

The Catholic Deception

(Are Catholics Christians?)

Rashid Alamir

Disclaimer: Religion is all about the Truth. Truth is God. It is my strong belief that anything that does not conform to the truth when it comes to God should be exposed and given the boot. If you are one of those who have blind beliefs in your religion and its ways, whatever they are, then this article is not for you. This article is for those for are in the search of the true God and his ways.

All information given in this article is true to the best of my knowledge. I will remove this article from my site if anything in this article is proved wrong. This article is not copyrighted. You are free to print and distribute it as long as you do not modify the original content or sell it at a profit. Kindly forward this article to as many people as you can so that people realize the Truth before it is too late and come back to the true living God.

This booklet is dedicated to all Catholics worldwide

"May the Truth set you free....." (John 8:32)

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Introduction

This article is written for Roman Catholics. It is not intended to be a point-for-point refute to Roman Catholic catechism nor to dogma and canon, as such. It is also not an attempt to cut Catholicism to size. Rather, the purpose here is to answer, from the Scriptures, frequent misconceptions about Christian doctrine commonly held by the Roman Catholic Church. From the Roman Catholic Church these lies about Christianity have percolated to the Roman Catholic people. There are nearly a hundred Roman Catholic dogmas that contradict with traditional Christianity as derived from the Bible. In this article only the main few contradictions are discussed. Some of these main contradictions are so glaring and incompatible with Biblical Christianity that they question the very contention of Catholics calling themselves Christians.

I know many Catholics will not read this article. The very title will put them off and they will stop reading from there onwards. This is called blind faith. Jesus talks of such faith in Matthew 15:14, when he states, "If the blind lead the blind, they both will fall into a ditch." The problem comes in allowing another person/entity to lead you blindly. Do you know why a billion of our Indian Hindu countrymen have rejected the gospel of Christ and are still clinging onto their fictitious mythological demonic Gods? It is because of spiritual blindness. They have blind faith in the religion of their forefathers. It is the typical case of a blind man (their religion) leading another blind (them). Truly! India is the land of Spiritual darkness. Hinduism is powered by mythology. And mythology cannot lead one to the Truth. Spiritual Darkness cannot lead to Spiritual Enlightenment. Catholics also are in the same mould. They too are heading for the same ditch. The only way they can get out is by examining their beliefs in light of the Christian faith, reading the Bible, and resetting their path towards Christ alone. That alone is true Christianity. Any other version derived from elsewhere is fabrication, falsehood and lies.

In this article I have tried to put forward a few Biblical ideas and passages that ask the reader the question whether Catholics are really followers of Jesus Christ? The Bible has been misinterpreted by the Catholic Church to put forward their own hidden agenda's and propagate their false dogma's. The Catholic Church has replaced **Jesus Christ** by the **Virgin Mary**; the **Our Father** by the **Rosary**; the **Holy Spirit** with the **Catholic Church**; the **Holy Bible** by **Catholic man made dogmas** and altered the commandments of God to indulge in **Idolatry**, the gravest of all sins according to the Bible.

Kindly forward this article to as many Catholics as you know so that they may realize the Truth and come back to Jesus Christ. It is our desire that the readers of this article will receive the free gift of eternal life and the forgiveness of all sins that comes solely by faith in none other than God's only son, Jesus Christ. If you are a Catholic, then may the Truth set you free from the false dogmas of the Catholic faith and bring you back to Jesus Christ your only mediator and redeemer before God the Father.

Who is a Christian?

Christianity is not a religion in the true sense. It is a relationship or a covenant between Man and God. Every other religion was created by Man (who called themselves prophets or Godman) as a means to find God. These men pointed to something they felt would bring their followers closer to God. This something could be a book, a new dogma, or a new concept. But Christianity is a completely different idea. It is not about man searching for God. It is God coming down on earth in search of man. The key point here is God did not become incarnate to kill or punish mankind as some mythological religions like Hinduism preach, but to redeem mankind (John 3:16). Jesus Christ did not point to another entity as a way to God; he claimed to be God (John 10:30-33, 14:9)

Traditionally a Christian has been defined by the Catholic Church as one who believes in the two basic principles of Christianity. These are:

1. Believes that God exists in three forms – The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. Believes that God became incarnate in the form of Jesus Christ and came on earth to die for the sins of mankind and to redeem mankind by his blood.

If the above definition is anything to go by then many Muslims and Hindus in India too can claim to be Christians. It may be noted that the above definition does not take into account the other beliefs of the concerned person/s. What about the Ten Commandments? What about the deity of Jesus Christ? What about Jesus Christ being the only way to Salvation? What about Idolatry? A free for all religion like Hinduism that erroneously claims belief in all religions (inspite of the massive contradictions between religions) easily fits the bill. What is required is a narrower list of beliefs emanating from the Bible.

I will define a Christian as one who believes in the seven rules of Christianity as defined by the Byzantine Orthodox Church and given by God in the Bible. These seven rules are,

1. Believes that there is **one God existing in three forms – The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit**. The Father is Spirit and can be know only through his son Jesus Christ.
2. Believes that **God became incarnate (only once) in the form of Jesus Christ** and came on earth **to die for the sins of mankind** and to redeem mankind by his blood. Believes that Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.
3. Follows all the **teachings of Christ and the commandments of God** given through his prophets. The gist of the statutes of God is given in the Ten Commandments.

4. Believes that **Jesus Christ is the only mediator** between man and God and the **only way to Salvation**.
5. Has a **living relationship with the Holy Spirit** and is guided or counseled by the Holy Spirit at every step of his/her life.
6. Has been **baptized in the name of Jesus Christ** anytime during his/her lifetime. Baptism confirms ones belonging to Christ. Without Baptism one cannot belong to Christ.
7. Believes that the **Bible is God's only word** revealed through his prophets and written down by authors inspired by God. The Bible is the greatest love story ever told - between Man and God - starting with the creation of Man and ending with God's ultimate sacrifice - the crucifixion, death and resurrection of "God in Flesh" Jesus Christ for the redemption of Mankind.

If one or more of these are missing in a person then he/she cannot be a Christian. Many Catholics may be surprised that there is no mention of any church or sect in the above requirements. Does not the Catholic Church proclaim itself as the only true church and the only way to Salvation? Well my dear Catholic brethren, it might shock you to know that Christ is not interested in which sect or church you belong to as long as you follow him alone and abide by his commandments. (And the Catholic Church certainly does not follow Christ alone as we will see in this article.) The different Christian sects and the Churches came afterwards. Jesus Christ established only the one church, the group of followers who believed solely in his voluntary crucifixion and death for the sin of mankind, resurrection and ascension to heaven.

According to the Bible, a Christian is one who is redeemed and forgiven by the blood of Christ, illuminated by the Holy Spirit and knows and obeys the truth of the Gospel. A Christian is someone who trusts in Christ and Christ alone for his salvation, and gives all praise to God for His grace (Ephesians 1:3-13).

Many people like the Jews of old still fool themselves in thinking that they are right with God because of some ritual (like circumcision or baptism) or because of their heritage ("I was born into a Christian family and attend a Christian church"). But before the true God, these do not work. What God desires is to have a personal relationship with you. He is not interested in rituals. He is interested in you fully belonging to him. Notice how Christ uses the word **deny** in the Bible to define his followers (Christians).

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me". (Matthew 16:24)

The same message is echoed in Mark 8:34 and Luke 9:23. That is the crux of being a Christian - Self Denial for the sake of Christ. A Christian is one who lives for Christ and is ready to die for his sake. A Christian is one who preaches the good news of Salvation to the pagan world.

Are Catholics Christians?

Does a Roman Catholic fit this description? Superficially he does. He believes in Christ and speaks about the grace of God. But if he follows the official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, regretfully I must say that *he **does not really believe in Christ** nor does he know the grace of God.* Any person who follows the dogmas of the Catholic Church cannot be a Christian.

Please allow me to explain. Practically all precepts of the Roman Catholic religion contradict the Bible repeatedly. Orthodox and Protestants have also made mistakes in the past and got some of their dogmas wrong. But the Catholic Church has got almost all of their major dogmas wrong. In this article I will try to explicate some of the dogmas that the Catholic Church has got wrong.

One of the major problems for the Catholic Church is their belief in Salvation and who will be saved. Most Catholics do not believe that Jesus is the only way to Salvation and/or that the Bible is the only true God's Word. Many Catholics both Clergy and laity are freely involved in writing non-Christian books and articles; books like "Jesus and Buddha – Two lights of the world", "The deity of Krishna and Jesus", "The wisdom of the Bible and the Bhagwad Gita", "Jehovah, the God of Christianity and Islam", etc, etc.

Such thoughts and writings come out of the Catholic religion because Catholics have not understood the message of the Bible. They have not understood Jesus Christ. They are as far away from the living God as are the pagans around them. Do the Catholics know that the Bhagwad Gita that they are comparing with the Holy Bible is nothing more than a storybook? The Bhagwad Gita is made up of 18 chapters of the Mahabharata, which is an epic, a mythological storybook. Do the Catholics know that Krishna whom they are comparing with Jesus is a mythological God who never existed and his character as portrayed in the Mahabharata is that of a sexual pervert rather than of a God? Do the Catholics know that Buddha just before he died professed that there is no God? Do the Catholics know that the God of Islam is none other than Muhammad who brought forth the situational scripture called the Quran and gave his final commandment to exterminate all Jews and Christians to the last? To serve his ends, Muhammad also prophesied the second coming of Christ to wipe out Judaism, Christianity and other non-Muslims from the face of the earth unless they convert to Islam. And yet Catholic priests will expend all their energies in comparing Jesus with the non-existent myths and fables. I would advise all confused Catholics to read my article **Jesus the only hope of the World** to understand what Jesus Christ really means not only for Christians but also for the rest of the World.

In comparing Roman Catholicism with the Word of God, there are many differences and contradictions. The Roman Catholic Church teaches many doctrines that are in disagreement with what the Bible says. These include the true Church, idolatry, veneration/worship of Mary and Saints, prayer to

Mary and Saints, the infallibility of the pope, justification by faith plus works, transubstantiation, and purgatory. While Catholics claim Scriptural support for these concepts, none of these teachings have any foundation in the clear teaching of Scripture. In fact, they all clearly contradict what the Bible declares. The most crucial of these is the Roman Catholic belief that faith in Christ alone is not enough to save a person. The official position of the Roman Catholic Church is that a person must believe in Jesus Christ AND pray to Mary the Mother of Jesus AND receive Catholic communion AND obey the decrees of the Roman Catholic Church AND etc., etc., etc. Catholic divergence from the Bible on this most crucial of issues means that yes, Catholicism is a false religion.

At the same time, there are believers who attend Roman Catholic Churches. There are many Roman Catholics who have genuinely placed their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. These Catholic Christians remain in the Catholic Church out of ignorance of what the Catholic Church truly stands for or out of family tradition. However, these Catholic Christians are children of God **despite** what the Catholic Church teaches, not **because of** what it teaches.

Christians firmly believe that our sins are pardoned because of the sacrifice of Christ alone. Rome would have us perform acts of penance and suffer in purgatory to expiate our sins. The Bible proclaims Christ, the Priest who offered himself once for all. Rome would have us apply to her priests who daily offer their sacrifices on the altar. The Bible proclaims Christ as the only Mediator, Rome would have us apply to other mediators, like Mary, the saints and the church. The Bible teaches us to pray to God alone in the name of Jesus Christ, The Catholic Church teaches us to pray "Hail Mary". Christians believe in the Bible as the only God inspired book; the Church of Rome wants us to believe in several other books and dogmas not found in the Bible – stories cooked up by Catholic Saints. (This is where the ascension of Mary into Heaven, coronation of the Virgin Mary as the Queen of Heavens, rosary to Mary and other non-Christian Catholic dogmas came from). Hence we are forced to conclude that the message of Rome is a different gospel. It is a *false* gospel. I say this with much sadness and concern for the multitudes of Catholics who blindly follow this false system. As far as I am concerned, Catholics cannot be Christians.

The Catholic Church is largely responsible for the mess that Catholicism finds itself in. Catholics also are partly responsible. They tend to gulp down without question whatever the Catholic Church imposes on them. The reason is simple. Most Catholics are not familiar with the Bible. They seldom read it and mediate on the verses. This has proved advantageous to the Catholic Church to impose on the believing Catholics, dogmas which are far removed from Biblical Christianity.

The Virgin Mary who always considered herself as a humble servant of God and a disciple of Jesus has been projected by the Roman Catholic Church as a co-redeemer, co-savior, mother of God, Queen of Heaven and God knows

what else. All prayers are addressed to her via the rosary, but Catholics are fooled into believing that by praying the rosary they are actually praying to God. To fool the Catholics, the Catholic Church has even come up with a slogan – “To Jesus through Mary” to project that the prayers are indirectly reaching Jesus Christ. But it is not so. In reality they pray to Mary, not Jesus. To fool some questioning Catholics, a thin veneer of likeness to Christianity is maintained by the Catholic Church. In case of the Rosary it is the cross at the end of the beads. Catholics are fooled into believing that the rosary is a Christian prayer because of the cross present at the end of the rosary beads.

The case of the Catholic deception is something akin to Islam. Muslims are taught from a young age that the Quran is the uncorrupted word of Allah the god of compassion and mercy, yet it preaches to kill unbelievers to reach heaven, which is defined as a place of sexual orgies, gluttony and drinking. Muhammad is portrayed as a godly man and a model for all humanity to follow. In reality Muhammad was a thief who led between 70-85 raids on innocent civilians. These raids can be compared to today’s highway armed robberies. Every time Muhammad & his henchmen raided a settlement, they put to death the men of the village and ravished the woman. After ravishing the woman, he sold them in the markets as slaves. All this is fairly well detailed in the Islamic scriptures, but most Muslims hardly have any knowledge of the Islamic scriptures other than the Quran. They blindly believe in what their Mullahs and religious teachers preach them. As a result they are easily conned into believing that Muhammad was a prophet and Allah is God. Muslims are also taught that the most important of all Islamic scripture are the Quran and the Hadith collections of Sahih Al-Bukhari. This is not true either. The Quran lacks context and chronology and only 700 out of its 6666 verses can be understood in their entirety. Roughly half of the Quran talks of butchering (or converting) non-Muslims until Islam is the only religion or details how Allah will lovingly torture unbelievers in hell. Such a book can hardly be the ultimate revelation of god to mankind. The Sahih Al-Bukhari is filled with arbitrary anecdotes and deeds of Muhammad and his companions without any chronology. The most important of all Islamic scriptures are the history of Islam by Al-Tabari (***The History of Al-Tabari***) and the ***Sirat Rasool Allah*** by Ibn Ishaq. These two books give the timeline of Islam, its chronology, its context and are the core on which Islam finds its subsistence.

