

# BEWARE THE LAMB

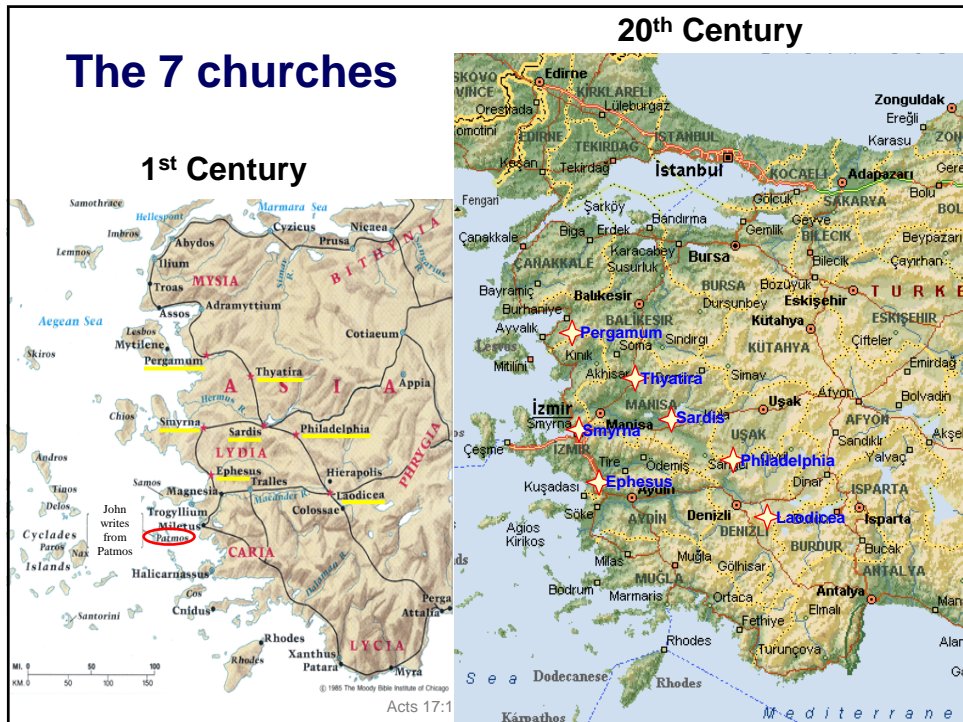


**THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

**Rev 02-03 Thyatira**

## A View of Church Ages

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Church Age</u>	<u>Dates (A.D.)</u>
Ephesus	Apostolic Age	< 100
Smyrna	Age of Persecution long. 27° 25' E., lat. 38° 28' N.	100 – 313
Pergamos	Imperial Church long. 27° 0' E., lat. 39° 13' N.	313 – 590
<b>Thyatira</b>	<b>Age of Papacy</b> long. 27° 49' E., lat. 38° 16' N.	<b>590 – Tribulation</b>
Sardis	Reformation long. 28° 5' E., lat. 37° 51' N.	1517 - Tribulation
Philadelphia	Missionary Church long. 28° 15' E., lat. 38° 28' N.	1730 – Rapture
Laodicea	Apostate Church	1900 – Tribulation



## Why These Seven Churches?

- 1) **Local:** actual churches; valid needs.
- 2) **Admonitory:** “hear...churches” ...all seven letters apply to all seven churches.
- 3) **Homiletic:** personal: “He that hath an ear...”  
It applies to you and me personally
- 4) **Prophetic:** In their particular order, they lay out the entire history of the church. .Any other order--it doesn't fit!

# For Reference Read Ahead

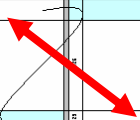
- 1) **Ephesus** Acts 18-20; Ephesians 3; 5  
1 John written to Ephesus
- 2) **Smyrna** Acts 15
- 3) **Pergamos** Num 22-24; Balaam, Num 33;  
Acts 15; 1 Cor 6
- 4) **Thyatira** 1 Kgs 16; 21; Jezebel and Naboth's  
vineyard; 2 Kgs 9:36
- 5) **Sardis** Galatians; Romans
- 6) **Philadelphia** Thessalonians
- 7) **Laodicea** Colossians

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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## 7 Churches Chart

Letter	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
KJV	EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMOS	THYATIRA	SARDIS	PHILADELPHIA	LAODICEA
Name	Holiness of Christ's Church	Mark	Blind Harlots	Idolatry Carnality Carnal of Sensing	Evangel	Brotherly Love	Rule of the Faith
Theme	Rebuke and Call for Repentance Punish and to the restoration of the King	Salvation	Faithful Justice Deception from the World of God	Cooperation with the World's Spiritual Darkness of the Present and Earthly Tension	Believe and Faith Dependence on Christ's Security	Universal Fidelity	Endurance Confidence in Triumph of Christ's
To	RE:1	RE:2	RE:3	RE:4	RE:5	RE:6	RE:7
From	RE:1	RE:2	RE:3	RE:4	RE:5	RE:6	RE:7
Know	Good	RE:2	RE:3	RE:4	RE:5	RE:6	RE:7
	Bad	RE:2	RE:3	RE:4	RE:5	RE:6	RE:7
Will	RE:1	RE:2	RE:3	RE:4	RE:5	RE:6	RE:7
Close	RE:1	RE:2	RE:3	RE:4	RE:5	RE:6	RE:7
Openness	RE:1	RE:2	RE:3	RE:4	RE:5	RE:6	RE:7
Close	RE:1	RE:2	RE:3	RE:4	RE:5	RE:6	RE:7



# Ephesus > Smyrna > Pergamos > Thyatira

**Ephesus:**

- the believers lost their first love,
- became occupied with other things, and
- developed a class which was a sort of clergy, entrusted the preaching of the Gospel to them lowered doctrine to suit the coldness of their hearers

**Smyrna:**

- doctrine of true grace diluted with legalism until the *synagogue* of Satan was in the midst of the church.

