

# ROMAN CATHOLICISM: WHAT IS IT?

by Paul Freeman, Evangelist

This paper is written for the fundamental, Bible believing, born-again Christian who needs to know exactly what the Roman Catholic Church teaches. The Roman Church holds one out of every five people in the United States within its religious system. More are coming into this country from Mexico and Latin America, some legally and some illegally.

The average Christian does not know the doctrines of the Roman Church. For this reason, many are fallen into compromising relationships with Roman Catholics for certain moral causes. The unequal yoke that follows may carry away an unwary Christian into lifelong relationships that are destructive to the spiritual ministry of the born-again Christian. It is my desire to make known the doctrines of the Roman Church so that none may perish without knowledge.

The religious system that presents itself to the world as the Roman Catholic Church claims to be the only true church. There is no salvation for the soul of man apart from the Roman Catholic Church. The Syllabus of Errors issued by Pope Pius IX, in 1864, states that "The eternal salvation of any out of the true church of Christ is not even to be hoped for." (Article number 17) Such an exclusive claim requires us to examine the doctrines of the Roman Church in the light of the Bible, which is the inspired and the preserved Word of God. The Bible says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)

## **THE CONTINUAL SACRIFICE (THE MASS)**

When you enter a Roman Church there will be a display of Christ on the cross. This is often referred to as a crucifix. The Roman Church does not believe that Christ died on the cross for our sins once for all. The Bible says, "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God." (Hebrews 10:12) Again the Bible says "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Hebrews 9:28)

In the Roman Church, Christ is still on the cross. In what they call THE MASS he dies daily upon their altar. The Roman priest commands Christ to come down from heaven to become flesh in the wafer to be presented on their altar for the sins of the living and the dead. The wafers, made of flour and water, supposedly become the very flesh of Christ. The priest then takes the golden bowl of wafers and offers them on the altar as a continual sacrifice for sin. The New York Catechism states, "THE MASS is the same sacrifice as the sacrifice of the cross."

The people then come to the priest who holds the cup full of wafers that have become the very flesh of Christ. First, they kneel and make the sign of the cross, then stand with mouth open and the priest places the wafer in their mouth. The remaining wafers are then placed into a tabernacle and locked with a key. Thereafter, anyone who approaches that tabernacle must kneel in worship to the wafer-god.

This continual sacrifice is said to be for the sins of the living and the dead. The dead Roman Catholics are said to be in Purgatory suffering in flames for their sins committed on earth. The sacrifice of THE MASS is supposed to release them sooner from Purgatory suffering. The teaching of Purgatory is a pagan idea having no support in the Bible.

The Council of Trent declared "The sacrifice in THE MASS is identical with the sacrifice of the cross, inasmuch as Jesus Christ is a priest and victim in both." The golden cup of wine is also supposed to become the blood of Christ. The priest drinks the wine, whereas the people only partake of the wafer.

In the Roman Church it is a mortal sin not to attend MASS once a week. A mortal sin has no remedy unless confessed to and absolved by a priest. Without doing so, a mortal sin will send a deceased to Hell where there is no release. THE MASS is the most important part of the Roman Church. Without it the church would cease to exist. THE MASS alone is trusted in to eventually bring a soul through Purgatory and into Heaven. Without it there is no salvation to be hoped for.

When the Lord Jesus Christ finished His substitutionary atonement on the cross for our sins, He said, "It is finished." (John 19:30) Also, the Bible says, "When he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on

high." (Hebrews 1:3) Faith in Him alone provides full and complete salvation and eternal life as a present possession. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Again, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3:36)

THE MASS is a continuing and perpetual sacrifice of Christ according to the Roman Church. It is supposedly done daily for the sins of the living and the dead. Yet the sins are never fully paid, for people are in Purgatory suffering for the sins they committed on earth. What value is a sacrifice that does not fully take away the penalty for sins? The Bible says, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:14)

The Bible contradicts the false teaching of THE MASS. We read "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; for then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." (Hebrews 9:24-26)

One prominent feature of THE MASS is the money it brings in. No MASS is said without money. The people give money to the priests to say MASS for loved ones in Purgatory. Those who contribute money for a MASS fail to see that the gifts of God cannot be bought with any amount of money. The Bible says, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:24) The word "freely" means "without cost."