IN General the Truth is that for god it does not make any difference whether you pray to Mary, Muhammad, Allah, Krishna, Rama, Jupiter, Minerva, Buddha or some other hand-made God. It is one and the same. It is called Idolatry in Christianity. And the first two commandments strongly prohibit all Christians from indulging in this demonic habit.

The Catholic Church will go to any level to denounce as a heretic the person who questions Catholic dogmas especially the divinity of Mary. In the 16th century Martin Luther one of the pillars of Catholicism and a monk highly devoted to Mary, greatly disturbed by the exalted position that the Catholic Church accorded to Mary, strongly objected to the worship of Mary which was

widely prevalent at that time. In retaliation Martin Luther was denounced a heretic and an enemy of Catholicism. Martin Luther later on found the protestant church.

The worship of Mary had been going on for a very long time. Even the Quran finds a mention of it in the 7-8th century whereby it says that the Christian trinity consists of the Father, Jesus and Mary thereby proving that the person who wrote the Quran was aware that the Arabian Christians worshipped Mary but was not aware that the Christian Trinity does not include the Virgin Mary.

Though the Catholic Church and Catholics will deny it, the fact is that Catholicism is deep rooted in Mariology. Catholicism starts and ends with the Virgin Mary. Mary is the alpha and omega of Catholicism. Indeed it has been rightly said by the Protestants, "what separates Protestantism from Catholicism is Mary, Mary and Mary". This is the aspect that makes Catholicism distinct from Christianity. Their Mary is not our Jesus. Catholics worship and pray to Mary, genuine Christians worship and pray to Jesus.

As you go through this article, you will be able to see some of the main Catholic dogmas that contradict the Bible, the word of God. At the end of the article you will be able to decide for yourself whether the Catholic Church follows the teachings of Christ as given in the Bible or not. It will let you decide the vital question - Are Catholics Christians?

Is the Roman Catholic Church the True church of Christ?

The Catholic Church considers itself as the only true Christian church founded by Christ. It considers all of the other Christians churches as heretical. One of the prominent Catholic Church magazines says the following:

*"Speaking of its members alive on earth today, the Catholic Church consists of more than one billion people spread out across all the nations of the earth. As you will find, by checking encyclopedias and prominent history books not edited by Catholics, **Jesus founded the Catholic Church almost 2,000 years ago. As such, she alone is "the true Church of Christ."***

Let us look at the Church's official position,

"This is the sole Church of Christ, which in the Creed we profess to be one, holy, catholic and apostolic." (Catholic Catechism Pg. 214, #811)

Referring to the Catholic Church, the Catechism pronounces:

"In fact, in this one and only Church of God..." (Pg. 216, #817)

"First, the Church is catholic because Christ is present in her. Where there is Christ Jesus, there is the Catholic Church." (Pg. 220, #830)

Further Catholicism claims that Peter was the rock on which Christ build his church and his successors are the head of the Catholic Church:

"The sole Church of Christ (is that) which our Savior, after his Resurrection, entrusted to Peter's pastoral care, commissioning him and the other apostles to extend and rule it... This Church, constituted and organized as a society in the present world, subsists in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successors of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him." (Pg. 215, #816)

Though the first part of the claim is true, the second part is false. Peter is indeed the rock on which Christ build his church, but the Catholic Church is not the true church. When the Bible uses the words "the church," it always refers to all those who trust in Jesus Christ (alone) for their Salvation. The words do not refer to the buildings of the Catholic Church or to members of the Catholic Church.:

*"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with **all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord...**" (1 Corinthians 1:2)*

The Apostle Paul wrote:

*"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also **loved the church**, and gave himself for it;" (Ephesians 5:25)*

Paul was not a Catholic, yet he knew that Christ loved him and died for him. Certainly, no one would dare say that Paul was not a Christian because he was not a Catholic.

Yet Catholicism claims the right to determine who is or is not a Christian:

"All who have been justified by faith in Baptism are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to be called Christians, and with good reason are accepted as brothers in the Lord by the children of the Catholic Church." (Pg 216, #818)

In other words, if you have not been baptized into the Catholic Church, you are not a Christian. These are not my words, but the words of the official Catholic Catechism. In the first section itself I showed why Catholics couldn't be Christians and yet the Catholics will try to prove that non-Catholic Christians are non-Christians. Way to Go.

If the Catholic Church is not the true church of Christ, then which is the true church? According to Scripture, the true church of Christ is not Catholic, not Orthodox, not Protestant, not Anglican or some other. The true church of Christ is one (the body of followers of Christ) that trusts Jesus Christ as the only mediator between man and God, One which preaches to pray to God alone (and not to Mary or the Saints), One which believes that its faithful have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, One which desists from idol worship (Mary/Saints Worship), and one that believes that the Bible is God's only revealed Scripture. Does the Catholic Church fit the bill? This article will have you decide the vital questions; Are Catholics Christians? Is the Roman Catholic Church really the true church of Christ?

Salvation through Good Works

To be saved, Catholic doctrine requires the continual performance of good works.

"Even though incorporated into the Church, one who does not however persevere in charity is not saved." (Pg. 222, #837)

These works include baptism (pg. 320, #1257), various sacraments (pg. 292, #1129) plus many additional works.

Once again the teachings of Catholicism oppose God's Word, which states that salvation **cannot** be earned, but is a free and undeserved gift of God:

*"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)*

***"Not by works of righteousness** which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" (Titus 3:5)*

The Bible repeatedly states that salvation comes through faith-never by good works:

*"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith **without the deeds of the law.**" (Romans 3:28)*

*"And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen **through faith...**" (Galatians 3:8)*

How do we become God's children?

*"For ye are all the children of God **by faith in Christ Jesus.**" (Galatians 3:26)*

The religious Pharisees were convinced that performing good works would earn them salvation, but Jesus set them straight. In Mark's gospel, the Pharisees and scribes asked Jesus,

"So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" (Mark 7:5)

In response, Jesus chastised them,

"In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts. You (Pharisees) disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition. He

went on to say, "How well you have set aside the commandment of God in order to uphold your tradition!" (Mark 7:7-9)

What a tragedy! By elevating tradition above God's Word, the Pharisees had actually rejected the commandment of God. Jesus also accused the Pharisees of,

"You nullify the word of God in favor of your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many such things..." (Mark 7:11)

This is exactly what the Catholic Church does by elevating church tradition (man made Catholic dogmas) above the Word of God.

The Pharisees were convinced that salvation was obtained by performing good works, but good works can never save anybody,

*"Knowing that a man is **not** justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall **no flesh be justified.**" (Galatians 2:16)*

*"Therefore being justified **by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" (Romans 5:1)*

Good works won't get you into paradise. Many who stand before God will think they should enter heaven because of their good works. Jesus tells us in His Word,

*"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven... **Many** will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many **wonderful works?**" (Matthew 7:21-22)*

How shocked they will be when they hear Jesus respond,

"I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:23)

How tragic! Millions of Catholics never learn that good works cannot save them until after they die. But after death is too late. At that point they are already doomed to an eternity in the lake of fire. (There is nothing called purgatory. Purgatory is a Catholic make-believe).

The Apostle Paul makes another important statement concerning good works,

"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." (Galatians 2:21)

In other words, if you could earn heaven through your good works, then Jesus suffered that horrible death on the cross for nothing. But He did not die

in vain. Scripture declares that Jesus gave His life because there is **no other way** for our sins to be forgiven (John 3:18, John 6:40, John 14:6)

*"He that **believeth on him is not condemned:** but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:18)*

Jesus repeats this same truth,

*"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which sees the Son, and **believeth on him,** may have everlasting life..." (John 6:40)*

In Christianity Good works and deeds are a must. **But they are the result of being saved, not for being saved.** All those who profess faith in Christ alone through their words and deeds are already saved. All those who are saved live under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. And the resultants fruits of being saved are good works. Christ professes this much in the scriptures (Matthew 7:16-20). A good tree cannot bear bad fruit and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. A cactus cannot give mangoes and apple tree thistles.

Roman Catholic friend, you must make the decision. Either you will believe God's Word and accept the **free** gift of salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ, or you will believe the traditions of the Catholic Church, that salvation must be earned through continual good works. You cannot choose Catholic doctrine and God's Word because both disagree with each other. Which would you rather believe the sinful traditions of man or the word of God?

Idolatry in Catholic Churches

Catholics bow down in front of statues and pray. They light candles and pray for the dead. They adore relics like a dead monk's head or a dead saint's finger. They worship the Madonna (Virgin Mary). They will vehemently tell you that they don't worship the images, they just venerate them. But this is not true. A visit to any church will prove that it is worship and not veneration that is going on. Usually after the Catholic mass there will be a larger crowd in front of the Virgin Mary statue kissing and worshipping her than in front of the Crucifix or the statue of Jesus. If you are a Catholic, just check this out next time you visit your church.

In India, visit any Catholic house and you will see Mary on the high pedestal along with Jesus. They are the God and the Goddess. There is nothing to differentiate between the two. Check out any Catholic car. There will be a rosary (devotion to Mary not Jesus) dangling from the mirror with a statue of Mary on the front panel. Catholics routinely pray to Mary. In spite of the 2nd commandment which states that "*Thou shalt not bow down to Idols*", Catholics routinely bow down before the statues and images of Mary. If this is not Idol worship then pray tell me what is?

Well, what does the Bible say about worshipping Idols and images? The God of the Bible considers Idol worship as the greatest of all sins. It characterizes worshipping images and idols as the mother of all sins. Idol worship popularly called Idolatry in the Bible is a sin even greater than sexual immorality, abortion or murder. Is it justified? Yes it is. Idol worship is the only sin committed directly against God. All other sins are committed against fellow human beings and thus indirectly against God. St Paul in his letters to the early Christians directly addresses this issue by stating that Idol Worshippers will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Roman Catholics are idolaters. In their churches are pictures of the Virgin and Catholic Saints that are worshiped because of the wonderful things professedly done by them. In St. Peter's is a picture of the Virgin bearing the inscription that it had miraculously shed blood when struck by a stone. A picture of the mother and child is at Lucca, of which it was affirmed that when some one flung a stone at the face of the child she transferred the child to the other arm and thus saved it from injury. Thousands of such fables abound in the Catholic world. Well, let us see what God has to say about worshipping idols and images?

The first two commandments enumerate to the following,

- 1. I am the Lord thy God , who have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. *Thou shalt not have any other gods besides me.* (Exodus 20:2-3)**

2. Thou shalt not make for thyself any graven image (carved idol) or any likeness of any thing 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 to them or serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, punishing the iniquities of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those that hate me; but showing mercy to thousands of generations of those that love me, and keep my commandments. (Exodus 20:4-6)

Simply put the first two commandments mean that you shall have no other gods before the living god. These gods could be mythological gods, money, possessions, sex, lust, greed, movies, TV, etc. The second commandment means that you shall not worship idols (even if they are of Mary or of the Saints), mythological carvings, images, animals, humans, prophets, sages, gurus, etc. But Catholics have been found guilty of worshipping Mary and the Saints.

For today we are looking specifically at the Ten Commandments found in Exodus chapter 20. Most of us know that the Ten Commandments prohibit making Idols and images. This poses a problem for the Catholic religion. Catholics love to worship Idols and Images. How do they get around this problem?

The CATHOLIC CHURCH **CHANGES** THE TEN COMMANDMENTS!

How can they delete a commandment and still have ten?

Some might ask me, "If the Catholic religion deletes a commandment how do they still come up with Ten Commandments?"

Let's compare the Catholic Ten Commandments to the real Ten Commandments from the good old King James Bible, that pillar of doctrinal truth. The following list on the Catholic side is taken from a textbook used in a Catholic school. It is titled, "Growing in Christian Morality" by Julia Ahlers, Barbara Allaire, and Carl Koch, page 40. It has both **nihil obstat** and **imprimatur** that are official declarations that a book or pamphlet is free of Catholic doctrinal error. The authors of this book know these commandments are deceitful. Look at what they say before they list the Ten Commandments.

...These are the Ten Commandments, from Exodus, chapter 20, in the **traditional way they are enumerated by Catholics** They did NOT use what THEIR NRSV said, they "enumerated" them the traditional way enumerated by Catholics.

The comparison is as follows,

Commandments	Catholic	King James Bible
First	I, the LORD, am your God...You shall not have other gods besides me.	I am the LORD thy God...Thou shall have no other gods before me.
Second	You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain.	Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shall not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.
Third	Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.	Thou shall not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.
Fourth	Honor your father and your mother.	Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Fifth	You shall not kill.	Honor thy father and thy mother.
Sixth	You shall not commit adultery.	Thou shall not kill.
Seventh	You shall not steal.	Thou shall not commit adultery.
Eight	You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.	Thou shall not steal.
Ninth	You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.	Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
Tenth	You shall not covet your neighbor's house.	Thou shall not covet.

Did you see it? Did you notice the Catholic Deception?

The Catholic religion deletes the second commandment and makes the 10th commandment into two. If you follow them all the way down from the second commandment you'll see the Catholic religion is always one ahead of the King James. Finally at the tenth commandment they break it into two and make it the 9th and 10th commandments. What deception! What deceit! What guile! I tell no lies -- just get out the Bible and compare.

What is the Catholic explanation for this deception?

It must be understood that the Ten Commandments are stated in Exodus chapter 20 and also in Deuteronomy chapter 5. The commandments at the two places differ slightly as shown above. The two complement each other. Catholics assert that you are free to use whichever one you please. They justify the above deception by stating that they are using the commandments from Deuteronomy chapter 5. Is this justified?

Which are the real Ten Commandments? Both are the real Ten Commandments. The Book of Deuteronomy skips one commandment but gives in-depth coverage of it **later on**. It specially focuses on the two major sins of the world – Idol Worship and Immorality. But the Catholic religion skips the “later on” part of the commandments as given in Deuteronomy.

Which one should Christians consider?

