family. I have been so encouraged by your [DVD](#) messages. Thanks for your encouragement to just get out there with the Gospel and let the Lord take care of what people do with it. I have passed on many of your articles to a new Christian who is so excited to no longer be a catholic. She is being fed truth for the first time in her life and it is a great joy for our church to see her growing spiritually. I know it cannot be easy at times to do what you do, but we earnestly pray the Lord to give you the strength to do it for many years to come.

R.L-J., Thorneside, Australia

I am enthusiastically requesting your continuance of my subscription to the PTG

newsletter. So often I read Christian material that is well-intentioned, but theologically weak and sometimes just wrong. Or, it is driven by the latest fad: the purpose-driven, name it and claim it, seeker sensitive, self-esteem, Prayer of Jabez manual, or the like. I never have to wince as I read your newsletter. Your teaching is thoroughly biblical, well-researched, clear, current, and lovingly presented, often in the face of great hostility. I respect that tremendously and know that even for the mature, it is a test of sanctification. You are certainly modeling Christ-likeness in the ministry and are an encouragement to all Christians who read your words and hear your presentations. Thank you for being an encouragement and friend to [Grace Community Church](#).

Pastor M. A., McKinney, TX

To God be the glory for all the great things He does! Especially waking the sleeper to the truth of our Lord Jesus Christ! I wholly agree with you that the Reformation and the doctrine that was re-discovered is absolutely a must for all born again believers! I recently viewed some of your [DVD](#) messages, and you certainly bless me with the compassionate love of an evangelist speaking the truth!

Pastor B. S., Overton, NV

How could I ever do without your newsletter and your stand for truth! Lately it seems that your articles are speaking what my heart and spirit are hungry to hear. I am so distressed at the watered-down gospel being preached in churches. Bless you for taking a stand and for contending for the faith once delivered to the saints. Has no one heard of the scripture: "[Come ye out from among them](#)." How else can we minister to Catholics, who think they are Christians, unless we separate from them and show them the Gospel is different from theirs? Those who stay in fellowship with them allow them to believe a lie - that our Gospel and theirs is the same. Real love would not allow another to be deceived. Stand fast, Mike, there are many of us who are with you.

B. W., Marshall, VA

As a proud Catholic I find your site to be quite hateful but yet predictable. Protestant denominations have no line to the apostles. They have been formed out of heresy. Why do you feel this attack on Catholics is necessary? I would like to debate you on several issues. First is the issue of idolatry. It refers to the worship of the golden calf, not Catholic statues and images. The Lord even

commands the making of images. ([Ex. 25:18-20](#)). Second, is the issue of Saints. You claim that saints are dead and that you can't pray to saints. Really! What about Jesus and his meeting with Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration ([Matt 17:3](#)). You see Catholics do in fact read the Bible. I know Jesus just as well as you. You have no right to question my faith.

*Rich, Internet*

*I encourage Catholics to question their own faith as St. Paul exhorts us all to do. Anything you believe that does not conform to Scripture must be corrected. It was the Lord Jesus, not Peter, who established the church at Pentecost. Since then there have been two streams of Christianity. One is the apostolic church which includes everyone sealed by the Holy Spirit upon believing the Gospel of salvation ([Ephesians 1:13](#)). This church, which is the Body of Christ, submits to the Lord Jesus Christ as its only Head. The other stream is made up of apostate churches which have departed from the faith of the apostles and, as a result, now believe and teach another gospel. These churches submit to the teachings and traditions of apostates who have been influenced by deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons ([1 Timothy 4:1](#)). The Catholic Church evolved out of the original apostolic church of sanctified, persecuted believers. Influenced by Constantine in the 4th century, new converts came in with their statues and many of the pagan practices that we see in Catholicism today. The Lord never command us to make images. On the contrary, He forbids this practice. His command to Moses was to "make two cherubim of gold" to be placed on the mercy seat. They were never to be used in worship, in fact, they were placed in the holy of holies where they could not be seen by anyone except the high priest who entered once a year. Regarding your comments on saints, I have never claimed that saints are dead. Everyone who has been born of the Holy Spirit is a saint. Nowhere in Scripture do we see any God-fearing person praying to anyone other than almighty God. If you knew the Lord Jesus and understood your Bible you would come out from your false religion and worship God in [Spirit and truth](#). May God help you to do that for your peace and His glory.*