THE MASS is a superstition designed to throw a veil of mystery over the observance of the Lord's Supper. It was unknown to the early church. From a simple memorial feast it became a miraculous re-enactment of the sacrifice of Calvary, through which Christ is constantly dying for his people. It is a religious device of Satan to keep people in darkness and in unspiritual bondage.

## **PURGATORY**

The Roman Church has invented a place called Purgatory. This is a place where the faithful must go upon death to pay the penalty for sins committed after baptism. This is a place of fiery torment with suffering greater than any experienced on earth. Those who are there are unable to help themselves. Their relatives on earth are urged to pay money for a MASS to be said on their behalf to shorten their stay there.

Roman Catholics are kept in bondage because of this imaginary Purgatory. Every year great amounts of money pour into the Roman Church to secure relief from this imaginary place of suffering. The priest is unable to tell the relatives when a soul gets out of Purgatory, for he does not know.

The doctrine of Purgatory is not in the Bible. The Bible has only two destinations for the soul of man. The believer in the finished work of Christ on the cross is received into Heaven. The Apostle Paul said, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (II Corinthians 5:8) The one who does not trust in Jesus alone for the salvation of his soul goes directly to Hell. The Bible says that the rich man died and was buried "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments." (Luke 16:23) Again, the Bible says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." (Psalm 9: 17)

## **THE MOTHER OF GOD**

The last recorded words of Mary in the Bible were spoken at the marriage in Cana when she said, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." (John 2:5) Her last presence in the Bible is recorded in Acts 1:14 as she prayed along with the disciples just prior to the Day of Pentecost. In all the following epistles of Peter, Paul, James, John and Jude the name of Mary is not mentioned. The seven letters to the churches given by the risen Lord Jesus Christ to John in Revelation 2 and 3 does not mention her at all. However the Roman Church has developed a large system of falsehoods concerning the virgin Mary.

The Roman Church has decided that Mary was immaculately conceived in her mother's womb in what they call "the Immaculate Conception." Therefore she was born without a sinful nature and she lived a sinless life. However the Bible says that Mary "rejoiced in God my Saviour." (Luke 1:47) and that she brought the sin offering required for a mother who gave birth. (Luke 2:22-24; see also Leviticus 12)

The next thing put forth by the Roman Church is that after the birth of Jesus, Mary was a perpetual virgin. Though Mary and Joseph were married, they never had sexual relations and had no children. The Bible says they had at least six children after the birth of Jesus. The Bible says, "Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us?" (Matthew 13:55,56) The Bible is correct and the Roman Church is wrong.

Mary is referred to by the Roman Church as the MOTHER OF GOD. God is eternal and He has no mother. The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. As to His humanity, it began when He was created in the womb of the virgin by the Holy Spirit. Mary was the mother of the humanity of Jesus and no more. The prophet Isaiah said, "For unto us a CHILD is born, unto us a SON is given." (Isaiah 9:6) The eternal SON was given to us and the CHILD Jesus was born "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." (John 1:14)

The Roman Church believes that Mary is Co-Redeemer. They tell us that the angel Gabriel was sent to Mary to get her consent to bear the Christ child. Since she consented to give a body to Jesus, God is indebted to her for the salvation of the world. The Bible is very clear in Luke 1:26-36 that the angel came to tell her that she would be favored and blessed. She was not asked to consent to bear the Lord Jesus, she was told that she was chosen and that she would have a child. It is a strange imagination that has God sending a messenger to a human being to seek permission to do something.

The Roman Church theorizes that when Christ died on the cross, it was Mary's flesh donated to Him that was crucified. Therefore Mary is thought of as Co-Redeemer. The Bible is clear that the body of Jesus was created in her by the Lord; "wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou

wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me." (Hebrews 10:5) A sinful woman carried a sinless child and brought him forth to save the world. There is no Co-Redeemer, for the Bible says, "When he had BY HIMSELF purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." (Hebrews 1:3) He died, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.

Mary was born with original sin and a sinful nature and death came to her as it does to all men; "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12) Jesus was not subject to death because He was not subject to the penalty of Adam's sin. Jesus laid down His life voluntarily and dismissed His spirit when it was time; "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." (John 10:18) Again we read "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." (Luke 23:46)

The Roman Church teaches that after the death of Mary, she was raised from the dead and carried bodily up to Heaven. There she was seated at the right hand of her son. She was given the title "Queen of Heaven." She is also called "Queen of the Apostles, Queen of the Angels, the Door of Paradise, the Gate of Heaven, Our Life, Mother of Grace, and Mother of Mercy."