The Ten Commandments are Jewish. Christianity came into existence only 1200 years later. The Jews have been using the commandments for more than 1200 years before Christianity came into the picture. The Jews have been using the commandments from Exodus chapter 20. Hence, all Christians should be following those commandments. Indeed today all Christian denominations barring Catholics follow the Commandments from Exodus Chapter 20. But for obvious reasons, Catholics tend to follow the other commandments.

The Church of Jesus Christ or the Cult of Mary?

Early Christians were heavily persecuted for their faith in Christ. Satan tried to break their resistance. Emperors put forward decrees that the Christians should worship his Idol Gods (along with Christ). But they did not yield. They preferred death to worshipping idols and eating forbidden foods. They preferred the light of Christ to the darkness of the world. Satan was well and truly beaten in this battle. Satan vowed to win the war. There is an old maxim, "If you cannot beat them, then join them". This is what Satan did. He came out with a brilliant idea whereby he would push God down among the Christian community itself. He projected a woman as the "Queen of Heavens" to deviate the worship of the people from the true God to this woman. And has Satan succeeded?

Today, the Catholic religion rises and falls with Mary. Mary is its main Goddess, its "Queen over all things", its "Recipient of Prayers", its "Co-Savior", its "Co-redeemer", "Source of all Holiness", "Intercessor", "Advocate before the Father", "Help of Christians", "Mediatix" etc etc. Catholics have replaced Christ with Mary and have converted a straightforward relationship with God into an Idol worshiping religion. Whatever traits the Bible attributes to Jesus Christ, the Catholic Church strips these titles away from Him and drops them in Mary's lap instead. Why?

The Catholic Church claims that it "honors or venerates" Mary, but that is not true. Visit any Catholic church and you will see that it is worship that is going on there. The Catholic Church has degraded Jesus and moved Mary into his position. Because of this we are forced to conclude that the Church of Rome preaches a false Gospel about Jesus Christ. The Catholic Church is not the Church of Jesus Christ, but rather the **Cult of Mary**. Paul talks of such false religions in his letter to the Galatians (Galatians 1:7) where he preaches that many organizations will come in the name of Jesus but preach a gospel that will degrade our savior Jesus Christ.

In recent times the Catholic Church has come forward with the slogan, "To Jesus through Mary". Catholics are fooled by their Church into believing that the prayers they make to the Virgin Mary reaches God. Catholics are conned into thinking that the presence of the Cross symbol at the end of the "Rosary" makes it a Christian thing. This is downright false. Prayers made to Mary do not reach Jesus Christ or the Father in Heaven. Just like going to the church does not make a person a Christian, so does the existence of the cross at the end of the Rosary make it a Christian thing! Neither does Jesus Christ require any mediators to reach him. When Jesus gave up his spirit, the veil of the temple was torn into two pieces (Matthew 27:51) signifying that henceforth Mankind was free from sin and man could reach god directly without the need of any inter-mediatory.

Doubt my assertions about the *Cult of Mary* business? Then consider the following,

- Most Catholics won't enter non-catholic churches or even a catholic church if they don't see an idol or picture of mother Mary from the entrance of the church. Why? Is Mary more important for Catholics than Jesus Christ?
- After the Catholic mass, there will be a larger crowd in front of the statue of the Virgin Mary kissing and worshipping her then in front of the crucifix or the statue of Jesus Christ. If you have not noticed this, then please do so next time you go to your church.
- Despite the clear teachings of Jesus not to do vain repetitions like the heathens (Matthew 6:7), Catholics daily indulge in vain repetitions to Mary. This prayer to Mary is called the Rosary and is repeated over and over again just like the heathen prayers. A Catholic repeats 52 *Hail Mary's* in each daily Rosary prayer. There are many Catholics who will pray the rosary many times a day. Do you realize that a faithful Catholic who prays the Rosary every day, will in a lifetime say "Hail Mary" well over 1,000,000 times!!! Think about it.
- In Catholicism devotion to Mary encompasses everything else. See how faithfully they will say the Rosary to her. They might never read the Bible or pray to God, but they will never forget to say the Rosary to Mary. In Catholic homes the Bible will have a layer of dust on it due to non use, but the Rosary booklet will be spotlessly clean. In addition, every year millions and millions of Catholics make devotional pilgrimages to the Marian centers of Lourdes, Guadalupe, Zeitun, Fatima, Vailankanni, and Medjugorje. At each of these centers the virgin is alleged to have made an appearance. And at each of the appearances the message has been the same - to intensify their (Catholics) prayers to Mary. Does God make such a requirement in the Bible? Jesus clearly specified that God the Father should be the recipient of all prayers. The Hail Mary is a blasphemous prayer directed to the Virgin Mary and not to God.
- Nowhere in the Bible is it mentioned that the Virgin Mary was a perpetual Virgin, was Immaculate Conception, was assumed in to Heaven and was crowned Queen of Heaven & Earth. Neither does the Bible ask us to pray to Mary. From where did Rome get this critical information that they have incorporated into Catholic Dogma? Isn't it inserted by the Catholic Church to replace Christ by the Virgin Mary and redirect all worship to Mary?
- If someone slanders Mary tomorrow then there will be a huge outcry from Catholics. On the other hand if someone were to slander Jesus Christ our savior like it happened recently in the case of the *da vinci code*, the Catholics won't let out even a whimper.

Many Catholics defend this blasphemous devotion to Mary by stating that Mary is the mother of all Catholics. They point out that Jesus himself made her their mother (John 19:26-27). Whenever Bible believing Catholics or evangelical Christians try to point the proper place of Mary in Christianity to Catholics indulging in Mariology, they (the Catholics) become extremely emotional and defend her even better than how they would defend their own mothers. Let us get the facts straight. Mary is not only the mother of Catholics but also of all believers in Christ whether Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox or Anglicans. All believers consider her as their mother and accord

her respect due to a mother. But like the Catholics they do not worship her or pray to her. It is the Catholics who have converted her from the mother of Jesus to the queen of the heavens and a goddess. The Apostles too considered her as their mother, but they never prayed to her nor did they ever worship her. They worshipped only God the Father through his son Jesus Christ. And we too should be doing the same.

Let us look at some of the doctrines that the Catholic Church has incorporated into its doctrines to promote Mary from the mother of Jesus to the queen of the heavens.

The Deification of Mary

Although the Virgin Mary is rarely mentioned in the Bible, and although the Orthodox and the Protestant churches consider her to be a relatively minor biblical character, the Roman Catholic Church has long assigned her an elevated status higher than even Jesus Christ.

The Roman Catholic Church has historically taught two basic dogmas about Mary:

1. Mary is the Mother of God.
2. Perpetual Virginity: Mary was a virgin when Jesus was conceived; this state continued throughout her life.

Two additional dogmas about Mary were infallibly proclaimed by two popes during the 19th and 20th centuries:

3. Immaculate Conception: Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary in December 1854. Most Roman Catholics believe that this refers to Jesus' conception. In fact, it means that Mary herself was conceived free of sin before her birth.

4. Assumption of Mary: Pope Pius XII, in his *Munificentissimus Deus* (1st May 1950), defined that Mary, "after the completion of her earthly life was assumed body and soul into the glory of Heaven." That is, she was "taken up body and soul into heaven," at the time of her death. She is there "exalted as Queen of the Universe."

In addition, various popes and church councils have referred to Mary as co-redemptrix, mediatrix, and advocate.

St. Antonius (250-350): *"All graces that have ever been bestowed on men, all came through Mary."*

St. Bernard (1090-1153): *"[Mary is called] the gate of heaven, because no one can enter that blessed kingdom without passing through her."*

In 1750, Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, canonized as Saint Alphonsus in 1839, wrote a book "The Glories of Mary." It continues to be published today, under various church imprimaturs. Various chapters in the book are titled: "*Mary our Help*," "*Mary our Mediatress*," "*Mary our Advocate*," etc.

Pope Pius XI was the first to give the title co-redemptrix to Mary in 1935. In 1985 Pope John Paul II recognized Mary as co-redemptrix" during a speech in Guayaquil, Ecuador. He said, in part, "*Having suffered for the Church, Mary deserved to become the Mother of all the disciples of her Son, the Mother of their unity...In fact Mary's role as Co-redemptrix did not cease with the glorification of her Son.*" On 25th March 1987, in his encyclical Redemptoris Mater, Pope John Paul II "referred to Mary as 'Mediatrice' three times, and as 'Advocate' twice."

The Catholic Church strongly believes that:

- Mary is co-redemptrix with Jesus. She participates in people's redemption.
- Mary is mediatrix and has the power to grant all graces.
- Mary is the advocate for the people of God and has the authority to influence God's judgments.

In recent times there has been a movement by many Catholics to officially elevate Mary, the mother of Jesus, to the status of co-redeemer. The movement was initiated by Professor Mark Miravalle of Franciscan University, Steubenville. It asks the Pope to make an infallible statement that would officially elevate Mary, the mother of Jesus, to the status of co-redeemer. By the end of the year 2006, more than 20 million catholic signatures from 148 countries had been collected and sent to the Vatican, asking that the Pope infallibly declare a new dogma: "That the Virgin Mary is a co-redeemer with Jesus and co-operates fully with her son in the redemption of humanity." If this were done, then the Virgin Mary would be a vastly more powerful figure, something close to the fourth member of the Holy Trinity.

But it has met with stiff opposition from many Catholic Quarters. One of them is from Father Laurentin. Father Laurentin is a French monk and the world's leading Mary scholar. He believes that: "Mary is the model of our faith but she is not divine. There is no mediation or co-redemption except in Christ. He alone is God."

The Hail Mary?

In times of old, Christians were tortured and murdered by the thousands for refusing to say, "Hail" to the emperor. They were of the opinion that only God is to be praised and showered glory. Today's Catholics routinely say, "Hail" to some creature other than God.

The prayer life of the Roman Catholic is quite different from the Bible believing Christian. A Catholic worships and prays to Mary, the mother of Christ while a Christian is rooted onto Christ. The predominant prayer in the

life of almost any catholic is the "Hail Mary." It goes like this: "HAIL MARY FULL OF GRACE, THE LORD IS WITH THEE. BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS. HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR US SINNERS, NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH. AMEN." The statements made in this prayer are quite significant. Allow us to look at them one at a time and compare them with the word of God to see if there is a basis for such a prayer at all.

1) Hail Mary? The word "hail" brings with it today the connotation of royalty, nobility and power. It is a greeting given to someone of great power, influence and preeminence. We know very well that is the position that Roman Catholicism places on Mary. For example: the principle form of prayer for most Catholics is the "rosary." The rosary is a system of beads where a prayer is said for each bead. The beads are a way to count the prayers and to know where and when to say a particular prayer. In this "rosary," ten prayers are said to Mary for every one that is said to God the Father. (Remember that the only prayer that Jesus taught was the "Our Father". He never taught the "Hail Mary" or the "Holy Mary"). In other words Mary is preeminent ten to one over God! Mary is referred to as the "mother of the church," "the second eve," "the queen of heaven." The queen of the universe," "co-redemptrix," "co-mediator," and if that were not enough, the head of the Roman Catholic Church the pope has dedicated the world on at least two occasions, not to the savior Jesus Christ, but to Mary. When he was shot in an assassination attempt, he thanked and credited Mary with saving him! Attributing praise and worship to humans that have no basis to receive such is not uncommon in forms of religious and political paganism, e.g., "Hail Caesar" or "Hail Hitler."

2) Full of Grace? Wow! What a statement. The teaching is clear. Mary was not ordinary, but was in fact "full" of grace. She must have been special to be "full of grace," right? What does God's word have to say on the matter? John chapter 1 is like a giant spotlight on this subject. It clearly tells us that Jesus Christ is the one that is full of grace. Mary is never said to be full of grace in the scripture. John goes on to tell us in verse 16 that we are all full of His grace and truth, because all believers have Jesus dwelling within them. The only instance where Mary is said to be full of grace is in Luke chapter 1. The grace is because of the savior she carried in her womb and after Pentecost, the spirit of Christ that lives in every believer.

3) The Lord is with thee? The Lord is with every believer or they are not in fact a believer (Rom. 8:9)

4) Blessed art thou among women? While this statement is certainly biblical, it must be understood in the light of biblical truth and not as a result of subjective interpretation. The New Testament was written in "koine" Greek as opposed to classical. There are several words in the Greek language for blessed, just like there are several words for "love," each having a different meaning or carrying with it a particular connotation. The word translated "blessed" when speaking of Mary is not the same word used when referring

to our Lord. The word used for Mary means to pronounce fortunate, and indeed she was. On the other hand the word used for blessed when referring to our Lord means to be adored. Quite a difference, wouldn't you say? You may even wish to check your Bible to see if there is a woman whom the Bible says is blessed "above" women.

*Blessed **above** women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent. (Judges 5:24)*

Does this make Jael greater than the Virgin Mary? Should not Catholics pray to Jael as well?

5) Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus? Without a doubt this is the truth that should be the focus: the Lord Jesus, the Messiah and savior of the world. This should be the emphasis and not Mary. Many, though, know not what they worship.

6) Holy Mary, Mother of God? What a statement! Is it true? Not by any stretch of the imagination. The Bible clearly teaches that the only HOLY one is God. Mary in what is known as her Magnificat, rejoices in God HER SAVIOR (Lk.1: 47). Holiness does not need saving. Mary, after the birth of Jesus, offers a sacrifice for HER SINS. Holiness need not offer a sacrifice for sins. Mary, as any believer, received her righteousness as a gift from the Father. There was nothing inherently holy about Mary. Even Thomas Aquinas (One of the 33 doctors of the Catholic Church and considered by many Catholics to be the Church's greatest theologian ever) denied the "immaculate conception" of Mary. Regarding the "Mother of God" statement much not need be said. God was not born nor was He created. Mary gave birth to the "humanity" of Jesus. Jesus was God, because He is God (John 1:1)! The statement "Mother of God" developed out of a reaction to the denial of the Deity of Jesus by some. That overreaction has resulted in the tail wagging the dog so to speak. Mary was the vessel by which the incarnation took place but she was not the supplier of Divine chromosomes.

7) Pray for us sinners? Mary does not pray for you or me. She does not even know that we exist. If she could know millions and millions of people then she would be a God! While I can pray for you if you were to ask me to, I am alive here on earth. If I would know that you were asking me to pray for you from a thousand miles away, then I would be like God. Do you get the picture? Mary has been clearly given the attributes of God. The adjective "sinners" is used because all good Catholics are still trying to pay for their sin debt. Failing to realize that when Christ said, "**It is finished**," He meant it. When God the Father declared it through Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, He certainly was not kidding.