**Pergamos:**

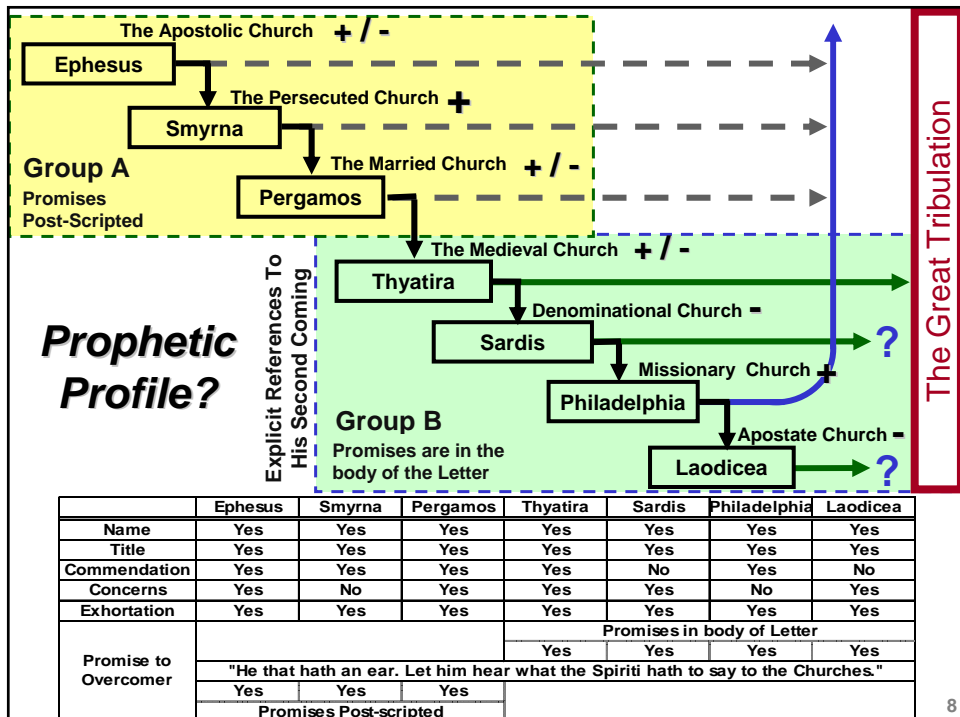
- married to the world,
- exalted clericalism to a doctrine
- low levels of conduct became commonplace.

**Thyatira:**

- last step to apostasy is taken. "Jezebel" is exalted in the church and from her throne ministers unto Satan.

Acts 17:11    1 Thes 5:21

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# Change of tone to Thyatira

Ephesus, Smyrna and Pergamous:

- tone and focus toward the past and a call to repentance (2:5,16).

Thyatira: (longest of the 7 letters)

- the Lord announced that time had been given for repentance, but she was not willing to repent.

The burden of judgment is against the organization, and the body of true believers seems to be but a remnant.

Here the Lord looks toward the future.

- The first mention of the second coming of Christ in the 7 letters to the churches is in the Lord's letter to Thyatira.

## Rev 2:18-29

[18] And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

[19] I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

[20] Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

[21] And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

[22] Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

[23] And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

[24] But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

[25] But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

[26] And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

[27] And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

[28] And I will give him the morning star.

[29] He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

# Geographic Position

Thyatira was about 40 miles east of Pergamos. [long. 27° 49' E., lat. 38° 16' N]

About the distance from Port Huron to Detroit

Today, it is on the road from Istanbul to Izmir

Small town of Akhisar (pop: 30,000) now occupies the site.

In New Testament times, the city stood at the junction of 3 main roads leading to Pergamos, Sardis, and Smyrna.

The city was on the southern bank of the Lycus River, a branch of the Hermus River.

Politically it was the least important of the cities in the seven letters.

It was an important military outpost established to protect Pergamos .



Acts 17:11

## Background History - Names

Originally a Lydian town bearing the name of Pelopia,  
then Semiramis, and  
then Euhippia.

It was taken by the Persians and then Alexander

it ultimately passed to the possession of Lysimachus, one of  
Alexander's four generals.

**301 B.C.:** Lysimachus was defeated by his rival Seleucus I (Nicator)  
Thyatira thus became part of Syria.

The city was converted into a frontier fortress to guard the way  
to Pergamos.

Nicator named it "Thyatira" (*Greek: thygater, for daughter*) on being  
informed that a daughter had been born to him;

[Another meaning is "**continual sacrifice**" which many scholars  
associate with the doctrine of the mass.]

cf. "Jezebel."

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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# Background History – Trade Unions

Being located on 3 main roads and a river, Thyatira grew in commercial importance.

It became a well-known center for trade guilds.

Membership was compulsory and essential if one was to pursue a trade.

- were well- organized corporate bodies,
- providing specific benefits to members
- pro-actively took actions to protect their interests,
- often owned considerable property.

Each guild was under the patronage of some pagan deity, and all proceedings and feasts commenced with paying homage to the patron god or goddess.

**The dilemma of the Christian tradesman continues in our own day:**

Is it necessary for the believer to participate in the production of products, films, plays, books, or music which have an essential appeal to the flesh and violate Christian belief and doctrine?

**It really is a choice between Christ or the world.**

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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# Background History - Purple

Thyatira was known for its dyes

— particularly its purple (which was scarlet rather than purple, derived from the madder-root which is prolific in the area.

*(Alternatives also included the murex, a shellfish from whose throat a drop of dye could be extracted.)*

Note:

- the region (county) in which Thyatira was located was called Lydia...



Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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# New Testament History

The apostle Paul's first convert in Europe was "a certain woman named LYDIA... a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira" was living in Philippi at the time.

*ACTS 16:14*

*And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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## Arches



Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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## Archaeological Park

### Basilica



Acts

## Inscriptions



## Thyatira Ruins Columns of the Portico



Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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## Danger to and of “Thyatira”

The Lord’s letter to Thyatira seems to parallel the church during the medieval papacy from 600 to 1500 A.D.

The attempt to establish and enforce the unBiblical, pretentious, and heretical edicts of the ‘official’ church constitute the major part of the history of the Middle Ages.

The Chaldean priest who interpreted the esoteric doctrines of the Babylonian mysteries was called Peter (i.e. “the interpreter”).

He wore an insignia of the two keys of Janus and Cybele.

These symbols still appear on the Papal arms as symbols of spiritual authority.

The dangers to Thyatira did not come from the persecutions of imperial Rome nor from the animosity of Jewish attitudes.

**They came from within the organized church itself  
— all the more serious and dangerous to deal with.**

**The greatest cause for believing a lie  
is to assume you already know all truth.**

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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## Rev 2:18 - Title

18] And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write;  
These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like  
unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

Thyatira (formerly, Semiramis) = “daughter.”

*The modern name of Thyatira is Akhisar,  
which means "white castle."*

“Son of God”: The only mention in Revelation!

Cf. Peter’s own confession (Mt 16:16-18)

vs. “Queen of Heaven”?

This is the central letter (of the seven);

Jesus asserts His power and authority.

“Brass, fire” = symbols of judgment!

*(Heb. 4:13) (Rev. 19:11, 15)*

## Rev 2:19 - Commendation

19] I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith,  
and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more  
than the first.

He loves us so much He can’t take His eyes off us!

He is always fully informed on our actions and conditions.

Jesus names six positives...and tells them they are improving!

“works..love..service..faith..patience..works”

**WATCH OUT! - AS GOOD AS THESE ARE, BECAUSE YOU  
ARE IMPROVING, THEY DO NOT MAKE UP FOR HOLDING  
UNSOUND DOCTRINE AND LIVING COMPROMISED LIVES.**

## Rev 2:20 - Criticism

20] Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

What was the chief sin of the “church” -  
(which proved to be fatal to it)?

They “suffered” / “tolerated” this woman who claimed to be a prophetess and who led the ‘church’ into sexual sins and idolatrous doctrines and practices –physical and spiritual.

While they did not condone or all follow it, neither did they take a stand against “Jezebel” and her heresy and false teachings....

[Cf. Acts 15:29 injunctions.]

Note the distinction between the church as an organization and the church as an organism.  
Those who are attending the church and those who are the church!!!

## 1 Kings 16-21 - Jezebel

Daughter of Eth-Baal, King of Sidon, who was a Priest of Astarte, the murderer of his predecessor, Phelias, whom he killed to seize the throne.

Jezebel married Israel’s King Ahab to seal a profitable trade alliance between Israel and Phoenicia. [*“Reasonable compromise”?!? to insure temporal riches and power – treasure on earth*]

Queen Jezebel is running things;

Of all the women seen in the Old Testament, none was more cunning or more daring or more unscrupulous

A worshipper of Baal and Astarte (originated in Babylon), she and King Ahab usher in the worst period in the OT (1 Kings 16:30-33).

- She seeks to exterminate prophets of YHWH and impose the worship of Baal (1 Kings 18:13).
- She obtained lands (riches) through “inquisition” misuse of power.

Ref: the incident of Naboth’s Vineyard (1 Kings 21).

*A vivid picture of the medieval church for a thousand-year period, including the Dark Ages.*

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# 1 Kings 16-21 - Jezebel

“Queen of Heaven”: A Babylonian concept: Jer 7:18; Jer 44:15-30.

“Deep things of Satan”: Esoteric mysteries of the Babylonian cults...

Read about Ashtoreth (Judg 2:13; 10:6; cf. 1 Sam 31:10; 1 Kings 11:5,33); The Groves (phallic symbols), Deut 16:21; and The Abomination of Sidonians, 2 Kings 23:3,6,7; Ezek 36:15.

Compare with the Woman & the Leaven parable in Matt 13.

See also Lev 2; 1 Cor 5:7, 8.

The church at Thyatira “tolerated” it: they raised no protest.

**378 A.D.**, Damasus: the bishop of Rome, took on the office of Pontifex Maximus, (high priest) of the Babylonian religion, which had previously been the prerogative of the Roman emperor, thus combining the “Christian” church with pagan religion — an act which has never been subsequently separated:

The ceremonies, rites, titles, vestments...celibate priests, Mariolatry, image and crucifix worship, veneration of saints, adoration of the host...papal infallibility, transubstantiation, etc...all idolatry thinly venerated by Christian nomenclature.

**Lack of immediate punishment should not be misunderstood for laxity:**  
Eccl 8:11; Isa 26:10

## The Roman Catholic Church changes doctrine and belief

- 310 AD** Prayers for the dead were introduced
- 320** The lighting of candles
- 375** The worship of saints, about 365
- 394** The Mass was adopted
- 432** The worship of Mary began to develop
- 500** Priests began to assume distinctive robes
- 593** The doctrine of purgatory was introduced
- 600** Worship in Latin was mandated (since repealed)
- 606** Claims to Papal Supremacy took root
- 607** Boniface III made first Pope
- 650** Feasts in honor of the Virgin Mary began
- 709** Kissing the Pope's foot
- 786** Worshipping images and relics
- 850** Use of "holy water" begun
- 993-995** Canonization of dead saints
- 998** Fasting on Fridays and during Lent
- 1003** Feasts for the dead were introduced
- 1074** Celibacy of the priesthood
- 1076 [1090]** The dogma of Papal infallibility was announced

