

Is God pouring His wrath into the heart of the Roman Catholic religion – the Priesthood?

By Andrew Mayfield

In a recent message from Pope Benedict XVI, he made these comments, “Religion is losing favor in society. . . .” and “there is no strong attachment to religion.”¹ It is important to ask, why would so many be falling away from what *he calls religion*, and more specifically, is it *his religion* of Roman Catholicism that he should be referring to?

On the very same day, the unfathomable scandal that has rocked the world over the last five decades erupted into one of the most explicit examples of the darkness found in the Roman Catholic priesthood and leadership. In the ongoing exposure of this atrocity, we find the sequence of events in Belgium which began in June of 2010 to be central in understanding the message of this paper. What the world and the 1.3 billion Catholics who worship in this religious system plainly see is the clear manifestation of God’s wrath being poured into the very heart of the Roman Catholic false system – the priesthood. God has simply turned thousands of them, all around the world, over to the desires of their debased minds.² Within this priesthood, as will be revealed through Roman Catholic research and publication, the percentage of homosexuals are a staggering twenty-six to fifty times higher than the percentage of homosexuals found in the population of the United States or Europe. The implications of this and its effect on the Roman Catholic people and society are simply immeasurable, but are well documented by Catholic Apologetics International and their research titled, “The Statistics on Homosexuality and its Effects.”³

In the Belgium raid, authorities detained the Belgian bishops for hours during questioning. They also investigated the entire premise in which these bishops reside. The Vatican, and the Pope himself, described the searches as “surprising and deplorable,” “serious and unbelievable,” and akin to the practices of communist regimes.⁴

This response reveals a great deal about the self-righteous, self-exalted view of this system’s leadership. The Vatican simply could not fathom that their bishops and priests would be *treated like everyone* else in the matters of law and crime. They simply held themselves, as they always have, to be far above the law and the common people. As the truth unfolded, the dark realities of what the Vatican and their Pope so desperately tried to suppress was poured out by our sovereign Lord in front of the entire world to see. Curiously, just as the Pope was preparing to be exalted in his highly publicized trip to Britain, the headlines all around the world published this,

“The Catholic Church in Belgium yesterday promised to open a rehabilitation centre for child abuse victims after an investigation found that hundreds of young people were raped and

¹ <http://www.zenit.org/rssenglish-30336>

² <http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-46157620100214>

³ <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1502263/posts>

⁴ <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2000204,00.html>

assaulted by its priests over the past 40 years.” “. . . Investigators working for an independent commission say they have now received 475 complaints from victims and that 13 people abused by clergy were known to have committed suicide. Most of the abuse occurred in the 1960s and 1970s to children older than 12 although one victim was just two years old”

“If we say ‘*mea culpa*’⁵, then we are morally responsible, legally responsible, and then people come wanting money,” Bishop Guy Harpigny, the Belgian bishops’ spokesman on abuse issues, told Belgium’s Radio 1.⁶

“The Pope is following very closely what is happening in the Belgian Catholic Church,” said Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman.⁷

One of the most important questions one must ask in the horror of *what* is unfolding in this priesthood is the deeper, more crucial question - *why is this happening to this priesthood?*

With their priesthood now shamefully exposed all around the world, the Pope has argued that it is Satan that has entered the church and the priesthood. Scripture, however, reveals the proper view:⁸ it is the righteous wrath of God being poured out into the very heart of this priesthood and leadership who have suppressed the truth of the Lord’s perfect Gospel for centuries. In order to understand why this would be, it is crucial that one understand just how essential *this priesthood* is to the entire system of Roman Catholicism. Without the priesthood, there is no instrument from which their sacraments can be delivered; and without the sacraments, they cannot hold their people captive in their obedience to this system of religious works and papal authority.