8) Now and at the hour of our death? "Now," she could not even if she wanted to. "At the hour of our death," why? Please tell me what would be the purpose of such a prayer (if one could be made) at the hour of our death?

Further, she again would have to be a "GOD" to know where and when we were going to die.

9) Amen? A permanent amen should not be given to prayers to anyone other than God. The Father is to be the recipient of all prayer.

In summary, allow me to say that Mary was a wonderful vessel that the Father used. Mary was chosen for these reasons:

1. She was a fine, virtuous, faithful to the law Jewish maiden.
2. She was of the "seed" of King David.
3. She was a virgin.

These qualifications were the biblical reasons to choose her. Not having just one of these prerequisites would have caused God's prophecies to fail. Did Mary play an important role in the Bible? Yes, but so did Noah and Joseph, etc. Remember, Jesus never called Mary, Mother. Not even once! No Apostle ever asks her opinion on anything. No one in the Bible ever asks Mary to pray for them. After the first chapter of the book of Acts, she is never mentioned again, and then only in a list of other believers. It is the Catholic Church that has made Mary the mother of Jesus a legend, a mediatrix and queen of heavens, not Jesus or St Paul or the other disciples.

Please allow the Scripture to bring you to a true understanding of Mary the Mother of Jesus.

Will You Pray The Rosary?

Although there are many different kinds of rosaries, there is one in particular that I wish to discuss. It's the same rosary that "St." Dominic allegedly introduced to Roman Catholicism in 1214:

"...who had received it from the Blessed Virgin as a powerful means of converting the Albigensians and other sinners" (The Secret of The Rosary, St. Louis De Montfort, 18).

I guess the power of the rosary to "convert" the Albigensians to Catholicism failed miserably, since Pope Innocent III had to send out the crusaders to massacre 20,000 men, women and children. To think, all that bloodshed just to stop the Albigensians from calling the Roman Catholic Church the Whore of Babylon (as given in the book of Revelation), the Pope the anti-Christ, and denying Peter ever went to Rome, etc.

Nonetheless, the story of how Dominic received the rosary goes like this:

"St. Dominic, seeing that the gravity of people's sins was hindering the conversion of the Albigensians, withdrew into a forest near Toulouse where he prayed unceasingly for three days and three nights. During this time he

did nothing but weep and do harsh penances in order to appease the anger of Almighty God. He used his discipline so much that his body was lacerated, and finally he fell into a coma. [Too bad he didn't just trust that the blood of Jesus had already appeased the anger of God. Isa.53:5-6]

At this point Our Lady appeared to him accompanied by three angels, and she said: 'Dear Dominic, do you know which weapon the Blessed Trinity wants to use to reform the world?' [The Bible is the only weapon we Christians are armed with. Eph.6:17] 'Oh, my Lady,' answered Saint Dominic, 'you know far better than I do because next to your Son Jesus Christ you have always been the chief instrument of our salvation.' [Jesus Christ purged our sins by himself. Heb.1:3] Then Our Lady replied: 'I want you to know that, in this kind of warfare, the battering ram has always been the Angelic Psalter (Rosary) which is the foundation stone of the New Testament. [Jesus is the only foundation stone. I Cor.3:11; I Pet.2:6] Therefore if you want to reach these hardened souls and win them over to God, preach my Psalter' " (The Secret of The Rosary, St. Louis De Montfort, 18)

When "St." Dominic began to preach his sermon, as commanded by Mary, a violent storm broke out, the earth shook, the sun was darkened, and there was a great deal of thunder and lightening. Over in the corner of the church a picture of Virgin Mary raised its arms to heaven three times:

"...to call down God's vengeance upon them if they failed to be converted, to amend their lives, and seek the protection of the Holy Mother of God. God wished, by means of these supernatural phenomena, to spread the new devotion of the Holy Rosary and to make it more widely known" (The Secret of The Rosary, St. Louis De Montfort, 18-19).

Dominic spent the rest of his life preaching the Rosary, instigated by visions in which "The Virgin Mary" made unscriptural and outrageous promises. Popes jumped in on the bandwagon:

"Gregory XIII said that the Rosary was given us from heaven as a means of appeasing God's anger and of imploring Our Lady's intercession [I Tim.2:5). Jules III said that the Rosary was inspired by God in order that heaven might be more easily opened to us through the favors of Our Lady. Paul III and Saint Pius V stated that the Rosary was given to the faithful in order that they might have spiritual peace and consolation more easily" (The Secret of The Rosary, De Montfort, 70).

Fantastic stories arose telling of the great miracles that were wrought because of praying the rosary, so as to appeal to a superstitious people who trusted in vain repetition, being taught that they would be heard for the many prayers they said.

Anyone who disagrees with Catholicism concerning the Rosary has:

"...absorbed the poison of hell and that they are inspired by the devil - for nobody can condemn devotion to the Holy Rosary without condemning all that is most holy in the Catholic Faith...Saint Bonaventure said...that whoever neglected Our Lady would perish in his sins and would be damned: 'He who neglects her will die in his sins.' If such is the penalty for neglecting her, what must be the punishment in store for those who actually turn others away from their devotions?" (The Secret of The Rosary, De Montfort, 29-30)

So now we know the Catholic attitude toward those who won't pray the Rosary. What about those who do? What are the alleged benefits?

"For through the Rosary:

- 1. Sinners are forgiven;*
- 2. Souls that thirst are refreshed;*
- 3. Those who are fettered have their bonds broken;*
- 4. Those who weep find happiness;*
- 5. Those who are tempted find peace;*
- 6. The poor find help;*
- 7. Religious are reformed;*
- 8. Those who are ignorant are instructed;*
- 9. The living learn to overcome pride;*
- 10. The dead (the Holy Souls) have their pains eased by suffrages"*

(The Secret of The Rosary, De Montfort, 86).

If you are a Catholic, you may have been seduced into believing all these promises are available through Mary by saying the Rosary. But if you're a Christian, you recognize that these are the promises to those who accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, except the last one, since there is no purgatory or suffering after death for Christians.

There are Catholics who would contend that the Rosary is based on a Biblical foundation and therefore acceptable. Not true. Let's start with the main prayer, the "Hail Mary", which is said 10 times more than the "Our Father". The prayer consists of three parts.

1. The first part *"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: Blessed art thou among women."* This is taken from a corruption of Luke 1:28. The KJV reads, *"Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: Blessed art thou among women"*. Catholics teach her subjects that Mary is *"full of grace"*. This is in direct contradiction to John 1:14 which teaches us that Jesus is the *"(...only begotten of the Father,) full of grace..."* Now if Jesus is the only one, how can Mary also be the only one? The KJV rightly translated *"highly favored"* since it simply means "accepted", the same word that was used to describe believers in Eph.1:6, *"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."*

Okay, so Mary and believers are accepted, but what about blessed? Wasn't Mary blessed among women? Yes, she was. But the word for "blessed" is "eulogia" which means "to be well spoken of". We use the same word today; it's called a eulogy. Gal.3:9 says: "So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham." The use of blessed in this verse is the same as used in Luke, which means that the believer is also blessed, just as Mary was! Judges 5:24 says: "Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be...." Certainly Jael is not worthy of worship even though she was blessed "above" women and not "among" as Mary was. The Catholic Church has taken key words and built them up to mean more than what was intended in order to establish devotions to Mary. But we must remember that Mary herself said, "And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior", establishing herself as a sinner in need of a Savior.

The "Hail Mary" is prayed over-and-over-and-over, repeatedly... violating Jesus' command about NOT doing "vain repetitions as the heathen do". (Matt 6:7) And then notice what Jesus says about prayer. He does NOT instruct believers to pray to Mary, but He says to pray to "Our Father in heaven...". And Believers can do so because of our High Priest, Jesus the Son of God. (Heb 4:14-16)

2. The next part of the "Hail Mary" is taken from Luke 1:42, "...and blessed is the fruit of thy womb." This is the only part of the "Hail Mary" that is *not* corrupted. The next part is an addition to Scriptures (Rev 21:18-19). It goes like this: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death". God is eternal. He has no beginning, nor end. No one is His mother, or She would be greater than He. (Read Heb 7:3) The *deception* of this part of the prayer is to convince Catholics that they can *trust Mary to deliver them*. You think not? Just listen to some of the fables they propagate to instill faith in Mary.

"One day Saint Gertrude had a vision of Our Lord counting gold coins. She summoned the courage to ask Him what He was doing. He answered: "I am counting the Hail Mary's that you have said; this is the money with which you can pay your way to Heaven" (The Secret of The Rosary, De Montfort, 48).

King Alphonsus VIII, after praying the Rosary, had a "vision" of Mary. She assured him:

" ' Alphonsus, you have served me for a year by saying my Rosary devoutly every day, so I have come to reward you: I have obtained the forgiveness of your sins from my Son. And I am going to give you this rosary; wear it, and I promise you that none of your enemies will ever be able to harm you again' " (The Secret of The Rosary, De Montfort, 74).

The Rosary is also used as a sort of pagan amulet to protect devotees of Mary. Think not? How many times have you seen a Rosary hanging from a mirror on a car? These days even the pagan non-Christians have started using it. Pope Innocent XI on July 31, 1679 publicly confirmed, "Those who

openly wear the Holy Rosary out of devotion and to set a good example may gain one hundred days' indulgence;" (The Secret of The Rosary, De Montfort, 72). Remember that an indulgence is time off in purgatory for good behavior, so to speak!

The Catholic book that I have been quoting from, *The Secret of The Rosary*, from 1965 to 1991, has sold 3,400,000 copies. In an effort to trace the legitimacy of the story, they found it to be a forgery started by Dominican Alan De Rupe about the year 1470-75.

"Alan was a very earnest and devout man, but, as the highest authorities admit, he was full of delusions, and based his revelations on the imaginary testimony of writers that never existed...It is now admitted by Dominican authorities to be a forgery" (Catholic Encyclopedia, XIII, 184 - 146).

Isn't it amazing that the Catholic Church has known for a long time (at least since 1913) that the story concerning "St." Dominic is a forgery, yet she withholds that information from her subjects. Don't you wonder how many other things she has withheld?

The bottom line is this, Satan wants to lead us away from God, to make us afraid to approach Him, even though 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."* Knowing that God loves us so much, let us approach the throne of grace with confidence. (Hebrews 4:16). He does not need nor desire the help of any other intercessor like Mary or the Saints. Jesus is our only intercessor.

God ordained the way for man to approach Him, trust Jesus! The Rosary is an idolatrous prayer. God said, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3) and Mary has become an "other god" to Catholics. God said, furthermore, "You shall not make for yourself any carved image or any likeness of anything..." (Exodus 20:4) And Catholics have proliferated the world with statues of this Queen of heaven whom they worship.

The Glories of Mary

In 1750, Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, later canonized as Saint Alphonsus in 1839, wrote a book "The Glories of Mary." It continues to be one of the most sold and best read books by Catholics. This book more or less defines the catholic position of the Virgin Mary. The Catholic Church was so happy about this book that the author of this book was elevated to the position of "doctor of the church" by Pope Pius IX, a rare honor given only to the greatest of ecclesiastical writers of the Roman Church, and has been canonized as a saint. I shall mention a few of the excerpts from the book so that you can decide whether you believe in what the Catholic Church preaches about Mary, the mother of Jesus.

The glories of Mary preaches,

"Mary, then, in obtaining this grace for sinners by her intercession, thus restores them to life" (page 54)

*"And **she is truly made a mediatrix of peace between sinners and God.**" (page 56)*

*"... **that sinners receive pardon by the intercession of Mary alone.**" (p.57)*

*"**To Mary alone is it granted to save them** by her powerful intercession." (page 101)*

*"the hope of malefactors...**the only hope of sinners**" (page102)*

"Mary is the peace-maker between sinners and God" (page174)

*"The holy Church carefully teaches us, her children, with what attention and confidence we should unceasingly have recourse to this loving protectress; and for this purpose **commands a worship peculiar to Mary.**" (page106)*

*"The whole trinity, O Mary, gave thee a name after that of thy Son above every other name, **that in thy name every knee should bow, of things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.**" (page 234)*

*"**Mary is called the gate of heaven, because no one can enter that blessed kingdom without passing by her**" (page 134)*

*"And shall we scruple to ask her to save us, when '**the way of salvation is open to none otherwise than thru Mary.**'" (page 143)*

"How can she be otherwise than full of grace, who has been made the ladder to paradise, the gate of heaven, the most true mediatrix between God and man" (page 128)

*"**He who is protected by Mary will be saved; he who is not will be lost.**" (page 144)*

"All power is given to thee in heaven and on earth, and nothing is impossible to thee, who canst raise those who are in despair to the hope of salvation." (page 154)

"Thou art the Mother of God, and all-powerful to save sinners, and with God thou needest no other recommendation; for thou art the Mother of true life." (page 155)

*"**At the command of Mary, all obey, even God.**" (page 155)*

*"Yes, **Mary is omnipotent.**" (page 155)*

"God has placed the whole Church, not only under the patronage, but even under the dominion of Mary." (page 155)

*"This great Virgin, who is the Mother of your God and Judge, is also the Advocate of the whole human race : fit for this office, **for she can do what she wills with God.**" (pages 171-172)*

***"We often more quickly obtain what we ask by calling on the name of Mary than by invoking that of Jesus."** (page 228)*

"Mary is our life, because she obtains us the pardon of our sins" (page 54)

***"For she ... is our salvation, our life, our hope, our counsel, our refuge, our help."** (page 230)*

"Mary, says Saint Antonius, is that throne of grace to which the Apostle Saint Paul, in his epistle to the Hebrews, exhorts us to fly with confidence, that we may obtain the Divine mercy, and all the help we need for our salvation" (page 230)

***"Whoever asks and wishes to obtain graces without the intercession of Mary, attempts to fly without wings"** (page 189)*

If you have ever read the Bible in your lifetime, then you will realize that these are the same titles and attributes the Bible gives to Jesus. What the Catholic Church has done is stripped Jesus Christ of these traits and assigned them to Mary instead. Not only has the Catholic church assigned the titles given to Jesus in the Bible to Mary, it has also converted God into a puppet at the hands of Mary to be manipulated as per the fancies of Mary. And this is precisely the reason why the Catholic religion is an anti-Christian religion. It is the cult of Satan alias Cult of Mary. Satan's greatest aim is to deny or negate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary. It is to obliterate the name of Jesus Christ, the only hope of humanity, from this world. And the Catholic Church aims at precisely that. With Jesus Christ out of the way, there is no hope of Salvation for anyone. All are assured of a direct ticket to Satan's hell.