Every Roman Church has a statue of Mary. In many countries her statue is paraded through the streets by the faithful. Roman Catholics worship the Virgin Mary and ascribe to her the powers of Deity. Millions of Catholics around the world pray to Mary. If they believe they are all being heard by her, she would have to be everywhere present. Only God is omnipresent. God's creatures can only be in one place at one time.

Worship belonging to God alone is given to Mary. Jesus said that, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Matthew 4:10) The Roman Church teaches that Mary can obtain any request that goes through her to her Son. She is therefore considered a Mediatrix between God and men. The Bible does not allow this, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men,

the man Christ Jesus." (I Timothy 2:5) Again Jesus said, "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) Some will maintain that they do not worship Mary, but the fact remains that they do.

The Roman Church teaches that Mary is more sympathetic toward the sinner and that you can go to the Son through the mother. What son can refuse the request of his mother? Since Jesus is in debt to Mary for his flesh she is in command control over him. It is of great interest to note that Jesus never referred to Mary as "mother" in the Bible. He always called her "woman." While engaged in His public ministry, the message was sent to him that his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to see him. He answered, "Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." (Matthew 12:46-50) He did not elevate his mother above any other believer. The future cult of Mary was headed off by the Lord Jesus in Luke 11 :27-28: "And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the woman that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it."

All of the above that the Roman Church claims for Mary is without any Biblical support. The whole effort to raise the mother above the child has its origin in Babylonian religion. There the mother and child were worshipped with more prominence given to the mother who held the child. The Roman Church teaches that the way of salvation is open only through Mary. Millions are led to believe that salvation cannot be obtained by coming to Christ alone. The Bible is so clear and Peter declared it, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

### **THE CONFSSIONAL**

The Roman Church requires confession of sins to be made to a priest. The Baltimore Catechism defines confession as "Confession is the telling of our sins to an authorized priest for the purpose of obtaining forgiveness." Those who join the

Roman Church are told, "The priest does not have to ask God to forgive your sins. The priest himself has the power to do so in Christ's name. Your sins are forgiven by the priest the same as if you knelt before Jesus Christ and told them to Christ Himself."

The confessing person may be interrogated by the priest so that he or she may make a full confession. The priest sits there usurping the place of God and forgiving sins. Confession to a priest was made compulsory by Pope Innocent III in 1215 A.D. and was unknown up until that time. The requirement was to confess at least once a year. Confession is a usurpation of authority by priests who investigate the minds and souls of human beings.

The Bible is very clear that only God can forgive sin, "When Jesus saw their faith he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." (Mark 2:5) Again, Jesus said to the sinner woman "Thy sins are forgiven." (Luke 7:48) The Pharisees were astounded and said, "Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone." (Mark 2:7) They were right about who could forgive sins, but wrong about who Jesus is. Because He was God come in the flesh he alone could forgive sins.

The New Testament knows nothing about the pretended office of a priest. Every Christian believer is a priest and has access to the throne of God. The Bible says, "Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever." (Revelation 1:5,6) "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16) Our confession of sin is made unto God alone and He says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9)

What godly husband would want his wife sitting before another man and revealing all her sins in thought, word, and deed? It is an immoral bondage of the

worst kind. What godly father would want his daughters questioned by another man about things they may have never known? It is an immoral invasion of the sanctity of the home. How many boys have been asked about things they have not yet experienced? In the confession booth, secrets are revealed to a strange man who has no business to know.