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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## The Roman Catholic Church changes doctrine and belief

- 1090 AD** Prayer beads
- 1140** The doctrine that there are seven sacraments was introduced
- 1184** The Inquisition
- 1190** Sale of Indulgences
- 1200** The wafer was substituted for the loaf
- 1215** Transubstantiation (A change of anything into something essentially different.  
The conversion of the substance of the Eucharistic elements into that of Christ's body and blood; a doctrine of the Greek and Roman churches.)
- 1215** Confession was instituted
- 1220** Adoration of the Wafer (Host) (the worshipping of a piece of bread that one has become convinced is the Lord Jesus Christ)
- 1229** Bible forbidden to laymen
- 1316** The Ave Maria was introduced
- 1414** Cup forbidden to people at communion
- 1439** Doctrine of purgatory officially decreed
- 1439** Doctrine of the Seven Sacraments affirmed
- 1508** The Ave Maria approved

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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## The Roman Catholic Church changes doctrine and belief

- 1534 AD** Jesuit Order founded
- 1545** Tradition granted equal authority with the Bible
- 1546** The Apocrypha was received into the Cannon
- 1854** Immaculate Conception of Mary
- 1864** Syllabus of Errors proclaimed.  
The doctrine of the temporal power of the Pope proclaimed
- 1870** INFALLIBILITY OF THE POPE DECLARED
- 1950** Assumption of the Virgin Mary (the belief that the Virgin Mary ascended bodily into heaven without dying).  
The personal corporeal presence of the Virgin in heaven.
- 1965** Mary proclaimed "Mother of the Church"
- 1966** Pope Paul IV proclaimed an end to the traditional obligation that Catholics abstain from eating meats on Fridays.  
He abolished the index of forbidden books.  
He demoted a whole host of saints who had been canonized, revered, and prayed to by the church previously.  
A 138-page papal document (officially referred to as an "apostolic exhortation" was issued.  
Pope John Paul II in December dismissed the "widespread idea that one can obtain forgiveness directly from God."

## The Roman Catholic Church changes doctrine and belief

**Focus moves from:**

**Jesus Christ to**

**Pope (power and authority to the clergy) to**

**Wafer / Water (idolatry) to**

**Mary (Queen of Heaven – false worship) to**

**???? What comes next: Rev 17 ????**

## Rev 2:21-22 - Jezebel

**21] And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.**

Fornication: The term is literal, but it's also used spiritually (intimacy with a false god instead of the one True God).

**22] Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, **except** they repent of their deeds.**

First promise of the Great Tribulation

unless... , cf. 2:25.

It's implied that if they repent, they won't be in the Tribulation.

Only the unrepentant church will go into great tribulation ???

Jezebel is finally destroyed (2 Kgs 9:10, 22, 30-37); cf. woman devoured, (Rev 17:16)

## Rev 2:23 - Jezebel

**23] And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.**

Kill with death is a Hebraism for slay with most sure and awful death; so "dying thou shalt die" (Gen 2:17).

Not "die the common death of men" (Num 16:29).

"Reins & hearts": Jer 17:7-10 (YHWH);

Rom 8:27 "...your works" vs. My works.

Judged as ye judge - Mat 7:1-2

## Rev 2:24-25 - Exhortation

24] But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

There is the impression that only a remnant survives (cf. 3:4).

Within this church was an evil for which no remedial measures are sufficient.

“Bathos” = deep things of Satan vs. Deep things of God  
(1 Cor 2:10).

“Baros” = burden, heaviness, weight, trouble

What is its source? Its destination?

25] But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

Don't throw out the good with the bad

First promise of His Second Coming! Expressed only in the last four letters.

## Rev 2:26-28 - Promise

26] And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Was power and wealth the goal of Jezebel?

27] And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

“Rod of Iron”: Ps 2:7-9; Ps 110:2.

“Us”: 1 Cor 6:2 Dan 7:18, 27

“Rod” = scepter Heb 1:8

28] And I will give him the morning star.

“Morning star” = before sunrise (Rev 22:16; also 2 Pet 1:19; cf. Num 24:17), Star of Jacob (Balaam).

## Rev 2:29 - Close

**29] He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

### Note:

In the first three letters, the promise to the overcomer is after “He that hath...”;

In the last four, the promise to overcomer is inside the letter...

In the first three epistles the church was viewed as still capable of repenting;

In the last four it was apparent that only a remnant — described as the overcomer — would hear and repent

First three are encouraged to hold on till the end

The last four include explicit promises of Jesus Second Coming – hold fast till I come...

## Eph. 5:22-32

- 22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
- 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.
- 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in every thing.
- 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
- 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
- 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
- 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:
- 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.
- 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.
- 32 **This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church**



## Rev 2:18-29 Free Translation: Thyatira

18 "And to the messenger of the church in Thyatira write: These things saith the Son of God, the One having His eyes like unto a flame of fire and His feet like unto polished brass; 19 'I know thy works, and love, and faith, and service, and thy perseverance, and thy works; and the last more than the first.

20 But this I have against thee, thou dost tolerate the woman, Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess; and she teaches and seduces my bondslaves to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her time in order that she might repent, and she is not willing to repent of her fornication; 22 Behold I do cast her into a bed, and those committing adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of her works; 23 and I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am the One who searcheth the reins and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your works.

24 But unto you I say, and to the remnant in Thyatira, as many as hold not this teaching, and who know not, as they say, the depths of Satan, I lay not upon you any other burden; 25 but that which ye have, hold fast till I come.