Their claim, their power, and their gospel

The question of why God would pour His wrath out in such an extraordinary way might become clearer as we begin to see the authority this church claims for itself, an authority that is held by God and God alone, through the Lord Jesus Christ, but has been shamefully stolen by these men who claim to have, “*the supreme, and universal power over the whole Church . . . unhindered . . . who enjoys, by divine institution, supreme, full, immediate, and universal power in the care of souls. . .*”⁹ They also claim supreme authority over the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who, according to them, will submissively remain at their mercy perpetually in an ongoing sacrifice on their alters, millions upon millions of times per day. In the following extract from the book, “The Faith of Millions: The Credentials of the Catholic Religion,” written by Roman Catholic priest, John O’Brien, we see the

⁵ *mea culpa* is a formal acknowledgment of personal fault or error and renders as: my mistake or my own fault

⁶ http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100914/wl_nm/us_belgium_church_abuse_1

⁷ http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/pope-breaks-silence-over-belgian-abuse/story-e6frg6so-1225922196371?from=public_rss

⁸ Romans 1:15-18

⁹ Roman Catholic Catechism #937, #882

absolute blindness and arrogance that consumes this priesthood and attempts to usurp the perfect supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁰

“When the Priest announces the tremendous words of consecration, he reaches up into the heavens, brings Christ down from His throne, and places himself upon our altar to be offered up again as the Victim for the sins of man . . . the Priest brings Christ down from heaven, and renders Him present on our altar as the eternal Victim for the sins of man . . . not once but a thousand times!”¹¹

The Roman Catholic priests have falsely claimed this power for centuries, despite the absolute contrast and clarity in which scripture reveals the sufficiency and finality of the Lord’s sacrifice on the cross, “*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. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 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.*”¹²

In order to preserve and protect this priesthood and its authority, the papacy has gone to great lengths in order to render it the highest of powers possible through their Canon laws. Regardless of any circumstances that may expose them in sin, these priests retain all the power necessary to be the instruments of forgiveness, despite the very sins they practice according to this Canon, “If any one saith, that Priests, *who are in mortal sin*, have not the power of binding and of loosing; or, that not Priests alone are the ministers of absolution . . . let him be anathema.”¹³ This again is in complete contradiction to what the word of God says regarding those who practice lawlessness and likely provides a clear answer to the concern raised by the Pope stated earlier in this paper, “*And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*”¹⁴

Tragically, because of the laws of this church, the very priest whom a mother depends on for the Eucharist she believes saves her, and the confession that absolves her, could easily be the same priest and predator that has shamefully violated her or her child. Regardless of this reality manifested in countless parishes today,¹⁵ the Canon law of this church boldly claims that this priest still holds all the power necessary to sacrifice Christ, serve His body to her, hear her confession, and then cleanse her from her sins. All of these miracles are performed despite the vicious and perverse nature of the

¹⁰ Roman Catholic Catechism 1414

¹¹ John O'Brien, in "The Faith of Millions: The Credentials of the Catholic Faith", (1974, p. 255-56)

¹² Hebrews 9:25-28

¹³ Council of Trent - ON THE MOST HOLY SACRAMENT OF PENANCE - CANON X

¹⁴ Matthew 24:11-12

¹⁵ <http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-46157620100214>

priest's own life; and if she chooses to reject this authority over her soul, she is declared to be accursed by the Church that has caused her this tragedy.

With all of this brought into the light of truth, we must return to our initial question posed in the beginning of this paper: *Is God pouring His wrath into the very heart of the Roman Catholic Religion – the Priesthood?* The answer is found clearly in scripture, in their pursuit of self-righteousness and the long suppression of the Lord's truth; God has simply delivered them over to the desires of their flesh and let them pursue it to the deepest levels of man's depravity – pedophilia.

The truth they attempt to suppress

As we begin to unfold the scripture that so plainly reveals the tragic spiral that has now been manifested in this church and priesthood, it is important to follow scripture and its self-revelation of the deep truths that are poured into the heart of every true believer through the Holy Spirit. Plainly spoken by the Apostle Paul, this is precisely the truth they diligently attempt to suppress in order to bind their flock to their false system of religion through their sacraments. In complete contrast, this wonderful passage begins with a statement that has exploded in the hearts of every person born again in Christ, and for many, further strengthened at the burning stake of their martyrdom.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”¹⁶

The truth and the power are not in sacraments or men, but God

The Apostle Paul proclaims, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel . . . ,”¹⁷* which displays the unashamed boldness of the soul touched by *“. . . the power of God unto salvation”¹⁸* This passage reveals that the power to save is of God confirming the utter inability of any man, and his religion, to save himself.¹⁹ *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly,”²⁰* and *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”²¹*