Kindly note that it is not the Blessed Virgin Mary who has given herself these titles and attributes. Nor have they been given by the Gospel writers or the Apostles. The Apostle John took care of her until she died, but he does not mention her in any of his three epistles or in the book of Revelation. The exalted names and titles for the Virgin Mary have been given by the Catholic Church. The Virgin Mary, the mother of all Christians, was virtuous women who spend her life pleasing god with all her deeds. She is our role model in life. But she is not our Goddess. In Heaven she must be very much saddened with Catholics for converting her to a Catholic Goddesses.

Was Mary a perpetual Virgin?

One of the more controversial teachings of the Catholic Church deals with the perpetual virginity of Mary. This doctrine maintains that Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Jesus and that biblical references suggesting Jesus had siblings are really references to cousins (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 510).

As the veneration of Mary increased throughout the centuries, the vehicle of Sacred Tradition became the means of promoting new doctrines not explicitly taught in the Bible. The virginity of Mary is clearly taught in scripture when describing the birth of Jesus. But is the doctrine of her continued virginity supported by the Bible? Did Mary lose her virginity after Jesus was born? Does the Bible reveal that Mary had other children, that Jesus had brothers and sisters?

The Bible does not come out and declare that Mary remained a virgin and that she had no children. In fact, the Bible seems to state otherwise. Let us look at some of the Biblical verses:

*"And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took as his wife, and **kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son**; and he called His name Jesus." (Matthew 1:24-25)*

"While He was still speaking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. And someone said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to you." (Matthew 12:46-47)

"Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?" (Matthew 13:55)

"And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, and Joses, and Judas, and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" (Mark 6:2-3)

"After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother, and His brothers, and His disciples; and there they stayed a few days." (John 2:12)

"These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers." (Acts 1:14)

"Do we not have a right to eat and drink? Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?" (1 Cor. 9:4-5)

An initial reading of these biblical texts seems to clear up the issue: Jesus had brothers and sisters. But such obvious scriptures are not without their response from Catholic Theologians. The primary argument against these biblical texts is as follows:

In Greek, the word for brother is 'adelphos' and sister is 'adelphē'. This word is used in different contexts: of children of the same parents (Matt. 1:2; 14:3), descendants of parents (Acts 7:23, 26; Heb. 7:5), the Jews as a whole (Acts 3:17, 22), etc. Therefore, the term brother (and sister) can refer to the cousins of Jesus.

There is certainly merit in this argument; however, different contexts give different meanings to words. It is not legitimate to say that because a word has a wide scope of meaning, that you may then transfer any part of that range of meaning to any other text that uses the word. In other words, just because the word 'brother' means 'fellow Jews' or 'cousin' in one place, does not mean it has the same meaning in another. Therefore, each verse should be looked at **in context** to see what it means.

Let's briefly analyze a couple of verses dealing with the brothers of Jesus.

"While He was still speaking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. And someone said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You." (Matthew 12:46-47)

"Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?" (Matthew 13:55)

In both of these verses, if the brothers of Jesus are not brothers, but His cousins, then who is His mother and who is the carpenter's father? In other words, 'mother' here refers to Mary. The carpenter in Matt. 13:55, refers to Joseph. These are literal. Yet, the Catholic theologian will then stop there and say, "Though 'carpenter's son' refers to Joseph, and 'mother' refers to Mary, 'brothers' does not mean brothers, but "cousins." This does not seem to be a legitimate assertion. You cannot simply switch contextual meanings in the middle of a sentence unless it is obviously required. The context is clear. This verse is speaking of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus' brothers. The whole context is of familial relationship: father, mother, and brothers.

Psalm 69, A Messianic Psalm

There are many arguments pro and con concerning Jesus' siblings. But the issue cannot be settled without examining Psalm 69, a Messianic Psalm. Jesus quotes Psalm 69:4 in John 15:25, *"But they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'"*

He also quotes Psalm 69:9 in John 2:16-17, *"and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a house of merchandise." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Thy house will consume me."*

Clearly, Psalm 69 is a Messianic Psalm since Jesus quoted it in reference to Himself two times. The reason this is important is because of what is written between the verses that Jesus quoted.

To get the whole context, here is Psalm 69:4-9,

*"Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; Those who would destroy me are powerful, being wrongfully my enemies, What I did not steal, I then have to restore. ⁵O God, it is Thou who dost know my folly, And my wrongs are not hidden from Thee. ⁶May those who wait for Thee not be ashamed through me, O Lord God of hosts; May those who seek Thee not be dishonored through me, O God of Israel, ⁷Because for Thy sake I have borne reproach; Dishonor has covered my face. ⁸**I have become estranged from my brothers, and an alien to my mother's sons.** ⁹For zeal for Thy house has consumed me, And the reproaches of those who reproach Thee have fallen on me."*

This messianic Psalm clearly shows that Jesus had brothers. As Amos 3:7 says, *"Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets."* God's will has been revealed plainly in the New Testament and prophetically in the Old. Psalm 69 shows us that Jesus had brothers.

Did Mary have other children? The Bible seems to suggest yes. Catholic Tradition says no. Which will you trust?

Of course, the Catholic will simply state that even this phrase "my mother's sons" is in reference not to his siblings, but to cousins and other relatives. This is a necessary thing for the Catholic to say, otherwise, the perpetual virginity of Mary, the God of Catholicism is threatened and since that contradicts Roman Catholic tradition, an interpretation that is consistent with that tradition **must** be adopted.

The question is, "Was Jesus estranged by His brothers?". Yes, He was. John 7:5 says *"For not even His brothers were believing in Him."* Furthermore, Psalm 69:8 says both *"my brothers"* and *"my mother's sons."* Are these both to be understood as **not** referring to His siblings? Hardly. The Catholics are fond of saying that "brothers" must mean "cousins." But, if that is the case, then when we read "an alien to my mother's sons" we can see that the writer is adding a further distinction and narrowing the scope of meaning. In other words, Jesus was alienated by his siblings, His very half-brothers begotten from Mary.

It is sad to see the Roman Catholic church go to such lengths to maintain Mary's virginity, something that is a violation of biblical law to be married and fill the earth. What is even worse is that **whether Mary remained a virgin or not after the birth of Jesus does not affect the divinity of Christ or the voice of prophecy.** Isaiah's prophecy refers to the virgin birth of Christ alone. It does not refer to the continued virginity of Mary. It is sad to see the Catholic Church go to such extent to protect its dogmas about its goddess Mary.

Is Mary the Mother of God?

Mary is celebrated around the world as the Divine Feminine by millions of people, many of them Catholics. Those who are devoted to Mary honor her as the mother of God and worship her. The Blessed Virgin Mary is known as the dispenser of mercy, the ever-patient mother, and the champion of humanity. She is the special protectress of women and children.

Mary was declared to be the "Mother of God" by the Christian church in the 5th century at Ephesus, Turkey. Ephesus was the home of a magnificent temple to the Goddess, Artemis Diana, one of whose titles was "Queen of Heaven". The Christian church also conferred the Goddess's title on the mother of Jesus. They called Her, "Mary, Queen of Heaven" and "Mary, Queen of the Angels."

One such claim is that calling Mary the Mother of God. Let us see if this title is justified for the Virgin Mary?

In a hard hitting article directed against those who slander Mary as the mother of God, the Catholic church has written in the article, *"The title of Mary: Mother of God", "Since Mary is Jesus' mother, it must be concluded that she is also the Mother of God: If Mary is the mother of Jesus, and if Jesus is God, then Mary is the Mother of God. There is no way out of this logical syllogism, the valid form of which has been recognized by classical logicians since before the time of Christ. Anyone with common sense would not disagree with this dogma, but sometimes, common sense isn't so common these days."*

Using the same common sense argument, one can also conclude that, the "Mother of God is God herself" and secondly "The Mother of God is greater than God". But is she? It should be understood that God has no beginning and no end. He is not constrained by time. In that manner, the term "Mother of God" is very much different from the terms like "Mother of the Emperor", "Mother of the Prime Minister" etc. The "Mother of God" is eternal and is herself God. Since she is the mother of God, she is greater than God.

Are not my inferences correct based on the same common sense argument? Yes, the Catholics are right. Common sense is sometimes not so common these days especially among Catholics.

God has no mother. He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. If God had a mother then she will be greater (and older) than him. This is the exact problem with the "Mother of God" dogma of the Catholic churches. In the catholic religion today Mary holds more sway than even Jesus Christ. On the other hand God the Father and the Holy Spirit are dead. Jesus is barely alive. It is only Mary and the Saints that are well and kicking in Catholicism. Can any Catholic deny this claim? Catholics today including priests hardly read the Bible. Catholics as the least religious among the Christians are always on the lookout for shortcuts to reach paradise (even if these involve cutting someone's throat like it happened during the crusades when the pope sold indulgences to all good Catholics to cut the throats of non-Catholics). Mary comes useful for them there. Mary is projected as the co-mediator between God and man. Even if Jesus were to reject someone on judgment day, Mary will be there to rescue him/her from hell. This makes Mary a greater savior than Jesus according to Catholic doctrine.

Catholics say that Mary is the Mother of God in the sense that she carried in her womb a divine person—Jesus Christ, God "in the flesh". But it must be remembered that Mary did not carry God in her womb, she carried Christ's *human* nature. Christ was fully God and fully Man. Mary just contributed to the fully man part of Jesus. The fully God part of him came from the Holy Spirit. The term "Mother of God" came from the ancient Babylonian culture that the Catholic Church incorporated into its doctrine in the 5th century to make Catholicism palatable for converting pagans. There is no reference to Mary as the Mother of God in the Bible or any of the disciple's letters to the early Christians or in any of the early Christian heretical gospels and writings. The term "Mother of God" is a Catholic injection into Christian doctrine.

All Christians barring the Catholics cringe at calling Mary, "Mother of God". They call Mary, the mother of the earthy Jesus, never "Mother of God". Why? The answer is found in the Bible. Jesus never addressed her as "Mother" but always as "Woman". Jesus never asked us to call Mary, the "Mother of God". Let us examine the Gospel of Luke.

"A woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him (Jesus), 'Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts you sucked!' But he said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!' (Luke 11:27-2).

What Jesus is saying here is that his mother is not blessed because he is her son. She is not blessed because he is God. Rather she is blessed because she kept the word of God and followed God's commandments. Further Jesus says, all those who follow the word of God are blessed. So where is the justification for calling Mary, mother of God? Jesus does not want Christians to know Mary as the "Mother of God". He wants to know her as a virtuous woman who kept the word of God. He wants to know her as the mother of the Earthy Jesus; Jesus the Man, not Jesus the God. And he certainly does not want Christians praying to Mary, his mother.

The term "Mother of God" poses another interesting question. If Catholics refer to Mary as the Mother of God, then pray tell me why don't they refer to

St. Ann, the mother of Mary as the grandmother of God and worship her? (Since this would make Ann greater than even Mary and Jesus and she would be worthy of worship according to Catholic dogmas.)

Is Mary the Queen of Heaven?

Catholicism contends that at the end of Mary's life on earth, the Lord took her up into heaven and gave her the title, "Queen over all things." In 1954, Pope Pius XII officially declared Mary the Queen of Heaven.

"Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things." (Catholic Catechism, Pg. 252, #966)

Once again, Catholic doctrine and the Word of God have a head-on collision. Scripture only never teaches such a doctrine; it condemns it. In Jeremiah 44: 9, we read about the worship of a false goddess known as the "Queen of heaven," a practice which made God furious:

*"The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the **queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may **provoke me to anger.**" (Jeremiah 7:18)*

From where did Catholics derive the fallacious piece of information that they claim to be scripture? The Bible never mentions anything like Mary being the Queen of the Heavens. The only occurrences of the phrase "Queen of Heaven" in the Bible are in reference to a false pagan goddess (see Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-25). Jesus' mother Mary is never described as having any kind of exalted position in Heaven. The Bible does not record Mary's death. In fact, Mary is never even mentioned after Acts chapter 1, verse 14. Mary was a godly woman through whom God chose to bring forth His beloved Son (Luke 1:26-38). The Bible gives us no reason to believe, though, that Mary was sinless or is now exalted as the "Queen of Heaven."

Mary is never mentioned even in the writing of the apostles or St Paul. Apart from the books of the Bible, there are a number of heretical books written about Christianity. These include the Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Judas, The Gospel of Mary Magdalene, etc. But even these make no mention of her heavenly ascension and subsequent crowning as "Queen of the Heavens". Why? Because it never happened.

One of the oft-quoted arguments by Catholics to support the catholic dogma that Mary is the queen of heavens is revelation chapter 12. But does this chapter refer to the Virgin Mary? We will come back to this topic later on.

Mary is to be respected as the earthly mother of Jesus, but she is not worthy

of our worship and she cannot hear our prayers. The Bible nowhere indicates that anyone other than God is to be worshipped or revered. The Bible nowhere specifies that anyone other than God can hear or answer our prayers. Jesus is our only advocate in Heaven (1 Timothy 2:5). If Mary were to speak to us today from heaven, she would say the same as the angels do when people try to worship them -- "Worship God!" (Revelation 19:10; 22:9).

But the Catholic Church declares:

*"Let us continue to venerate, invoke and pray to the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, conceived without original sin. Let us fly with utter confidence to the most sweet Mother of mercy and grace in all dangers, difficulties, needs, doubts and fears. Under her guidance, under her patronage, under her kindness and protection, nothing is to be feared; nothing is hopeless. Because, while bearing toward us a truly motherly affection and **having in her care the work of our salvation**, she is solicitous about the whole human race. And since She has been appointed by God to be the **Queen of heaven and earth**, and is exalted above all the choirs of angels and saints, and even stands at the right hand of her only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, she presents our petitions in a most efficacious manner. What she asks, she obtains. Her pleas can never be unheard."*

The Catholic Church has converted God to a puppet in the hands of Mary. There has been a complete substitution of Mary for Jesus, in the work of our salvation, and in whom we pray to in times of need. The impression is that Mary will listen, but God is cold and unapproachable. Mary will grant your wishes, when God might otherwise reject them, and God is bound by the will of Mary. Salvation is obtained from Mary and God will rubberstamp her decisions.