26 And to him who overcomes, and keeps my works until the end, I will give to him authority over the nations; 27 and he shall shepherd them with a sceptre of iron as the vessels of a potter are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father; 28 and I shall give to him the morning star. 29 "Let him who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. |

## Old Testament references in Rev 2

### Chapter 2

**2:18** Dan 10:6  
**2:20** 1 Kgs 16:31-32;  
2 Kgs 9:7, 22  
**2:23** Ps 7:9; 26:2; 28:4;  
Jer 11:20; 17:10  
**2:27** Ps 2:79; Isa 30:14;  
Jer 19:11

## Glossary of Catholic Terms:

With references from the Catholic Catechism, 1994.

**Apocrypha** - Fifteen writings recorded during the 400 years between the Old and New testaments. Twelve of them were declared inspired and added to the Catholic Canon in 1546.

**Apparition** - The perception of a disembodied person often associated with an urgent message. The Vatican has authenticated many visual and audible encounters with the Virgin Mary throughout the world.

**Eucharist** - A wafer claimed to contain the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ (1374), that is to be worshipped, consumed, and sacrificed (1378).

**Indulgence** - The means of remission of the temporal punishment for sins. It is gained by good works and can be applied to the sins of the living and the dead (1471-79).

**Infallible teachings** - The pope and bishops are incapable of error when proclaiming a definitive doctrine pertaining to faith and morals (891).

**Mass** - The continuation of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ at Calvary (1367) which carries on the work of redemption (1405), appeases the wrath of God and atones for the sins of the living and the dead (1371, 1414).

## Glossary of Catholic Terms:

With references from the Catholic Catechism, 1994.

**Mortal sin** - A grave sin committed with full knowledge and consent (1857). Those who die in this state descend into hell (1035).

**Penance** - The sacrament of confessing sins committed after baptism to a priest for forgiveness and reconciliation to God and the Church (1456).

**Purgatory** - A place where those who die in God's grace are punished and purified by fire for sins that have already been forgiven (1030-32, 1471).

**Rosary** - An expression of devotion to Mary, developed in the 11th century by Peter the Hermit, using beads to count 53 repetitious prayers to Mary, six to the Father, and six to the Trinity.

**Sacraments** - Seven efficacious signs of grace that are necessary for salvation and by which divine life is dispensed (1129).

**Venial sin** - A sin that merits only temporal punishment and does not deprive the sinner of grace, friendship with God or eternal happiness.

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# **Roman Catholicism What You Need to Know**



**Quick Reference Guide**  
**James G. McCarthy**

Acts 17:11    1 Thes 5:21

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## **THE 62 PRIMARY ERRORS of ROMAN CATHOLICISM**

BRACKETED NUMBERS ARE REFERENCES TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

### **SALVATION**

#### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES

1. Justification is a transformation of the soul in which original sin is removed and sanctifying grace infused [1987-1995].
2. Initial justification is by means of baptism [1262-1274].
3. Adults must prepare for justification through faith and good works [1247-1249].
4. The justified are in themselves beautiful and holy in God's sight [1992, 1999-2000, 2024].
5. Justification is furthered by sacraments and good works [1212, 1392, 2010].
6. Justification is lost through mortal sin [1033, 1855, 1874].
7. Catholics guilty of mortal sin are justified again through the sacrament of penance [980, 1446].
8. Salvation from the eternal consequences of sin is a lifelong process [161-162, 1254-1255].
9. Salvation is attained by cooperating with grace through faith, good works, and participation in the sacraments [183, 1129, 1815, 2002].
10. Faith is belief in God and the firm acceptance of all that the Church proposes for belief [181-182, 1814].
11. Sanctifying grace is a quality of the soul, a supernatural disposition that perfects the soul [1999-2000].

#### THE BIBLE TEACHES

1. Justification is an act of God in which He declares a sinner to be righteous in His sight, having forgiven his sins and imputed to him God's own righteousness (Romans 3:21-4:8).
2. Justification is by faith alone (Romans 3:28).
3. God justifies ungodly sinners who believe (Romans 4:5). Good works are the result of salvation, not the cause (Ephesians 2:8-10).
4. The justified are in Christ holy and blameless before God (Ephesians 1:1-14).
5. Justification is the imputation of the perfect righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). In Christ the believer has been made complete (Colossians 2:10).
6. Justification cannot be lost. Those whom God justifies will be saved from the wrath of God (Romans 5:8,9).
7. There is no second justification. Those whom God justifies, He also glorifies (Romans 8:30).
8. Salvation from the eternal consequences of sin is an instantaneous and secure act of God coinciding with justification (Romans 5:9).
9. Salvation is attained by grace through faith apart from works (Ephesians 2:8,9). Good works are the result, not the cause, of salvation (Ephesians 2:10).
10. Saving faith is the entrusting of oneself to Christ as Lord and Savior (Romans 10:8-17).
11. Grace is the undeserved favor of God (Ephesians 1:7,8).

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1 THES 5:21

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## THE 62 PRIMARY ERRORS of ROMAN CATHOLICISM

BRACKETED NUMBERS ARE REFERENCES TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

# SALVATION

### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES

12. The sacraments are necessary channels for the continual infusion of grace. They bestow grace in virtue of the rite performed [ 1127-1129].
13. Grace is merited by good works [2010, 2027].
14. Venial sins do not incur eternal punishment [1855, 1863]. 15. Serious sins must be confessed to a priest [1456-1457]. 16. The priest forgives sin as a judge [1442,1461].
17. When the guilt of sin is forgiven, temporal punishment remains [1472-1473].
18. Acts of penance make satisfaction for the temporal punishment of sin [1434,1459-1460].
19. Indulgences dispensed by the Church for acts of piety release sinners from temporal punishment [1471-1473].
20. Purgatory is necessary to atone for sin and cleanse the soul [1030|031].
21. Poor souls suffering in purgatory can be helped by those alive on earth offering up prayers, good works, and the sacrifice of the Mass [1032,1371, 1479].
22. No one can know if he will attain to eternal life [1036, 2005].
23. Eternal life is a merited reward [1821, 2010].
24. The Roman Catholic Church is necessary for salvation [846].