Scripture then plainly reveals the first fruit of this power which draws the sinner to Christ, *“To every one that believeth”²²* revealing the true, regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the*

¹⁶ Romans 1:16-17

¹⁷ Romans 1:16

¹⁸ Romans 1:16

¹⁹ John 1:12-13

²⁰ Romans 5:6

²¹ John 6:44

²² Romans 1:16

kingdom of God,”²³ and “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”²⁴

The just shall live by faith

Finally, “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.”²⁵ What this remarkable passage reveals is that throughout the entire history of God’s redemptive work, man has always been justified by faith alone and not by works, because “. . . we are all as an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; And we all do fade as a leaf; And our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”²⁶ It has always been plainly shown that our justification before this holy God is fully, and completely, the gift of God through grace. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. . . .”²⁷ “. . . no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith.”²⁸

This passage reveals so many crucial truths regarding the doctrine of salvation. It also exposes the suppression of this truth found in the works-based doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. By putting these priests and their sacramental law as the very means of salvation, they have attempted to corrupt the word of God, the power of God, and the passing purpose of the law: “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”²⁹

Many often ask, “If this church is so corrupt, how could they have lasted so long?” One only needs to look to the book of Galatians to see just how long Satan has attempted to use his minions to distort the true Gospel of faith with his false gospel of works by attempting to add works, sacraments, or righteous religious deeds as a necessary means by which the sinner is saved. Paul’s response, then, is the exact same response we must give today to this futile effort of Satan:

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”³⁰

²³ John 3:3

²⁴ John 3:8

²⁵ Romans 1:17

²⁶ Isaiah 64:6

²⁷ Ephesians 2:8

²⁸ Galatians 3:11

²⁹ Galatians 3:24

³⁰ Galatians 1:6–10

In this passage, it is clear that *this truth war has raged from the very beginning of the Lord's church*, and it once again peaked during a crucial period we now call *The Reformation*. How important it is that we continue to wage this spiritual battle of truth against their lies. We live in a day where the Protestant church simply no longer knows this battle, no longer knows just why these men and women of the Reformation gave their lives for their beloved Lord and His truth. There is a deadly, ongoing effort to seek common ground both in doctrine and worship with those who have been the very instruments of Satan, just as those *accursed* in the church of Galatia, from which scripture says we must turn away.

The Reformation... “To make right that which is wronged”

During this crucial time in the Lord's true church, the Lord lifted up several men out of the Roman Catholic system who lived between 1330 and 1564. Along with the wondrous Biblical truths these men fought to reveal, they strongly opposed the exact same issues now exposed all across this Church and her leadership—in their own words, the cited issues of “open immorality of the corrupt popes, bishops, and priests of the time . . . ,”³¹ and of the “papal indulgences, clerical abuses of power, immorality of high living within the Catholic clergy, and the veneration of the Pope.”³²

History shows that the response from the Roman Catholic Church was not one of repentance and change, but one of doctrinal defense and an all out attack that destroyed any of those who opposed them. For these Reformers, the Church condemned every one of them as heretics and then publicly excommunicated them. They were then either relentlessly pursued the rest of their lives, burned to death, strangled, or dug up from their graves and their bones publicly incinerated.³³

In the midst of all of this unbelievable truth, it is important to ask: What was so crucial to this church that they would destroy the innocent lives of Bible-believing men, women, and children in such a violent and shocking way. Amazingly, the answer is in the question, they were destroyed because they were Bible believers who knew their lie! Would they do the same today if they could?

The Roman Catholic response – Canons from the Council of Trent

The Roman Catholic response to these Reformers, and the truth of scripture they held so tightly, were produced in the Canons of the Council of Trent. The Canons reveal the extraordinary lengths the Church went to in order to reaffirm their strongholds held over the minds of their people through this false gospel and the mandatory laws that were specifically designed to conceal the truth of scripture. The truths that were brought forward by scripture and the Reformers *directly* exposed the lies behind their papacy, their Mass, their Eucharist, and the unique holiness of their priesthood. Each Canon produced by the Catholic leadership was a precise response to counter the essential, saving truths that were now plainly revealed through the openly translated Bible of the Reformers.