Mariolatry, the "Queen of Heavens", is a popish lie and calculated to deceive millions, while it is an insult to our Lord and Savior. It declares that Christ lacks compassion, is wanting in knowledge and depends for information upon Mary, and is without willingness to help and save the lost.

The book of Jeremiah states several verses which DEMONSTRATES THAT THE ORIGIN OF THE WORSHIP OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN IS PAGAN, NOT BIBLICAL.

*The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the **queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger. (Jer 7:18)*

*But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the **queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes,*

*in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. But since we left off to burn incense to the **queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. And when we burned incense to the **queen of heaven**, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men? (Jer 44:1-19)*

The Queen of Heaven, according to the Bible, is none other than Ishtar, Ashtoreth, or Astarte the very pagan goddess that Israel worshipped when they fell into apostasy and paganism-

And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. (Judges 2:13)

As you can see, this idolatrous, pagan worship of the Queen of Heaven has been carried over by the Catholic Church into its "worship" of Mary as the Queen of Heaven. We should not be surprised that Satan is causing deities to appear all over the world at this moment in history. As is prophesied in the book of revelation, Satan is drawing together his prophesied church through these deities.

Christ's worship is built on the teachings of the Scriptures. To obtain forgiveness of sins through Christ there must be a change of heart, a new birth, a new life; Old things must pass away, all things must become new. Roman Catholics believe that they can be saved more easily through Mary. Christ requires repentance, Mary devotion. Faith in Christ demands submission to the will of God, reformation of life, and devotion of heart as required by the gospel; while devotion to Mary consists in prayers to her or some external practices in her honor. Catholic Popes have always preached the thought that damnation is impossible where there is devotion to the Virgin. Pope Pius IX, after decreeing the Immaculate Conception, made the cornerstone of the Roman Catholic faith to believe and to teach *that salvation is received solely and alone through Mary*. It is ours to refute this blasphemous assumption by proclaiming Christ as the way, the truth, and the life.

When Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ her [unique] mission ended. The dream that haunted the imagination of the Jewish maiden was fulfilled; Mary had given birth to Jesus. The world worshiped the being born, not the one who gave birth to the Son of man and the Son of God. They did it then. True believers do it now as they will do it in heaven. As a virgin, Mary became the medium through which the ever-blessed Christ came into the world. Because of this she was blessed among women. She was not worshiped by those who knew her in the flesh, and she is without any claim to worship at this time, or any time.

Prayers are not the only things brought forth by the Catholic Church in favor of Mary worship. There are a number of songs/hymns as well. Two of the most popular songs during the Catholic mass and that sung with great zeal

by the laity are the hymns "Ave Maria" and "Salve Regina" which mean "Hail Mary" and "Greetings to the Queen" respectively. Most Catholics sing these hymns without really understanding their meaning. These songs are singing praises to the Catholic "Regina Coelis" Queen of Heavens. Catholics are duped into believing that these songs are just in praise of Mary for being a humble servant of God when in reality they are in praise of Mary, the only god of Catholicism.

Jesus Christ is the cornerstone which is being set at naught by Roman Catholics, but as Peter said "He is the cornerstone; neither is there any salvation in any other, for *there is none other name given among men whereby we must be saved.*" [Acts 4:11-2] Hence in our hearts and with our lips we glorify Christ, and reject Mariolatry as dishonoring to God and destructive of faith in Christ, and we glorify the one Mediator between God and man [1 Tim. 2:5], Christ Jesus our Lord, who was crucified, died and buried, and who rose from the dead and ascended up on high [Eph. 4:8] and was welcomed into heaven by the multitudes that no man can number and is worshiped by the redeemed as the being by whom and for whom all things were made. [Col. 1:16]

Catholicism insists that the Lord elevated Mary to the rank of "Queen of all things." Yet, the Bible proclaims that worshipping a "Queen of heaven" provokes God to anger. Where will you place your trust, in the traditions of men, or the Word of God?

Does Revelation chapter 12 refer to the Virgin Mary?

Catholics maintain that one of the strongest evidence that Mary is the "Queen of Heavens" is given in revelation chapter 12. The chapter starts like this:

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. (Rev. 12:1)

Roman Catholics claim this woman is Mary the "Queen of Heaven". It is common in Roman Catholic art to represent Mary as standing on a crescent moon with twelve stars around her head. Is this woman really Mary? Let us analyze and check it out.

The real explanation of revelation chapter 12 is as follows: The woman is described as "clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Revelation 12:1).

In another part of the Bible i.e. Genesis, we find the same description of the Sun, the Moon and the twelve stars.

And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. (Gen 37:9)

Joseph was the twelfth star. The Bible is talking of the twelve tribes. The tribe of Joseph is listed in Rev. 7:8 among the 144,000.

Note the similarity between this description and the description that Joseph gave of his father Jacob (Israel) and his mother and their children (Genesis 37:9-11). The stars refer to the twelve tribes of Israel. So, the woman in Revelation 12 is Israel. The crown of twelve stars represents the 12 tribes.

Additional evidence is that in Revelation 12:2-5, the passage speaks of the woman being with child and giving birth. While it is true that Mary gave birth to Jesus, it is also true that Jesus, the son of David from the tribe of Judah, came from Israel. In a real sense, Israel gave birth, or brought forth, Christ Jesus. Further evidence for this is in 12:5 where the Scripture says that the woman "gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne." This is easily understood as describing Jesus. Jesus will one day establish His kingdom on earth (Revelation 20:4-6) and He will rule. This verse also makes reference to Jesus' ascension to heaven 40 days after His resurrection (Acts 1:9-11) speaking of the son "being caught up to God and to His throne."

When it speaks of the woman fleeing into the wilderness for 1,260 days, it is referring to the future time called the Tribulation period. 1,260 days is 42 months of 30 days each. 42 months is 3 1/2 years. Halfway through the Tribulation period, the beast will set an image of himself up in the temple that will be built. This is the abomination that Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14. When the beast does this, he breaks the peace pact he made with Israel, and the nation has to flee for safety (also see Matthew 24; Daniel 9:27).

Revelation 12:12-17 speaks of how the devil will make war against Israel, trying to destroy her (Satan knows his time is short, relatively speaking--see Revelation 20:1-3, 10). It also speaks of how God will protect Israel while in the wilderness. This wilderness place where Israel will flee is believed to be a place called Petra. Note Revelation 12:14 where it says that Israel will be protected from the devil for "a time, times, and half a time (a time = 1 year - 3 1/2 years).

As you see, the woman in chapter 12 of revelation refers to Israel (Gods people) and not to the Virgin Mary. The voice of prophecy as given in the Bible makes perfect sense only when it is applied to Israel, not Mary.

Was the Virgin Mary Immaculate Conception?

There is a widespread misunderstanding of the term "Immaculate Conception." Most Catholics believe this refers to the virgin birth of Jesus, but Immaculate Conception is actually a Catholic dogma that asserts that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was preserved by God from the stain of original sin at the time of her conception in her mother's womb. The Catholic Church further believes that she lived a life completely free from sin. Her immaculate conception in the womb of her mother, by sexual intercourse, should not be confused with the doctrine of the virginal conception of her son Jesus. They are completely two different subjects. The conception of Jesus by Mary is more properly called the ***Incarnation of Christ*** and is not connected to the concept of the ***Immaculate Conception***.

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was officially defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854. Pope Pius IX, who was highly devoted to the Blessed Virgin, hoped the definition would inspire others in their devotion to her. The Catholic Church celebrates the Immaculate Conception on December 8th every year.

The Immaculate Conception of Mary is a Catholic belief that God preserved Mary from the inheritance of original sin passed on to all mankind from our first parents, Adam and Eve. Christian belief holds that every human being through faith and through baptism is freed from sin - original sin and personal sin - through the grace of Jesus Christ. Roman Catholics claim that Mary was the first one to whom this was done. In addition Catholicism asserts that Mary never sinned during her life and, was redeemed (saved) from the moment of her birth.

The Catholic Catechism asserts,

"By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long." (Pg. 124, #493)

"Espousing the divine will for salvation whole-heartedly, without a single sin to restrain her, she gave herself entirely to the person and to the work of her Son..." (Pg. 124, #494)

"Mary is the most excellent fruit of redemption (SC 103): from the first instant of her conception, she was totally preserved from the stain of original sin and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life." (Pg. 128 #508, See also Pg. 191, #722)

Catholics allege that the basis for the belief in the Immaculate Conception of Mary can be found in the angel's greeting to Mary. The angel Gabriel said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). They claim that the grace given to Mary is at once permanent and of a unique kind. Catholics hold, it extended over the whole of her life, from conception onward. Catholics contend that Mary was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first

moment of her existence and by a special intervention of God, undertaken at the instant she was conceived, she was preserved from the stain of original sin and its consequences.

If you are wondering if this doctrine is taught in the Bible, it isn't. The Catechism admits that it is another church tradition:

"Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, 'full of grace' through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception." (Pg. 123, #491)

The Bible identifies Jesus as the sinless One, not Mary. Aside from the Lord Jesus, the Bible is quite clear that **nobody** else has ever been sinless:

*"For he hath made him (Jesus) to be sin for us, **who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

*"For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)*

*"As it is written, There is none righteous, **no, not one**:" (Romans 3:10)*

*"But the scripture hath concluded **all** under sin..." (Galatians 3:22)*

Notice, none of these verses say, "all have sinned, except Mary."

In Luke's gospel, Mary herself admits that she was a sinner. Otherwise she would never have concluded that she needed a Savior:

*"And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God **my Saviour**." (Luke 1:46-47)*

Yet, the Catholic Church demands that all her members worship Mary:

"The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship." (Pg. 253, #971)

Though it is possible for God to create a human being like Mary without original sin, how would He control her sins on earth? How will he ensure that Mary does not sin on earth? The Bible describes that God created man and gave him the gift of free will. This is what separates Man from Angels. If God tried to control Mary then it would no longer be free will; she would be like an angel with no will of her own. So how did God ensure that Mary did not Sin? Catholics contend that God removed from Mary all inclination to sin. This is how he preserved her from sinning on earth and from mortal sin.

If this reasoning were true, then it would make Mary a puppet and not a human being. On the other hand, it will also make Mary equal to God. As we know in the beginning, God created Adam, Eve, and the angels without sin, but none were equal to God, **because they had a tendency to sin**. TO BE WITHOUT SIN AND TO HAVE NO TENDENCY TO SIN IS TO BE FULLY GOD

NOT HUMAN. And Catholics would have us believe that Mary is God. When Jesus was incarnated he was without sin (God), but he had a tendency to sin (Human side). Hence the Devil tempted him in the wilderness. (The devil was not wasting his time over there.) Catholic dogmas about Mary make her greater than even Jesus Christ.

Jesus is again robbed of glory and honor that He alone deserves. Rather than recognizing Him as the only sinless One, Catholicism contradicts Scripture and insists that Mary was also sinless. Why? Isn't it to protect its goddess? The Bible clearly says that all have sinned (Rom. 3:23). AND THAT INCLUDES MARY TOO. Else the Bible is wrong. Which would you as a catholic rather believe man-made catholic dogmas or the word of God?

It is indeed disgraceful how Catholics would misinterpret the Bible and "add" or "subtract" to its revelations to protect their goddess Mary. As you go through Catholic literature you will notice that Catholics will distort and challenge even the writings of St Paul and the other disciples in the Bible to prove that Mary was born without original sin and bodily ascended into heaven.

Just to give one instance, regarding Rom 3:23 that states, "*For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God*", they would question – All? What about Jesus? When Hebrews 4:15 which says that Jesus was without sin is pointed to them, they immediately infer: *If Paul's statement in Romans 3 includes an exception for the New Adam (Jesus), **one may argue that an exception for the New Eve (Mary) can also be made.*** Unfortunately for the Catholics, Paul does not make any exception for Mary. Even in Romans 3:23, When Paul talks of "All", he is referring to mankind in general excluding Jesus Christ. Jesus is implicitly implied to be without sin. But the lowly Catholic Church in trying to prove the sinlessness of their goddess and deity Mary have stooped to point fingers at Jesus our Savior.

The doctrine of Immaculate Conception was rejected outright by the Eastern Orthodox, the Protestants and the Anglicans denominations of Christianity simply because it was not taught explicitly in the Bible. Even among Catholics there were a number of those who rejected or questioned it. It was rejected by St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Alexander of Hales, and St. Bonaventure who called it "the foreign doctrine". St Thomas Aquinas, one of the greatest catholic theologians of all times questioned the very basis of the doctrine but said that he would accept the decision of the Church.

Did Mary bodily assume into heaven?

The Catholic doctrine of the Assumption says that at the end of her life on earth Mary was assumed, body and soul, into heaven. Catholics are quick to point out that Christ, by his own power, ascended into heaven. While Mary was assumed or taken up into heaven by God. She didn't do it under her own power.

The Catholic Church has never formally defined whether she died or not. Pope Pius XII, in *Munificentissimus Deus* (1950), defined that Mary, "after the completion of her earthly life" (note the silence regarding her death), "was assumed body and soul into the glory of heaven."

Catholics distort Matthew 27:52-53 to prove bodily assumption of Mary before the Second Coming. Matthew 27:52-53, clearly says that "The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many." But the Catholic Church adds that, "There is no record of that, but it is recorded by early Church writers that the Saints were assumed into heaven, or at least into that temporary state of rest and happiness often called "paradise," where the righteous people from the Old Testament era waited until Christ's resurrection (cf. Luke 16:22, 23:43; Heb. 11:1-40; 1 Pet. 4:6), after which they were brought into the eternal bliss of heaven."

Another proof they claim is the total lack of remains of Mary. They claim that Rome, for example, houses the tombs of Peter and Paul, Peter's tomb being under the high altar of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Catholics agree that Mary ended her life in Jerusalem, or perhaps in Ephesus. However, they claim that neither of those cities nor any other has claimed her remains, though there are a host of cities claiming to possess her tomb. They claim that no city has claimed the remains of Mary because there weren't any bones to claim. So Catholics have come up with the Assumption claim.

My question is that if the remains of some Christian saint from the first century are not claimed by any city, are we to assume that he/she was assumed into heaven? I leave this questioned to be answered by the Catholics. St Peter, St Paul and the other disciples of Jesus were well known, as they were the second rung leaders after the ascension of Jesus. So it comes as no surprise that the early Christians preserved their relics.