Acts 17:11

### THE BIBLE TEACHES

12. The child of God is the constant object of the Father's grace (Romans 5:1,2).
13. Grace is a free gift (Romans 11:6).
14. Every sin is punishable by eternal death (Romans 6:23). 15. Sin is to be confessed directly to God (Ezra 10:11). 16. No one can forgive sin but God alone (Mark 2:7).
17. When God forgives sin, He completely forgives (Colossians 2:13; Isaiah 43:25).
18. Jesus made perfect satisfaction for all sins (1 John 2:1,2).
19. Jesus releases believers from their sins by His blood (Revelation 1:5).
20. Purgatory does not exist. Jesus made purification for sins on the cross (Hebrews 1:3).
21. Those who sleep in Christ need no help. To be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).
22. The believer can know that he has eternal life by the Word of God (1 John 5:13).
23. Eternal life is the free gift of God (Romans 6:23).
24. There is salvation in no one but the Lord Jesus Christ, "for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

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## THE 62 PRIMARY ERRORS of ROMAN CATHOLICISM

BRACKETED NUMBERS ARE REFERENCES TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

# THE MASS

### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES

25. The Last Supper was a real sacrifice in which Christ's blood was poured out for our sins in the cup [610-611, 621, 1339].
26. The bread and wine become the real body and blood of Christ [1373-1377].
27. Christ's body and blood exist wholly and entirely in every fragment of consecrated bread and wine in every Roman Catholic church around the world [1374,1377].
28. The consecrated bread and wine are heavenly food which help one to attain to eternal life [1392, 1405, 1419].
29. God desires that consecrated bread and wine be worshiped as divine [1378-1381].
30. Christ has ordained certain men to a ministerial priesthood to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross [ 1142, 1547, 1577].
31. The Sacrifice of the Mass is the sacrifice of the cross [1085, 1365|367]. Only the manner in which it is offered is different [ 1367].
32. The sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated in the Sacrifice of the Mass [1323, 1382].
33. The Mass makes Christ present in His death and victimhood [1353,1362,1364,1367,1409].

Acts 17:11

### THE BIBLE TEACHES

25. The Last Supper was a Passover meal. Christ's blood was poured out for our sins at the cross (1 Peter 2:24).
26. The bread and wine are symbols of the body and blood of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23-25).
27. Christ is bodily present in heaven (Hebrews 10:12,13).
28. The bread and wine are symbols which help one to remember Christ (Luke 22:19).
29. God forbids the worship of any object, even those intended to represent Him (Exodus 20:4,5; Isaiah 42:8).
30. Christ has ordained every believer to a holy and royal priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices, the praise of their lips, and lives yielded to God (1 Peter 2:5-10; Hebrews 13:15; Romans 12:1).
31. The sacrifice of the cross is a historical event. It occurred once, approximately 2000 years ago, outside Jerusalem (Mark 15:21-41).
32. The sacrifice of the cross is finished (John 19:30).
33. Christ cannot be made present in His death and victimhood, for He has risen and is "alive forevermore" (Revelation 1:17,18; Romans 6:9,10).

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## THE 62 PRIMARY ERRORS of ROMAN CATHOLICISM

BRACKETED NUMBERS ARE REFERENCES TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

# THE MASS

### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES

34. At each Mass, the priest re-presents to the Father the sacrifice of Christ [1354, 1357].
35. The Mass is an unbloody sacrifice which atones for the sins of the living and the dead [1367, 1371, 1414].
36. Each Sacrifice of the Mass appeases God's wrath against sin [1371, 1414].
37. The faithful receive the benefits of the cross in fullest measure through the Sacrifice of the Mass [1366, 1407].
38. The sacrificial work of redemption is continually carried out through the Sacrifice of the Mass [1364, 1405, 1846].
39. The Church is to continue the sacrifice of Christ for the salvation of the world [1323,1382,1405,1407].

### THE BIBLE TEACHES

34. Christ presented the sacrifice of Himself to the Father "once at the consummation of the ages" (Hebrews 9:24-28).
35. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins (Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22).
36. The once-for-all sacrifice of the cross fully appeased God's wrath against sin (Hebrews 10:12-18).
37. Believers receive the benefits of the cross in fullest measure in Christ through faith (Ephesians 1:3-14).
38. The sacrificial work of redemption was finished when Christ gave His life for us on the cross (Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 1:3).
39. The church is to proclaim the Lord's death for the salvation of the world (1 Corinthians 11:26).

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## THE 62 PRIMARY ERRORS of ROMAN CATHOLICISM

BRACKETED NUMBERS ARE REFERENCES TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

# MARY

### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES

40. Mary was preserved from all stain of original sin from the first instant of her conception (the doctrine of the immaculate Conception) [490-492].
41. Mary, "the All-Holy," lived a perfectly sinless life [411, 493].
42. Mary was a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Christ [496511].
43. Mary is the Mother of God [963, 971, 2677]. 44. Mary is the Mother of the Church [963, 975].
45. Mary is the co-redeemer, for she participated with Christ in the painful act of redemption [618, 964, 968, 970].
46. At the end of her life, Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven (the doctrine of the Assumption) [966, 974].
47. Mary is the co-mediator to whom we can entrust all our cares and petitions [968-970, 2677].
48. We should entrust ourselves to Mary, surrendering - 'the hour of our death' wholly to her care" [2677].
49. God has exalted Mary in heavenly glory as Queen of Heaven and Earth [966]. She is to be praised with special devotion [971, 2675].