³¹ <http://www.apuritansmind.com/reformation/reformation.htm> (John Wickliffe)

³² <http://www.apuritansmind.com/reformation/reformation.htm> (John Hus)

³³ <http://www.apuritansmind.com/reformation/reformation.htm> , <http://www.ccel.org/f/foxe/martyrs/home.html>

Truths that had been trapped in the dormant Latin translations of the Church for centuries were now held in the hands of both the layperson and the theologian throughout all Europe.

Amazingly, and in stark contrast to the glory of the Lord's grace revealed in His true church, this time proved to be one of the greatest disasters in the history of the Roman Catholic Church – for it directly challenged and exposed the power and authority which the Church had held and coveted for so many years. In her stronghold of this power, the Church used her Canons to control the beliefs of all her faithful; and more importantly, it would establish the means by which those who would no longer bow the knee to Rome could be tried and put to death for heresy, of which thousands were. Through the rejection of Rome's false gospel, these true believers held fast to their saving faith, their Bible,³⁴ and their Lord.³⁵

The consequence of the suppression of truth – the wrath of God

In this fateful Catholic response, their suppression of God's truth is plainly revealed. More importantly, as we continue in the passage regarding the suppression of the truth found in the book of Romans, we see the unfolding, or pouring out, of God's mighty wrath upon those who suppress His truth in unrighteousness, and more tragically, we see the immense warnings and consequences of all those who do so, *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness . . . so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man”*³⁶

Within hundreds of Canon Laws that have been written,³⁷ there are those that most specifically reveal the heart of Rome's rejection of the Lord's truths. It was essential for the Church to maintain and ferociously protect the power she both claimed for herself and upheld in her priesthood. The following Canon extracts constitute the core messages of their lies; each one rejecting the most crucial of truths, the supreme authority and perfect sacrifice of the Lord's cross, and His free gift of grace given, which is not earned through their sacramental system and obedience:

If any one saith . . . that the sacraments of the New Law are *not necessary unto salvation*³⁸ . . . that baptism is . . . *not necessary unto salvation*³⁹ . . . any one that denieth that, in the sacrament of the most holy *Eucharist*, are *contained truly, really, and substantially, the body and blood together with the soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ*⁴⁰ . . . that *in the mass a true and proper sacrifice is not offered to God* . . . that *the sacrifice of the mass is . . . a*

³⁴ Romans 10:29

³⁵ <http://www.ccel.org/f/foxe/martyrs/home.html>

³⁶ Romans 1:18–23

³⁷ <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent.html> (Council of Trent – CANON 1545)

³⁸ Sacraments – Canon IV <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent/ct07.html>

³⁹ Baptism – Canon V <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent/ct07.html>

⁴⁰ Eucharist – Canon I <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent/ct13.html>

propitiatory sacrifice . . . and that it ought not to be offered for the living and the dead for sins . . .⁴¹ . . . let him be anathema.

“For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered.”⁴²

“The totality of the Bishops is infallible, when they, either assembled in general council or scattered over the earth, propose a teaching of faith or morals as one to be held by all the faithful (De fide).”⁴³

The Canons reveal several central rejections of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and further suppress the truth in unrighteousness. Sadly, in the blind believing of this church, millions upon millions of people are bound to this false gospel and are held at the mercy of its leadership, despite what scripture clearly states through the apostle Peter, “*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you . . . and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways . . . And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*”⁴⁴

The consequence of God’s wrath – letting go

Considering the backdrop of all that has been revealed, it is important to show how scripture unfolds precisely what is taking place in this church and its priesthood. In the suppression of the truth, God simply lets go and delivers them over to pursue those desires that bring utter destruction upon themselves: “*Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator . . . For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections . . . also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error . . . God gave them over to a reprobate mind. . . .*”⁴⁵

Examine carefully the implications of this passage in the context of the path that the Roman Catholic priesthood and leadership have now traveled for decades. Through their claims of infallibility and power over Christ and the Church, they have suppressed the central truths of salvation, and now find themselves fully exposed in countless scandals throughout the world. This begs the question: *Has God simply given them over to the desires of their debased minds leading to this widespread pedophilia?* Equally important is the question: *What did they choose to do about what they have clearly known for decades now?* What is now revealed are dark secrets that have been systematically suppressed for centuries by this system and its leadership, but have now erupted all over the world in the most shamefully open, exposed depravity of this priesthood.