Your newsletter has really been an eye-opener to me. My husband's sister professed to be a Christian most of her life, but

then a few years ago she married a Catholic man who made it clear that he would raise his children Catholic. She decided to become a Catholic also. Reading your material has really reinforced our need to pray for their salvation. My husband has been reading your book [Preparing Catholics for Eternity](#) to be better prepared to talk with them. They always become very defensive when we bring up this topic. Please pray!

*C. & C. W., Greeley, CO*

If you are still kicking when God calls me home, I request that you conduct my funeral along with two others I've chosen. It will be a last shot at evangelizing my family and friends. You can contrast Catholicism with the Gospel and tell them point blank that I wanted them to hear and ponder the Gospel because that's all that matters.

*H. H., Riverview, FL*

I have so appreciated all of your articles on revealing the depth of deceit in the Catholic Church. My heart is burdened for the many Catholics who live in our area so I copy and pass out your articles to them. When one day they stand before our Lord and give an account—they will be unable to say they never had a Mike Gendron revealing the truth to them. You have been an encouragement to me in my ministry.

*G.K., Woodman, WI*

May the Lord continue to use you as a beacon of light to direct the lost from Rome to *The Way*. Your ministerial endeavors are reaping fruit of eternal significance. We are of a kindred spirit. Many from our humble flock embrace your stance against the "Antichrist" of church history. O my beloved brother Mike Gendron, I praise God for witnessing His continual progressive illumination of your mind to a progressive knowledge of your spiritual heritage. May He provide you with many more fruitful journeys into the heart and soul of Pauline thought and life. May the Lord richly bless your preaching and teaching.

*T.M., Calipatria, CA*

After reading your newsletter for a number of years now, I have come to one conclusion - Mike Gendron for President!

*J.V., Broussard, LA*

Greetings from New Zealand. Where did you get the Bible from? Jesus did not write a book nor command his disciples to write. Scriptures do not contain the whole religion

of Jesus. I know enough of the Gospel. I have no need of you.

*T. C., Whangarei, New Zealand*

My husband and I were Eucharistic Ministers and greeters and completely involved in the Catholic Church for many years. Once when I was in Catholic school, I asked the teacher a question about the book of Revelation. She told me that I shouldn't be reading the Bible; only priests are able to interpret the writings. I felt like I had done something wrong. But I figured the Bible was written for the common man, not some elitist bureaucrats, so I decided to read it. I began questioning every word the priest said, and soon found out that he could not be trusted. I began looking for another church, but I can't find one that teaches only the Bible. Can you help me find a biblical church?

*B. H., Eagan MN*

I set everything else aside as soon as I receive your newsletter and read it all the way through. I praise the Lord that He has called you to minister not only to those entrapped within the Catholic Church, but also to those within the body of Christ who so desperately need to learn discernment in these latter days. We pray the Lord will bless, guide and protect you as you run the race.

*C. & J.J., Lily, GA*

I was raised as a Methodist, then AOG, then found the Catholic Church and went through a year long orientation to make sure this is what I wanted. After visiting your web site I was angry and hurt. Our traditions keep the gospel alive in our every day lives. Stop judging the Church. You are not qualified to judge. You left it and you don't even understand it. You are corrupting the Body of Christ like a cancer that needs to be cut out. I pray for chemotherapy of a divine nature to cleanse you from harming the Body of Christ. Become a productive instead of destructive part of His Body. May God change your hardened heart and bring you back to Him.