It must be remembered that the Immaculate Conception and Assumption are not mentioned in the Bible. If these incidences did happen as the Catholics allege then surely at least one of the disciples of Jesus would have mentioned them. But these are never mentioned even in the heretic Christian writings. There are plenty of these heretical writings floating around, the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Judas, The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Mary Magdalene to name a few. But they never mention it even in passing. To imagine that two events of such magnitude have never been mentioned either in the canonical Christian writings or even mentioned by the heretical writings prove without an iota of doubt that these incidences never happened. The Immaculate Conception and the assumption are nice fables floated by the Catholic Church to propagate their real God, the Queen of Heavens, the perpetual virgin, Mary.

Is Purgatory real?

Catholicism teaches that after death, some people are sent to a place called purgatory for further purification before entering heaven:

"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. " (Catholic Catechism Pg. 265-268, #1030)

"The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect..." (Catholic Catechism Pg. 268-269, #1031)

This process of purification occurs in a place designated by the Catholic Church as purgatory. According to Catholic doctrine, purgatory is not supposed to be a place of punishment, but of purification. The nature of this purification, according to different Catholic theologians, ranges from an extreme awareness of loss to an intense, excruciatingly painful "purifying fire." The length of time that someone must suffer in this state is never known, but it is considered to be proportional to the nature and severity of the sins committed. Therefore, it could be anywhere from a few hours to thousands of years.

According to Roman Catholic Doctrine, though a person may be in a state of grace, he may not enter heaven until he is purified from sins that were not dealt with on earth. Baptism remits sins committed up to that point, but prayers, indulgences, penance, absolution, and the Mass are means by which the sinner is able to expiate sins committed after baptism. If sins are not remitted, after death he must suffer the flames of purification until he is sufficiently cleansed and pure so as to enter into the presence of God. Additionally, intercession can be made by Catholics on behalf of those who are presently in purgatory. This is also done through saying the Mass, certain acts of penance, saying the Rosary, or by indulgences where the benefit is applied to the dead in purgatory.

Did this critical Catholic doctrine come from God, or is it another tradition of men? Here's your answer, right out of the Catechism:

"The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent." (Catholic Catechism Pg. 268-269, #103)

Where did this group of men get this information about the afterlife to formulate such a doctrine? What makes this doctrine even more disturbing is that the Bible never indicates such a place exists. Neither does the Bible teach that further purification after death is necessary to earn going to heaven. On the contrary, God's Word declares that salvation is a free gift:

*"For the wages of sin is death; but the **gift of God** is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23*

*"...by the righteousness of one (Jesus) **the free gift** came upon all men unto justification of life." Romans 5:18*

As Christians who base our spiritual truth on the Bible alone, there are problems galore with the doctrine of purgatory. For example, it is not explicitly found in the Bible. In addition it implies that the righteousness of Christ does not cleanse from all sin and we are not saved by faith alone. It implies that there is something more we must do in order to be cleansed of sin.

It is important to note that neither Jesus nor St Paul nor any of the apostles ever talked of Purgatory. In his parable on the "Rich Man and Lazarus" (Luke 16:19-31), Jesus taught that the rich man after his death was carried to hell (and not to purgatory) even though he was in sin, the sin of omission and neglect of his brother Lazarus. If there was really such a place called purgatory, then Jesus must have been lying (in which case he is not God) or must have had no idea about purgatory (in which case his credentials as God are in doubt). Purgatory is a false doctrine conceived by the Catholic Church to lead Christians away from Christ.

Where did this idea of purgatory come from?

The idea of purgatory originated with Greek and pagan philosophy and was introduced into the church sometime before the 5th Century. The doctrine of Purgatory was not taught by any of the early church fathers and had a very slow growth until the fifth century. The theologian St. Augustine considered purgatory as of pagan origin and is once said to have stated that nobody was compulsorily obliged to believe in Purgatory.

In any event, there is no mention of purgatory in the Bible. Some Catholics would try, however, to make the idea sound somewhat Biblical by referring to 2 Maccabees 12:41-45, a passage in one of the apocryphal books written between the times of the Old and New Testaments. It is important to notice that this passage does not speak of purgatory at all, but actually condemns idolatry, particularly the practice of wearing little images on a necklace or such. Hebrew soldiers were found wearing this sort of thing after a battle, and their buddies, on making this discovery, realized that they had died in the sin of idolatry. They then counseled prayer for their souls. The Roman Catholic position is that prayer for them would have been unnecessary if they were in heaven and useless if they were in hell, so there must be another place. The logic seems good, but the result contradicts the clear teaching of the Bible.

The basic problem comes from Catholic theology itself. In their theology the cross is not sufficient to deal with our sins. For this reason all people must go through a period of purification (purging) in purgatory. Of course this is

totally against what the gospel actually teaches. The Bible teaches that the blood of God's Son cleanses us from all sin. It also teaches that the sacrifice of Christ was for all our sins for all time. Finally, the apostle taught that when we leave our body, we are instantly brought into the presence of the Lord. The teaching of a purgatory is far removed from any semblance to true Biblical doctrine.

Throughout the centuries, the Roman Catholic Church has taken advantage of the idea of purgatory and used it in conjunction with selling "indulgences" to help put money into the Catholic Church. An "indulgence" is the idea that by contributing some money to the Roman Catholic Church, you could "indulge" in a certain sin and not have to worry about the punishment for that sin. During the crusades the pope announced indulgences for all those who partook in the crusades and heaven for all those who died in the crusades. (I did not know that the popes had the keys to heaven and hell). If purgatory really existed, and "the mass" helped people to get out, then the rich would have a tremendous advantage by being able to pay for masses to shorten their suffering. The poor instead, would be left to the mercy of the occasional priest who might say an unpaid mass for them.

As seen above, purgatory is a false doctrine evolved by Satan to fool Catholics into thinking that there is a second change to make it to heaven. But St Paul writes in his letter to the Hebrews that after death there is the judgment, not purgatory. Catholics would do well to pay heed to his words.

"Inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once, and after this, judgment"
(Hebrews 9:27)

The doctrine of Transubstantiation

During the mass, priests allegedly have the power to supernaturally turn bread and wine into the actual body and blood of Jesus Christ. This is called in Catholic Circles as **Transubstantiation**.

Not only do Catholics believe that the bread and wine converts to the real body and blood of Jesus Christ, they even worship it. Catholics call it the Eucharist; The Bible calls it Idolatry. Catholics worship bread saying that it is Jesus Christ; Pagans worship stone images saying that it is God. What is the difference? And yet God punished the pagans in the Old Testament for the same sin that the Catholics are committing today - the sin of worshipping some material thing as God.

The Catholic Catechism declares,

"The Council of Trent summarizes the Catholic faith by declaring: "Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the species of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, and this holy Council now declares again, that by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation." (Pg. 347, #1376)

"At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that, by the words of Christ and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's Body and Blood." (Pg. 336 # 1333)

The Catechism even specifies when Christ comes into the Eucharist and how long He stays:

"The Eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the consecration and endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsist. Christ is present whole and entire in each of the species and whole and entire in each of their parts, in such a way that the breaking of the bread does not divide Christ." (Pg. 347 #1377)

Since Catholicism is teaching members to partake in literal cannibalism, this doctrine requires serious examination. To begin with, we must determine this doctrine's origin. Is it from God, or is it a tradition of men? Catholicism insists it is scriptural, citing the words of Jesus in John 6:

"Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:53-54)

Though this one verse does appear to teach cannibalism, if you read the entire passage in context, the meaning becomes clear. Right before making that statement, Jesus said:

*"... For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that **believeth on me** shall never thirst." (John 6:33-35)*

This teaching is consistent with the rest of Scripture. Eternal life comes through believing in Jesus Christ alone, not eating His body. The Lord goes on to further clarify:

*"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which sees the Son, and **believeth on him, may have everlasting life...**" (John 6:40)*

Again, Jesus points out that eternal life comes through believing in Him. When the Lord's disciples murmured at His words, Jesus explained:

*"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, **they are spirit, and they are life.**" (John 6:63)*

Jesus was talking spiritually, not physically. He was explaining that spiritually, all life comes through faith in Him, not eating His body.

Nowhere else in the Bible does God endorse cannibalism. In fact, God forbids the practice in the Bible (Genesis 9:4 & Leviticus 17:12). Eating the literal body and blood of Christ does not serve any biblical purpose in God's plan of Salvation.

Paul's instructions in 1 Corinthians 11 sheds even more light on this matter:

*"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: **this do in remembrance of me.**" (1 Corinthians 11:23-24)*

When Jesus said, "Take, eat: this is my body," He was not suggesting that they reach out and begin eating His literal body. To even suggest such is ridiculous. He was speaking spiritually about what He was about to accomplish on the cross.

Notice how that verse ends: "...this do in remembrance of me." Observing the Lord's Supper is a **remembrance** of Christ's work at Calvary, **not a reenactment**. The same is true of Christ's blood:

*"After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, **in remembrance of me.**" 1 Corinthians 11:25*

Jesus Himself taught the same lesson to his disciples at the Last Supper:

"And he (Jesus) took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: **this do in remembrance of me.**" Luke 22:19

As seen above, the dogma of Transubstantiation does not emanate from the Bible. It is a tradition of sinful man and such should be rejected outright by all Catholics who trust in Jesus Christ alone for their salvation. Salvation comes in believing in Jesus Christ, not in eating his body and blood.

Should Catholic priests and nuns remain celibate?

The Catholic religion preaches that Celibacy is a sacrifice God requires of his servants. It strongly preaches that the Bible urges the Servants of God and those who dedicate their lives to God to remain celibate throughout their lives.

The Catholic catechism preaches,

"All the ordained ministers of the Latin Church, with the exception of permanent deacons, are normally chosen from among men of faith who live a celibate life and who intend to remain celibate 'for the sake of the kingdom of heaven' ... Celibacy is a sign of this new life to the service of which the Church's minister is consecrated; accepted with a joyous heart celibacy radiantly proclaims the Reign of God." (g. 395, #1579)

Is celibacy a sacrifice God requires of His servants, or is it another tradition of men? The Bible declares:

*"Marriage is honourable **in all...**" (Hebrews 13:4)*

Does this "all" include religious leaders, like priests, bishops, deacons and nuns? Or is this tradition meant only for lay Christians?

The Bible thunders,

*"A bishop then must be blameless, **the husband of one wife...**" (1 Timothy 3:2)*

*"Let the deacons be **the husbands of one wife**, ruling their children and their own houses well." (1 Timothy 3:12)*

From the beginning, it has always been God's plan that men should have wives. Shortly after creating Adam, the first man,

*"...the LORD God said, **It is not good that the man should be alone**; I will make a suitable partner for him." (Genesis 2:18)*

Not only does God express His approval of marriage, He delivers this powerful warning:

*"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to **seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils**; Speaking **lies** in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **Forbidding to marry**, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God*

hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth." (1 Timothy 4:1-3)

Not only is celibacy not required by God, it is a doctrine of demons. The Bible announces that those who teach this doctrine are "giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy". These are not my words; they are **God's Words**.

How tragic that priests and nuns around the world are foregoing the pleasure of sharing their lives with a spouse, believing that their sacrifice pleases God, when in reality they are falling prey to a powerful demonic scheme. If only priests and nuns could learn that God makes no such requirement... and that they are being deceived by Satan. God has recorded all these truths in His Word. If only they could see and understand them. Peter the first pope was a married man and so were a number of the other Disciples of Christ.

This Catholic doctrine, like all others we have discussed, directly opposes God's Word. One must wonder why Catholicism would teach that celibacy "radiantly proclaims the Reign of God," when the Lord has declared that this doctrine originated in hell.

Is it because the Catholic church does not want to pay the millions of dollars it would cost each year to support the families of priests and nuns? As a Catholic you must decide whether you want to believe in the Word of God or the traditions of the Catholic Church. If you happen to be a priest or a nun, please ask yourself if your sacrifice is really pleasing to God the Father.

Since the Catholic doctrine of celibacy directly opposes God's word and is condemned by God, the results are there to see. Catholic priests have been involved in rampant sexual abuse of children, nuns and their congregations. There have been hundreds of books published on this subject. The most famous being "*Lead Us Not Into Temptation: **Catholic Priests** and the Sexual Abuse of Children*". This is the price the Catholic Church is paying for disobeying the word of God and making its own laws diagonally opposed to the word of God.

Should you confess your sins to a priest?

Regarding the forgiveness of sins, two critical doctrines must be examined. First, should you confess your sins to a priest? And secondly does the Catholic priest have to the power to forgive sins? Let us examine these one by one.

The Catholic Catechism says,

"One who desires to obtain reconciliation with God and with the Church, must confess to a priest all the unconfessed grave sins he remembers after having carefully examined his conscience." (g. 374, #1493)

"Confession to a priest is an essential part of the sacrament of Penance:" (g. 365, #1456)

"It is called the sacrament of confession, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament. (g. 357, #1424, Pg. 374, #1493)

Catholicism orders members to confess their sins to a man, but the Bible reveals that those who have been born into God's family can go straight to God's throne to receive forgiveness for their sins:

The Bible declares,

*"I acknowledged my sin **unto thee**, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions **unto the LORD**; and thou forgave the iniquity of my sin. " (Psalm 32:5)*

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

The Bible contains numerous episodes of Gods Children, who confessed their sins to God directly and were forgiven. David confessed his sins to God when he prayed,

"Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me." (Psalm 51:2-3)

And so did the Tax collector in the temple,

But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter (Tax Collector) went home justified (Luke 18:10-14)

Here is why true Christians have access to God's throne:

*"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest **by the blood of Jesus...**" (Hebrews 10:19)*

Because of the sinless blood that Jesus Christ shed on the cross, we have the authority to go straight to the throne of God for forgiveness.

In the book of Acts, a man named Simon came to the alleged first pope, Simon Peter, wanting to buy the power of the Holy Spirit. How did Peter respond to this sin? Did he suggest that Simon make a confession to him right there? No, Peter told him to repent and confess his sin to God and ask God to forgive him. (See Acts 8:18-22).