⁴¹ Mass – Canon I&III <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent/ct22.html>

⁴² Catholic Catechism #882, p. 254

⁴³ <http://jloughnan.tripod.com/dogma.htm> - attributes of the church

⁴⁴ 2 Peter 2:1–3

⁴⁵ Romans 1:25–28

In its long struggle to grapple with sexual abuse, the Vatican often cites as a major turning point the decision in 2001 to give the office, led by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the authority to cut through a morass of bureaucracy and handle abuse cases directly. The decision, in an apostolic letter from Pope John Paul II, earned Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, a reputation as the Vatican insider *who most clearly recognized the threat that the spreading sexual abuse scandals posed to the Roman Catholic Church.*⁴⁶

By this point, the reality is that the wrath of God had been unfolding upon this church for decades, and the leadership's ability to contain it has been impossible. To illustrate this truth, look at the recent history regarding the widespread darkness now known within the walls of the Church and the seminaries of the Roman Catholic system.

Were it not documented in Catholic books, one would hardly believe the utter decadence in seminaries and in colleges that train men for the priesthood. The subculture of homosexuality is rampant across the U.S.A. Page after page of *Goodbye, Good Men* tells of the horrific influence of homosexuality that has permeated the youth in the Catholic seminaries. The ideals of youth are replaced by unnatural lusts that have become prevalent in major seminaries and colleges training men for the priesthood.⁴⁷ Donald Cozzens, leading Catholic priest and rector of St. Mary's in Cleveland, Ohio (a leading U.S. seminary), states in his book on the priesthood that,

“An NBC report on celibacy and the clergy found that ‘anywhere from 23 percent to 58 percent’ of the Catholic clergy have a homosexual orientation.⁴⁸ Other studies find that approximately half of American priests and seminarians are homosexually oriented...Moreover, the percentage of gay men among religious congregations of priests is believed to be even higher.”⁴⁹

Then nonchalantly he states, “At issue at the beginning of the twenty-first century is the growing perception—one seldom contested by those who know the Priesthood well—that the Priesthood is or is becoming a gay profession. And to the point is the question: Does it matter? Does not the question reveal still another form of homophobia?”⁵⁰

Under the heading, “The Gay Crisis,” Cozzens states, “Gay seminarians are likely to feel at home and at ease in a seminary with a significant gay population. They feel they belong and their need for meaningful, deep relationships with other gay men is easily met, and because they instinctively recognize other gay seminarians, circles of support and camaraderie are quickly formed...The straight seminarian meanwhile feels out of place and may interpret his inner destabilization as a sign that he does not have a vocation to the Priesthood.”⁵¹

⁴⁶ Amid Church Abuse Scandal, an Office That Failed to Act

⁴⁷ Michael S. Rose, *Goodbye, Good Men, How Liberals Brought Corruption into the Catholic Church* (Wash. DC: Regnery Publ., Inc., 2002); also Donald B Cozzens, *The Changing Face of the Priesthood: A Reflection of the Priest's Crisis of Soul* (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2000). Rose, Chapter 4

⁴⁸ Timothy Unsworth, *The Last Priests in America* (New York: Crossroad, 1991) p. 248, in Cozzens, p. 99.

⁴⁹ Cozzens, p. 99

⁵⁰ Cozzens, p. 107

⁵¹ Cozzens, p. 135

The “unthinkable” has become an everyday occurrence. Chapter 10 of *Goodbye, Good Men* begins with a quotation, “Complaints about doctrinal error, liturgical abuse and even personal misconduct in U.S. seminaries are now so common as to be routine.”⁵²

In another revelation of the darkness within the Church, the retired priest, William Bausch, writes in his book, *Breaking Trust*, “Bishops knew of the increasing shortage of priests, the large number of homosexual seminarians and priests, the existence of clerical sexual abuses — they have known about all these issues for decades. . . .” “. . . many priests-estimates vary from fifty percent to sixty percent of the priests are gay. . . .”⁵³

Despite the darkness clearly exposed within the Church, it is difficult to imagine that the Pope would claim his office was both unaware and not responsible,⁵⁴ despite the expressed purpose of his prior office of which he held since 1981, and the supreme authority of his current office as pope.⁵⁵ Rather than acknowledge the obvious reality, he simply attempts to suppress it as gossip and media attack.