The converted priest, Charles Chiniquy, said, "With a blush on my face, and regret in my heart, I confess before God and man, that I have been through the confessional plunged for twenty-five years in that bottomless sea of iniquity, in which the blind priests of Rome have to swim day and night. I had to learn by heart the infamous questions which the Church of Rome forces every priest to learn. I had to put these impure, immoral questions to women and girls who were confessing their sins to me. Those questions, and the answers they elicit, are so debasing that only a man who has lost every sense of shame can put them to any woman." Again he said, "Pagan antiquity has never seen any institution more polluting than the confessional." (*The Priest, the Woman, and the Confessional*, pp 67,68)

"The confessional is a system of espionage -a system of slavery. The priest is the spy in every home. The average priest can stride along with that lofty air. When he meets his parishioners he often tosses his head as though he were a demigod. Why is it? Because he holds the secrets of the personal lives of all his flock -of all who trust him." (John Carrara, *Romanism Under the Searchlight*, p 70)

## **THE POPE**

The Roman Church is ruled over by a man called "the Pope." That title is not found anywhere in the Bible. It comes from the Latin "*PAPA*" meaning, "father." Jesus said, "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 23:9) The Pope is referred to by the Roman Church as the "Holy Father." Those words are found only one time in the Bible. In the prayer of the Lord Jesus to the Father, He said this, "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee, HOLY FATHER, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are."

(John 17:11) For any man to take those words and apply them to himself is blasphemous. The name belongs to God alone.

Another name assumed by the one who claims to be the "Holy Father" is the Latin name "*Pontifex Maximus*." The name means "the supreme bridge builder" and refers to the one who is the connecting link between this life and the next. This was the title formerly held by the Roman Emperor as the High Priest of the pagan religion. The word "PONTIFEX" comes from two Latin words *PONS* -bridge, and *FACIO* -make, and the word "MAXIMUS" means supreme. Thus, the Pope claims to be the supreme bridge from earth to heaven.

The New York Catechism says, "The Pope takes the place of Jesus Christ on earth.... By divine right the Pope has supreme and full power in faith and morals over each and every pastor and his flock. He is the true VICAR of CHRIST, the head of the entire church, the father and teacher of all Christians. He is the infallible ruler, the founder of dogmas, the author of and the judge of councils; the universal ruler of truth, the arbiter of the world, the supreme judge of heaven and earth, the judge of all, being judged by no one, God himself on earth."

The Bible is very clear that the VICAR of CHRIST on earth is the Holy Spirit. Jesus said to His disciples that He would send "another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." (John 14:16) He also said, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26) Again Jesus said, "Howbeit when he the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come." (John 16:13)

The word *VICAR* means "a substitute, or one who takes the place of another." We use the word *VICARIOUS* to refer to the Atonement which Jesus made for us at Calvary when He died for our sins. He was my substitute and He took my place. If the Pope is not the VICAR of CHRIST on earth, he is the greatest impostor the world has ever seen. For a man to claim to be "God himself on earth" is false and arrogant.

## THE PRIESTHOOD

First century Christianity had no priests. It was not until the third or fourth century that priests began to appear in the church. Every local church had saints, bishops (elders) and deacons. (Philippians 1:1) There were no sacrifices offered in the New Testament because Christ had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God." (Hebrews 10:12) When the Lord Jesus ascended back to heaven he gave gifted men to build and carry forward His church, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." (Ephesians 4:11) There is no mention of an order of men within the church designated as "priests." Christian priests are an invention of the Roman Church.

The Council of Trent in 1545 A. D. said, "The priest is the man of God, the minister of God...He that despiseth the priest despiseth God; he that hears him hears God. The priest remits sins as God, and that which he calls his body at the altar is adored as God by himself and the congregation...It is clear that this function is such that none greater can be conceived. Wherefore they are justly called not only angels, but also God, holding as they do among us the power and authority of the immortal God."

A Roman Catholic book, carrying the imprimatur of the Archbishop of Ottawa, Canada says, "Without the priest the death and passion of our Lord would be of no avail to us. See the power of the priest! By one word from his lips he changes a piece of bread into a God! A greater fact than the creation of a world."

According to the Roman Church, the salvation Christ completed on the cross is incomplete without the priest. The Church of Rome teaches that salvation in this life is not complete, but that after death the soul must suffer a longer or shorter time in Purgatory and that repeated MASS must be said to pay the debt for sin.

There are no references in the Book of Acts to a sacrificing priesthood. Christians went forth to preach the gospel and baptize believers, teaching them the Word of God. Eternal life was presented as the gift of God to all who would believe,

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

When the priest is ordained in ceremony, he is presented as an "alter Christus" which means "another Christ," offering in the MASS the same sacrifice that Christ offered on the cross. People bow before him and kiss his hands as a token of respect. He is the creator of the wafer-god and must be revered as another Christ. Without the priest, there is no salvation to be hoped for. No Roman Catholic can say with Paul, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (II Corinthians 5:8) Again Paul said, "having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better." (Philippians 1:23) The Apostle Paul was not a Roman Catholic priest. Paul delivered the observance of the Lord's Supper to the church at Corinth. (I Corinthians 11 :23-34) He did not turn a wafer into God and celebrate a MASS. Such a falsehood is in total ignorance of the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ to save a sinner.