*Cheri R., Internet*

Please submit questions or comments to:

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## Salvation Without Faith

Pope Benedict XVI declared: "Whoever seeks peace and the good of the community with a pure conscience, and keeps alive the desire for the transcendent, will be saved even if he lacks biblical faith." The Pope made this affirmation at his general audience while commenting on a meditation written by St. Augustine. ([Zenit, 11/30/05](#))

## Priest Tried for Heresy

A rare heresy trial was held for a Roman Catholic priest who joined a denomination that doesn't accept papal infallibility and has ordained women clergy. The Rev. Ned Reidy did not attend the one-day closed trial, which was conducted by three priests at the Diocese of San Bernardino. Reidy, 69, called the trial "medieval" and contends it has no authority because he stopped being a Roman Catholic in 1999. A spokesman for the diocese, said Reidy was automatically excommunicated when he went to another denomination, but under church law he remains a Roman Catholic priest until he is formally excommunicated and defrocked. "I just think the discourtesy level is appalling," Reidy said of the trial. "I'm not a Roman Catholic priest." Reidy was ordained in 1962 and was pastor of a parish in Palm Desert, before he resigned to pastor the 100-member Community of the Risen Christ church. His denomination considers itself Catholic in the sense of celebrating its sacraments. But it does not believe in the infallibility of the pope and permits married and female clergy. It also holds more liberal views than the Vatican on divorce, birth control and homosexuality. (AP, 12/13/05)

## Devotion to Mary Increasing

CNN broadcast a story about a statue of the Virgin Mary near Sacramento that appeared to be shedding tears of blood. In August, a

New Orleans funeral home billboard attracted crowds after Mary's profile was spotted in the photo. In April, thousands flocked to an expressway underpass in Chicago to witness an image of the virgin that officials believe was a stain created by salt runoff. Hokey or heartfelt, bizarre or sublime, these sightings are a reflection of a contemporary revival in the cult of Mary. Devotion to the virgin is nothing new to American Catholicism. A combination of Mexican immigration, popular feminism and a growing need among spiritual seekers to make God more accessible has led to a resurgence in the presence of the figure of Mary. By the end of the 20th century, Mexican migrants had carried their Virgin of Guadalupe to all corners of the U.S. Theologians have noted that the Virgin Mary, represents a more tender, compassionate side of God. Time magazine reported that the "long-standing wall around Mary" in the Protestant world "appears to be eroding." ([L.A. Times, 12/18/05](#))

## Gay Priests Should Not Lead Seminaries

Gay priests are not to lead or teach at Catholic seminaries even though their ordination is valid, according to Vatican guidelines on homosexuality. The guidelines bar men with "deep-seated" homosexuality from becoming priests in the future. Although the letter seeks to limit the influence of gay priests in seminary life, it reaffirmed the validity of their ordination. Estimates of the percentage of gay priests vary widely, from 10 percent to more than 50 percent. ([RNS, 12/1/05](#))

## Devotion to Mary and the Eucharist Inseparable

Michael F. Hull, a professor of sacred Scripture at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York, was one of the speakers in a video conference organized by the Vatican Congregation for Clergy. He said, "Devotion to the

Holy Eucharist and devotion to Our Lady are so closely bound as to be inseparable." Speaking of Mary's own reception of holy Communion after the Lord's paschal mystery, He reminded the audience of John Paul's remarks: "For Mary, receiving the Eucharist must have somehow meant welcoming once more into her womb that heart which had beat in unison with hers and reliving what she had experienced at the foot of the Cross." Hill said, "Mary is, indeed, the help of Christians, leading them to Jesus and the Eucharist. Devotion to Our Lady is always together with devotion to Our Lord, especially in the Eucharist" ([ZENIT.org, 11/20/05](#)).