### THE BIBLE TEACHES

40. Mary, a descendant of Adam, was born in sin (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12),
41. Mary was a sinner; God alone is holy (Luke 18:19; Romans 3:23; Revelation 15:4).
42. Mary was a virgin until the birth of Christ (Matthew 1:25). Later she had other children (Matthew 13:55,56; Psalm 69:8).
43. Mary was the earthly mother of Jesus (John 2:1).
44. Mary is a member of the church (Acts 1:14; 1 Corinthians 12:13,27).
45. Christ alone is the Redeemer, for He alone suffered and died for sin (1 Peter 1:18,19).
46. Upon her death, Mary's body returned to dust (Genesis 3:19).
47. Christ Jesus is the one mediator to whom we can entrust all our cares and petitions (1 Timothy 2:5; John 14:13,14; 1 Peter 5:7).
48. We should entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus, surrendering the hour of our death wholly to His care (Romans 10:13; Acts 4:12).
49. The name of the Lord is to be praised, for He alone is exalted above heaven and earth (Psalm 148:13). God commands, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3).

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## THE 62 PRIMARY ERRORS of ROMAN CATHOLICISM

BRACKETED NUMBERS ARE REFERENCES TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

# AUTHORITY

### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES

50. Peter was the head of the apostles [552, 765, 880].
51. The bishops are the successors of the apostles [861-862, 938].
52. The Pope, as the Bishop of Rome, is the successor of Peter [882, 936].
53. The bishops, with the Pope as their head, rule the universal Church [883, 894-896].
54. God has entrusted revelation to the Roman Catholic bishops [81, 86].
55. The Magisterium is the authoritative teacher of the Church [85-87].
56. The Magisterium is the infallible interpreter of Scripture [890, 891, 2034-2035].
57. The Pope is infallible in his authoritative teaching [891].
58. The Magisterium alone has the ability and the right to interpret Scripture [85, 100, 939].
59. Scripture is to be interpreted in the sense in which it has been defined by the Magisterium [113, 119].
60. The Magisterium has the right to define truth found only obscurely or implicitly in revelation [66, 88, 2035, 2051].
61. Scripture and Tradition together are the Word of God [81, 85, 97, 182]. 62. Scripture and Tradition together are the Church's supreme rule of faith [80, 82].

Acts 17:11

### THE BIBLE TEACHES

50. Christ was the head of the apostles (John 13:13)
51. The apostles had no successors, for to succeed them one needed to be a witness of Christ's resurrection (Acts 1:21,22).
52. Peter had no successor.
53. Christ, the head of the body, rules the universal church (Colossians 1:18).
54. God has entrusted revelation to the saints (Jude 3).
55. The Holy Spirit is the authoritative teacher of the church (John 14:26;16:13;1 John 2:27).
56. Scripture is the only infallible interpreter of Scripture (Acts 17:11).
57. God alone is infallible (Numbers 23:19).
58. Every Christian, aided by the Holy Spirit, has the ability and the right to interpret Scripture (Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16).
59. Scripture must be interpreted in the original sense intended by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 3:14-16).
60. No one has the right to go beyond what is written in Scripture (1 Corinthians 4:6; Proverbs 30:6).
61. Scripture is the Word of God (John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21). Tradition is the words of men (Mark 7:1-13).
62. Scripture is the church's rule of faith (Mark 7:7-13; 2 Timothy 3:16,17).

1 Thes 5:21

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## 1. INFANT JUSTIFICATION

Roman Catholicism teaches that the soul of each child entering this world is spiritually dead because of Adam's sin. It was to remedy this problem that Jesus died on the cross. The benefits of Christ's death, says the Church, are initially imparted to infants through the sacrament of baptism. It removes original sin, the sin inherited from Adam, and pours, or infuses, sanctifying grace into the soul. By this action the child is brought into a state of grace, born again, made a temple of the Holy Spirit, and enrolled as a member of the Roman Catholic Church. The term used by the Church to describe this transformation is justification. Each year the Roman Catholic Church baptizes about 16 million children. Most are only a few days old.



## 2. ADULT JUSTIFICATION

Unlike infants, who are to be baptized without delay, an adult converting to Roman Catholicism must undergo extensive preparation. The process begins with God, who freely bestows first actual grace upon the individual. Should the person choose to cooperate with this grace, he will begin to perform salutary acts. These are human actions leading to justification. The first response is faith, defined in Roman Catholicism as the firm acceptance of the major doctrines of the Church as summarized in creeds. The second response is the performance of good works such as love of God and neighbor, self-renunciation, and obedience to the commandments. When the Church judges that a candidate is properly prepared, it declares the person to be among the elect and fit to take part in the Sacrament of baptism. The Roman Catholic Church annually prepares almost two million adults and children over the age of seven for baptismal justification. This is normally accomplished in a program called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R. CIA.).

## 3. INCREASING AND PRESERVING JUSTIFICATION

According to Roman Catholicism, initial justification through baptism is only the first step on a long road. If a Catholic hopes to one day enter the gates of heaven, he must diligently seek to increase and preserve grace in his soul. This is accomplished in a process called sanctification, the chief feature of which is participation in sacraments. The Church teaches that Christ formally established seven sacraments to serve as the primary channels of God's grace to Catholics:

baptism, penance, eucharist,  
confirmation, matrimony, holy orders, and  
anointing of the sick.

Through the proper performance of a ritual, each sacrament is said to increase sanctifying grace in the souls of prepared Catholics. From the sacraments Catholics can also obtain actual grace, which enables them to avoid sin and thereby preserve the grace that they already possess. Actual grace also helps Catholics to do good works by which they earn yet more grace. By the increase of grace received through the sacraments and merited by good works, Catholics are said to be further justified.

## 4. REJUSTIFICATION

The Church teaches that there are two kinds of sin.

Venial sins are minor infractions of God's law such as petty theft or lying about something small. Venial sins weaken a person's spiritual vitality and make the individual more susceptible to temptation. These sins can be forgiven by confessing them in prayer to God with sincere repentance.