At the Palm Sunday service, Pope Benedict, 82, did not directly mention the wider scandal - involving the abuse of children by priests in several countries. But he told the tens of thousands of people gathered to hear him that God helped lead “towards the courage of not allowing oneself to be intimidated by the petty gossip of dominant opinion.”⁵⁶

It is startling to look at the hypocrisy of this church and her system of laws designed to judge the issue of homosexuality within her laity and the world, then completely ignoring it when it came to judging the same massive sin within her own priesthood, again leading to monstrous consequences:

Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex . . . which presents *homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity*. . . . *Under no circumstances can they be approved.* (Roman Catholic Catechism - 2357)

The scandals and hypocrisy of the Roman Catholic Church have once again permeated society in a way that simply cannot be measured. Thousands of victims have now come forward to bring into the light the unspeakable darkness of this church and her priesthood. Children’s lives have been forever altered. Men who were responsible for the spiritual development of these children chose to pursue the vilest desires of their flesh and destroy the spirit of these children and their families; and in their most shameful response, Pope Benedict XVI loudly claims he is not responsible. Is this not clearly *the hireling who flees when danger approaches?*⁵⁷ And yet, as we cited at the beginning of this paper, the blindness of this system and its pope wonders why “Religion is losing favor in society . . . there is no strong attachment to religion.”⁵⁸ Must *we really* wonder why?

⁵² This quotation is from Francis X. Maier, a former editor of the National Catholic Register

⁵³ *Breaking Trust*, p 53

⁵⁴ <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/27/world/europe/27pope.html>

⁵⁵ <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/02/world/europe/02pope.html>

⁵⁶ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8592111.stm>

⁵⁷ John 10:12-14

⁵⁸ <http://www.zenit.org/rssenglish-30336>

The grief one has for those loved . . . but lost in this deceitful system

No other scripture in the Bible more accurately captures both the burden, and the motivation, for writing this paper regarding the Roman Catholic Church and those deceived in their false system of works than these words of Paul to His Jewish loved ones, *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”*⁵⁹

This passage clearly reveals the tragedy of the Catholic who is trapped in the deception of a religious works system lacking truth, *“ . . . they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.”*⁶⁰ This knowledge, so prominently displayed throughout the pages of scripture, simply states, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”*⁶¹

Through the suppression of this saving truth, the Catholic is held in a journey of unattainable righteousness, *“For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”*⁶² Through their false gospel, the Catholic diligently attempts to obtain their own holiness and righteousness through obedience to their sacramental laws. However, scripture plainly reveals the exact opposite is true of salvation, *“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”*⁶³

In this passage, the Lord is precise in the way He identifies the attributes of the false teachers who leave their flocks condemned in these false doctrines, *“ . . . Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity . . . ;”*⁶⁴ and again, *“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.”*⁶⁵

Why is their religion of works and self-righteousness such an affront to our Lord and His heavenly Father? Scripture has no clearer answer than the truth that is revealed in II Corinthians, *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*⁶⁶ This is why He tells us, *“ . . . we are all as an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; And we all do fade as a leaf; And our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”*⁶⁷

It is so essential that one understands that it is the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ that allows the sinner to stand before God. This gift of grace cannot be earned through any form of works, obedience, or worthiness. That is why it is His gospel, and in it is all the power to save. If it is exchanged for man’s false gospel of works and ongoing sacrifices, then the sinner, who will at the

⁵⁹ Romans 10:1–4

⁶⁰ Romans 10:3

⁶¹ Ephesians 2:8

⁶² Romans 10:3

⁶³ Romans 10:4

⁶⁴ Matthew 23:27–28

⁶⁵ Matthew 7:15

⁶⁶ 2 Corinthians 5:21

⁶⁷ Isaiah 64:6

appointed time give an account of why they rejected so great a salvation, will pay the penalty of death.⁶⁸ How many more souls will partake with them and their cup of destruction?⁶⁹

Please pray that as this is read, not one reader will leave a single Roman Catholic unaware of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is found only in scripture.

⁶⁸ 2 Corinthians 5:10-21

⁶⁹ 1 Corinthians 10:20-22