### **IDOLATRY**

The worship of the wafer-god by the people in the Roman Church is an unusual form of idolatry. However, that in itself does not exhaust the idolatry within the Roman Church. Upon entering a Roman Church you will find statues of Mary and dead saints. You will find people kneeling before these statues and making prayers to the person represented by the statues. The Bible is very clear that prayer is to be made only to God and in Jesus name. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." (John 16:23,24) God is the only one everywhere present and God can hear every prayer. The name of Jesus is the only name that unlocks the treasure house of God. Salvation of our soul is only available through the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter said, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12) Once a sinner has put his faith and trust in Christ alone he is in possession of every spiritual blessing;

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." (Ephesians 1:3)

It is insulting to the Father and the Son to see people kneeling before inanimate statues of dead saints and making prayers to those who cannot hear and see them. These dead saints have not been authorized to hear and answer prayers. They are not everywhere present and cannot hear prayers from around the whole world. The Bible is very clear in Exodus 20:4,5 "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God." The Apostle John said "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." (I John 5:21)

In Psalm 115:4-8 we read, "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; They have ears, but they hear not; noses have they, but they smell not; They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is everyone that trusteth in them." These statues must be carried from place to place and sometimes through the streets in parade. How sad to see people praying to a carved piece of stone. Idolatry is what took the people of Israel into captivity and idolatry is keeping Roman Catholics out of heaven. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) The Apostle Paul said, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)

### **ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

A Roman Catholic will never have assurance of his soul's salvation. The system of religion that he has enrolled himself in cannot provide that assurance. When he is born, he must be sprinkled with holy water by an authorized priest to remove the penalty of original sin. Then he must be indoctrinated into the religion of Rome. He will learn to tell his sins to a priest and he will do penance. If he commits a mortal sin and dies before confessing it to a priest, he will go to Hell. It is a mortal sin to fail to attend MASS once a week and on certain holy days. He will give money

to the priest to say MASS for his dead Catholic relatives who he thinks is suffering in the fires of Purgatory. He will recite prayers to Mary asking her to save him at the hour of his death. He will eat the wafer-god at MASS as a sacrifice for his sins. He will have no power to overcome sin, so he will seek forgiveness from the priest who represents Christ. The priest will give him absolution for his sins, but he will still have to pay for them in Purgatory.

He must keep himself in a state of grace so that upon death he will miss Hell and go to Purgatory. He is never sure if he has done all that is required to make it into Purgatory. On his deathbed he will call for a priest to hear his last confession and give him extreme unction.

He considers how the priest turns the wafer into the flesh of Christ and offers it as a continual sacrifice for his sins and it has to be repeated every day. He goes to the Confessional and receives absolution by confessing his sins to the priest and he has to come back again and again. He does not know that God has forgiven him. When he dies he may be fortunate enough to go to Purgatory and thus be punished for his sins, which were supposed to have been forgiven. He is on a continual wheel that holds him in bondage but never sets him free. He is afraid of going to Hell, he looks forward to going to Purgatory, and he knows nothing about Heaven.

The Apostle John said, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (I John 5:11-13) The Bible believing Christian knows that he is not going to Hell; there is no Purgatory, and he is going to Heaven.

## EPILOGUE

What you have just read is a true presentation of what the Roman Church teaches. There is so much falsehood in this religious system that one cannot find his or her way to Heaven. There is no salvation inside the Roman Church. When a Roman Catholic comes to faith in Jesus Christ alone for the salvation of his or her soul, that person will leave the Roman Church. The truth of the Word of God (The Bible) will set that person free. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

Faithfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ requires us to maintain a separation from the false doctrines of Rome. We will be asked to work together in evangelistic crusades (such as the Billy Graham crusades) and to carry on a dialogue. We will be told that there are many saved Catholics. What you have just read is not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a package of lies intended to damn the souls of men. Paul instructed us as follows, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." (Romans 16:17,18)

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