Mortal sins are serious, conscious, and deliberate violations of God's law. Mortal sins kill the life of grace in the soul and result in eternal punishment. In order to be rejustified, or restored to the state of grace, the sinner must repent and confess all his mortal sins to a priest in the sacrament of penance.

Additionally, according to the Church, each sin, whether venial or mortal, stores up temporal punishment for which the individual must personally make reparation through acts of penance.

## 5. FINAL DESTINY

For a Catholic, death is the moment of truth. This is when he or she must stand before God in the particular judgment and learn of his eternal destiny. To pass this test and obtain eternal life as a reward for good works performed on earth, the Catholic must be found to have died with sanctifying grace in his soul. In such a case, the person is said to have achieved final perseverance. Even then, however, before the Catholic can enter heaven, the individual may need to make additional reparation for his sins by suffering in purgatory. There he pays for the temporal punishment of sins not previously atoned for by acts of penance or canceled by indulgences, special credits obtained from the Church by performing religious acts. At the end of the world, the Lord will review the Catholic's life a second time in the general judgment. This is when Christ determines the magnitude of each person's glory in heaven, or, if he died without grace in his soul, the degree of his eternal punishment in hell.

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Millions of sincere Catholics believe that the Roman Catholic Church is the true church established by Christ. Nevertheless, as demonstrated in this pamphlet, the gospel according to Rome is not the gospel taught by Christ and recorded in the Scriptures. It is a different gospel, the mixing of faith plus works for justification, the error condemned in the book of Galatians (Galatians 1: 6-9).

How can you help Catholics to see the truth?

- PRAY FOR CATHOLICS
- DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS
- STIMULATE THOUGHT
- PROMOTE BIBLE STUDY
- ADDRESS THE REAL PROBLEM
- ENCOURAGE A CLEAN BREAK
- ANTICIPATE TRIALS
- CONTINUE TO LEARN

## PRAY FOR CATHOLICS / DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS

### PRAY FOR CATHOLICS

The Bible says that the gospel "is veiled to those who are perishing" (2 Corinthians 4:3). Pray that God would open the eyes of Roman Catholics.

### DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS

Ask God to increase your love for Catholics and to help you to nurture friendships with them. The best opportunities to share your faith usually come early in a new relationship, so don't let them pass.

## **STIMULATE THOUGHT / PROMOTE BIBLE STUDY**

### **STIMULATE THOUGHT**

Take the initiative. Speak to Catholics about their religious beliefs. Ask whether they know with certainty what will happen to them when they die. Then offer literature that explains the biblical way of salvation.

### **PROMOTE BIBLE STUDY**

Encourage your Catholic friends to read the Scriptures, suggesting a starting place. Make sure that they have Bibles that are readable and convenient to use, not oversized family editions. Once a genuine seeker discovers that he can learn directly from the Scriptures, there will be no stopping him.

## **ADDRESS THE REAL PROBLEM**

Don't let Roman Catholicism become the focus of your discussions. Your Catholic friend's greatest problem is not his church; it is his sin. Explain the biblical meaning of sin and its consequences. Pray that your friend would become genuinely convicted of his guilt.

Next explain the way of salvation. Do so directly from the Scriptures. Since Catholics and non-Catholics use many of the same words but with different meanings, be careful to define your terms.

Go slowly! Do not prematurely lead your friend in a prayer to accept Christ. Wait until the person is clearly under conviction of sin and understands the gospel. Then encourage him to make a decision for Christ, speaking to God in his own words.

## **ENCOURAGE A CLEAN BREAK / ANTICIPATE TRIALS**

### **ENCOURAGE A CLEAN BREAK**

Help your friend to find a church where the Bible is taught and upheld as the sole standard of the Christian faith. Additionally, explain the value of discarding of everything associated with unbiblical beliefs and practices (Acts 19:17-20). Pray for spiritual liberation and encourage the individual regularly.

### **ANTICIPATE TRIALS**

Jesus taught that following Him may often involve opposition, particularly from family members (Matthew 10:34-39). Prepare a newly saved Catholic to expect trials.

## **CONTINUE TO LEARN**

The better you understand Roman Catholicism, the more able you will be able to effectively communicate the gospel to Catholics. Consider reading the new Catechism of the Catholic Church, the first official summary of Roman Catholicism in over 400 years. For further information on how you can help Catholics, and a complete biblical analysis of Roman Catholicism indexed to the new catechism, refer to the book from which this quick reference guide was produced: *The Gospel According to Rome* (James G. McCarthy, Harvest House Publishers, 1995).

# Roman Catholicism

## Scripture vs. Tradition

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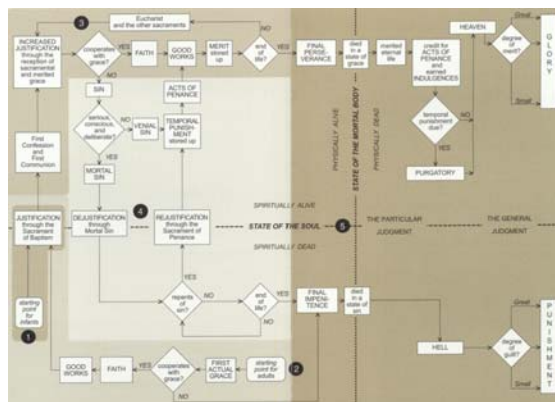
Acts 17:11    1 Thes 5:21

## The Gospel According to Rome

What must one do to be saved?

The Bible says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved" (Acts 16:31).

In contrast to that simple, forthright, and Christ-centered reply, the Roman Catholic way of salvation is a complex system of doctrines and rituals.



Acts 17:11    1 Thes 5:21