## Catholic Church Hosts Interfaith Service

Buddhists, Baptists, Jews and Unitarians joined Catholics at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Daytona Beach at the fifth annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Hundreds of people attended representing 21 different religious groups. "It is important that we build bridges, not walls," Catholic pastor Fr. Philip Egitto told the Orlando Sentinel. "We have to look at what we have in common rather than our differences." Rabbi Gary Perras of Temple Israel said he hoped there would come a day in the future when "regardless of creed, we would all see each other as family." ([CNA, 11/25/2005](#))

## No More Limbo

The Pope is set to abolish the concept of Limbo, overturning a belief held by Roman Catholics since the Middle Ages. Limbo has long been held to be the place where the souls of children go if they die before they can be baptized. However, an international commission of theologians was summoned by the late John Paul II, to come up with a "more coherent and illuminating" doctrine in tune with the modern age. Vatican sources said that the commission would recommend that Limbo be replaced by the more "compassionate" doctrine that all children who die do so "in the hope of eternal salvation." ([TimesOnline, 11/30/2005](#))

## Catholics and Muslims

The future of peace calls for dialogue between believers of the different religions, especially between Christians and Muslims, says Benedict XVI. He said, "The Church hopes to continue an open and sincere dialogue with believers of other religions, in search of the authentic good of man and society." ([Zenit.org, 12/1/05](#))

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*"...your faith  
should not rest on  
the wisdom of  
men, but on the  
power of God."  
([1 Cor. 2:5](#))*

## The Schemes of Satan

- ◆ He repudiated God ([Isaiah 14:12-14](#))
- ◆ He caused man to fall ([Gen. 3:1-15](#))
- ◆ He opposed Israel ([1 Chron. 21:1](#))
- ◆ He tempted Jesus Christ ([Luke 4:1-13](#))
- ◆ He put his thoughts in the heart of Judas to betray Christ ([John 13:2](#))
- ◆ He counterfeits miracles ([2 Thes. 2:9](#))
- ◆ He blinds unbelievers ([2 Cor. 4:4](#))
- ◆ He holds unbelievers captive to do his will ([2 Tim. 2:26](#))
- ◆ He snatches away the Word sown in the hearts of those who don't understand it ([Mat. 13:19](#)).
- ◆ He disguises himself as an angel of light ([2 Cor. 11:14](#)).
- ◆ He deceives the whole world ([Rev. 12:9](#))
- ◆ He prowls about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour ([1 Pet. 5:1](#)).
- ◆ He wages war against the Saints ([Eph. 6:11-13](#))

([Assaults from page 2](#))

defenseless against the attacks of Satan.

### The Sanctity of God's Church

As the master counterfeiter, Satan depreciates the sanctity of the church by planting tares among the wheat ([Mat. 13:25-40](#)). These tares may never realize they are pawns of the devil, but they infect the church and bring much shame to the name of Jesus Christ. No assembly is immune from these demonic infiltrators who cause turmoil, division with their doctrinal error and habitual sin. Paul wrote: "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them" ([Acts 20:29-30](#)). We know the primary commission of the church is to equip and encourage believers to go into the world and make disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ. In order to counter this objective, Satan brings the world into the church to distract it from its purpose. Rather than feeding the sheep, the church starts entertaining the goats.

### How Must Believers Respond

As spiritual darkness overcomes the dim-

ishing light of the Gospel, believers must be of sober spirit and be on the alert ([1 Peter 5:1](#)). Those who belong to the Lord Jesus must put on the full armor of God each day and be prepared for spiritual warfare ([Eph. 6:10-18](#)). Satan will continue taking advantage of those who are ignorant of his schemes ([2 Cor. 2:11](#)). His sustained attacks on the Christian faith will become more and more fierce as we approach the day when Jesus Christ returns triumphantly to the earth. Until that glorious appearing of our Savior, deceiving spirits will continue to influence the great apostasy from the faith. "The falling away" is taking place everywhere as apostates turn from the truth to follow doctrines of demons ([1 Tim. 4:1](#)).

How can believers brace for the storm that we know will cause shipwreck to the faith of apostates? Paul exhorts us: "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" ([Eph. 6:10](#)). "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" ([1 Cor. 15:58](#)). In the epistle of Jude, which is often called the Acts of the Apostates, we are exhorted "to contend earnestly for the faith which was once and for all delivered to the saints" ([Jude 3](#)).