Let us come to the second part now. **Can the priest forgive sins?** Catholic doctrine suggests that Catholic priests have the power to forgive sins:

"Only priests who have received the faculty of absolving from the authority of the Church can forgive sins in the name of Christ." (Pg. 374, #1495, Pg. 364 #1448)

Here, too, Catholic doctrine opposes God's Word:

*"Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins **but God only?**" (Mark 2:7)*

Catholicism teaches that the priest is a mediator between God and man. (See Catholic Catechism Pg. 365, #1456). But the Bible recognizes only one mediator:

*"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus;**" (1 Timothy 2:5)*

From where did the Catholics derive this false doctrine? Once again, the Catechism admits that these are not instructions from God, but traditions of men:

"The **Fathers of the Church** present this sacrament as the second plank [of salvation]..." (Pg. 363 #1446)

Catholics are bound by their religion to confess sins at least once a year. Else it is a sin for them.

*"According to the Church's command, 'after having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is **bound** by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year.'" Pg. 365, #1457 (Emphasis author's)*

There is that word "bound" again. The Church Fathers created another tradition that keeps people in bondage to the Catholic Church. What a

powerful weapon to use against Catholics around the world. In essence, this doctrine says that if you leave the Catholic Church, you will not be able to obtain forgiveness for your sins, which means you won't go to heaven.

Please remember, none of this came from God! These are all man-made threats. May God open your spiritual eyes and give you understanding, so that you may see the depth of the bondage this religion holds you in. May God show you that you don't have to be held captive to this religion any longer. Jesus Christ came to set you free.

Millions of faithful Catholics blindly file into confessional booths, believing that the priest has the power to forgive their sins. What about you? Where will **you** go to have your sins forgiven? To a sinful priest, as the man-made traditions of the Catholic Church demand? Or will you go straight to God Almighty, as the Bible teaches?

*"Out of the depths have **I cried unto thee, O LORD.** Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness **with thee**, that thou mayest be feared."* (Psalm 130:1-4)

Christianity is a covenant between a believer and God. Sin is transgression of the law of God. Hence it is only equitable to confess our sins to God directly rather than to an entity (the Priest) that allegedly claims to be an intermediary between man and God.

Evangelism in the Catholic religion

One of the major problems for the Catholic Church is their belief in Salvation and who will be saved. Most Catholics do not believe that Jesus is the only way to Salvation and/or that the Bible is the only true God's Word. Many Catholics both Clergy and laity are freely involved in writing anti- Christian books and articles; books like "Jesus and Buddha – Two lights of the world", "The deity of Krishna and Jesus", "Jesus, Krishna and Buddha are One", "The wisdom of the Bible and the Bhagwad Gita", "Jehovah, the God of Christianity and Islam", "Islam religion of Peace", etc. What makes it worse is that these books have the sanction of the Bishops or the higher catholic authorities and are published by Catholic publishing houses.

Such thoughts and writings come out of the Catholic religion because Catholics have not understood the message of the Bible. They are as far away from the living God as are the pagans around them. Is it any surprise therefore that the Catholic Church has been unable to win converts even in India? Whereas every other Christian sect is gaining converts in pagan India, Catholicism is fast losing followers even to the pagan religions. One of the biggest areas is by way of inter-faith marriages that the Catholic Church freely allows. The key word in being a Christian is self denial. But the Catholic Church seems to have forgotten it.

The situation is bad not only in India, but in the rest of the world too. Evangelism is well and truly dead in the Catholic Religion. The world Christian encyclopedia estimates that annually Catholicism is losing some three hundred fifty five thousand of its followers to other religions by way of conversions. Check out the following link for more details.

<http://www.bible.ca/global-religion-statistics-world-christian-encyclopedia.htm>

The link shows that among the major religions of the world only Catholicism, Hinduism and Chinese folk religionists have a negative conversion rate. Among these Hinduism and Chinese folk religions are mythology powered religions and can be expected to lose followers via conversions as people come to know the Truth about these religions. But not Catholicism. The negative conversion rate can be attributed to lack of understanding of Christianity and lack of experiencing Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Catholics defend the lack of evangelism by stating that they run the highest number of schools and hospitals in the country and in doing so follow the Christian principles of sharing and caring for the neighbors. Yet Christ's Apostles did not set out to establish social relief centers, hospitals or educational institutions. They went out to preach the good news of Christ directly. Not even persecution stopped them from calling people to repent and turn to Christ. Paul cried out in Romans 10:9-15 for the urgency of preaching Christ. He recognized that Jesus Christ was the ultimate answer to

all man's problems. The results were there for everyone to see. The Apostles brought millions to Christ, while the present day Catholic priests and nuns are hard pressed to bring even one to Christ.

Catholics are marginal Christians at best. Most Catholics do not believe in the Bible. If they did, then the very knowledge that there is a real place called hell – where millions will go and spend eternity if they die without Christ – would make them the most desperate people in the world to give up everything they have to keep missions going and ensure that reaching the lost is their top priority. The problem with Catholics is as with many other Christians today is that they do not believe in hell.

C.S. Lewis, that great British defender of the faith, wrote, "There is no doctrine which I would more willingly remove from Christianity than this (hell). I would pay any price to be able to say truthfully, 'All will be saved.' "

But Lewis, like true believers in Christ, realized that was neither truthful nor within his power to change. Jesus Himself often spoke of hell and coming judgment. The Bible calls it the place of unquenchable fire, where the worms that eat the flesh don't die—a place of outer darkness where there is eternal weeping and gnashing of teeth. It is a place where lost men will spend eternity if they die without Jesus Christ. There is no way out of death, hell, sin and the grave except through Jesus Christ. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). But the Catholic Church seems to have forgotten this.

What would Jesus do if He walked into catholic churches today? I am afraid He would not be able to say to them: "*You have kept the faith, you have run the race without turning left or right, and you have obeyed My command to reach this world.*" I believe He would go out to look for a whip, because Catholics have made His Father's house a den of robbers.

The lesson from the mission field is that meeting physical needs alone does not get people to follow God. Whether hungry or full, rich or poor, human beings remain in rebellion against God without the power of the Gospel. Unless Catholics return to the biblical balance - to the Gospel of Jesus as He proclaimed it - they will never be able to bring to Christ even one person.

Catholics defend their decision to start hospitals and educational institutions for people by saying that one cannot preach the gospel of Christ on an empty stomach. But this is not true. Take the case of Jesus Christ. Jesus was compassionate to human beings as total persons. He did all He could to help them, but He never forgot the main purpose of His earthly mission: to reconcile men to God, to die for sinners and redeem their souls from hell. Jesus cared for the spiritual side of man first, then the body. This is illustrated clearly in Matthew 9:2-7 when He first forgave the sins of the paralytic then healed his body. In John 6:1-13, Jesus miraculously fed 5,000 hungry men plus women and children. He fed them after he preached, not before to attract their attention. The apostles did not fear to tell the beggar

that “ ... Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee ... ” (Acts 3:6). Then they preached the Gospel. As Christians we must follow the example of Jesus. I do believe we must do all we can to relieve the pain and suffering around us. We must love our neighbors as ourselves in all areas of life. But we must keep supreme the priority of sharing the message of salvation with them—and we must never minister to the physical needs at the expense of preaching Christ. This is biblical balance, the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Catholic Church Funds?

The Vatican Billions

The Catholic Church is the richest organization in the world (and tax-free to boot!). The complete contents of the Vatican Archives is information closely held by Church, therefore the value can only be guessed at. The Catholic Church is worth well over \$100 Billion Dollars in both cash and property. In addition, it owns billions of dollars of property in almost every country. In Melbourne (Australia) alone, its property is estimated to be around \$10,000,000.00 worth of assets. You can find more than you ever wanted to know about the wealth of the Catholic Church in the book.... The Vatican Billions by Avro Manhattan.

The accumulation of riches in the Vatican has been going on for hundreds of years now. The Vatican has humongous stores of cash, jewels, gold, and that it keeps hoarding more and more of the same, with no concern whatsoever for the poor, who could be totally and permanently relieved of their misery, if ONLY the greedy Catholic Church would part with its quintillions of dollars!!!

Today Catholic churches throughout the world are fleecing their congregations and pumping this money to the Vatican (where the Vatican is converting them into gold bullions). To deceive their faithful, a small part of this is sent to the missions. So next time you think of putting some money in the collection box on Sundays, think twice. Jesus would be much happier if you could donate this money to Christian institutions which take care of orphans, old people and our less fortunate Christian brothers and sisters. It could also be donated to Christian missions (non catholic missions) to bring people living in spiritual darkness to Christ.

Church Support Fund

Many catholic churches in India collect funds from their congregations. This is apart from the collection money already collected during masses. The Catholic Church will ask you to register your name with the church and then ask you to pay some amount monthly for the church upkeep. It is something like the tithe system that we have in non-catholic Christian churches. This is very good, until you know what that money is used for?

This money in catholic churches of India is used to feed the priest and his guests. A small amount of this money is used for maintenance of the church buildings. But an even greater amount is used in drinking and in gluttony by the priests and his guests. Some of the churches that I visited in north India had elaborate kingly meal schedules on each of the days of the week. When a large part of the congregation is living a hand to mouth existence, the priests were making merry. It may be noted that none of this church support fund money is used to help the poor congregation either during their life or

during their death. When one of the poor Catholic dies, they (the dead person's family) will not have the money to purchase even the coffin. The Catholic Church will never help these poor people; the poor are left to fend for themselves. And when the poor catholic family joins some non-catholic church, you can count on the Catholic priests to blast the non-catholic churches for "stealing" members of its congregation. Such anti-Christian attitude is precisely what makes the Catholic Church non-Christian.

The Blasted Catholic Culture of India

How Christ oriented a person is, is known by his general behavior. A true Christian does not indulge in the ways of the world, but always does everything for the greater glory of God. As Christ says, "By their fruits you shall know them". True. A man is known by his deeds. A Christian touched by the Holy Spirit is always doing deeds that will please the Father in heaven. He is always aspiring to be perfect like the Father in heaven. When men of this world observe this person they admire him and praise God in heaven.

A person who has not experienced Christ is affected by worldly ways. He/She is concerned with what people and society will think about him if he does not indulge in a certain thing or do something in a certain way. On the other hand, a Christ oriented person is one who thinks of what Christ will think of him at every step of his life. Today most Catholics (even the ones who claim to be the most zealous) are the ones who are as far away from the Christ and the Christ oriented life as most pagans are.

Today most Catholics are children of the devil and do the deeds that will make their father Satan proud. Jesus talks of such people in the gospel of John (John 8:44). The Children of God glorify God through their deeds (Matthew 5:16), but the children of darkness glorify Satan through their actions.

The following sections bring to light the light some of these deeds that are committed by Indian Catholics. Why only Catholics? Why not the other denominations of Christianity? Are they are all Saintly and the Catholics devils? Why blame only the Catholics?

The reason is Catholicism is the biggest of the Christian denominations in India. Out of 25 million Christians in India, roughly 17 million are Catholics. And as far as I know, only Catholics indulge in such deeds which disgrace Christianity in India. So it is only appropriate that these deeds are exposed and brought to light.

The Great Lent

Many Indians Catholics will fast during lent, but on Easter day they will indulge in all sorts of enjoyments and revelries. Whatever sins were put on hold during lent will come out on Easter day. There will be drinking, smoking and perversion.

Provocative dressing in Church

Have you been to a Catholic church lately? Churches have become fashion ramps to show off the latest fashions. Mostly the priests too would be enjoying these works of the flesh and will not make any move to stop it. If the priest initiates some action to stop these happenings, then the parents and relatives of the offending party will be quick to declare war on the priest.

These days some non-Christian youth have started visiting catholic churches just to see this grand fashion show. Many of these dresses are so revealing, vulgar and seductive that they leave nothing to the imagination. In addition, they affect the church services of the other people around. If the offending party were to dress like this to college or to work, they would be given stern warnings and sent back home to change and come back.

Boozing

Boozing is one of the catholic favorite pastimes in India. Unfortunately for the Catholics the Bible strongly warns that those who indulge in boozing will not enter the kingdom of heaven. It says,

*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, **nor drunkards**, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)*

The unholy Catholics

Visit any Catholic homes and you will be able to see pictures, idols, amulets, pendants and calendars of non-Christian deities. Some Catholics have kept them as good luck charms or to ward off evil. Others as substitute Gods in their houses. Many Catholics believe that all religions lead to the same God, so it makes no difference if you believe in a couple of non-Christian gods. Eminent Catholic clergyman point out that this is because some converted Catholics are not able to forget their pagan past. But the issue is not with the converted Catholics. The issue is with the educated traditional Catholics who were born into Catholicism. Many of these do not believe the words of Jesus Christ as given in the Bible. Through their beliefs they call Jesus Christ a liar. Whatever the reason for their beliefs in false religions, the Bible calls it Idolatry. Jesus Christ is supposed to be a Christian's one and only wall of defense, his only lucky charm and ticket to heaven.

Catholics never read their Bibles. Usually their Bibles will be covered with a layer of dust. If they are at all used, they will be used to store electricity bills, water bills, memos, grocery lists, invoices and receipts. The result is most Catholics cannot even name the four gospels or the five books of the Pentateuch (Torah). In a recent survey conducted in the southern city of Bangalore, it was found that less than 1% of Catholics had named the twelve disciples correctly. Even Priests, Nuns and Catechists had got them wrong. This is the state of Catholicism today in India.

Mumbai and Goan Catholic Weddings

Catholic boys in Mumbai and Goa will leave their parents, brothers and sisters and go to work abroad. After working for 5-6 years abroad, they will come back home. Whatever money they had saved when abroad will all be

spent on their wedding. Weddings in Mumbai and Goa (Catholic style) are very expensive and lavish affairs. A Catholic wedding typically involves a cost of between three hundred thousand to ten hundred thousand rupees.

Many Catholics are under the impression that the wedding takes place in the wedding hall and the optional activities take place in the Church. This is the reason why there will be around thirty people in the Church for the wedding mass but around a thousand for the drinking, gluttony and pagan practices afterwards in the hall. Such tell tale signs give away the Catholic understanding of Christianity.

In spite of the hue and cry and all the money spent in Catholic weddings, the bride and bridegroom never really enjoy themselves. They are not very happy. This is usually what happens when the marriage is not blessed by God, but carried forward to carry on with blasted catholic society traditions.

Having spent all the savings of the past 5-6 years on their "hall wedding", Catholic youths will again go abroad leaving their wife in India. Since the wife is in the heat, she will usually not be unable to control herself and commit adultery with someone. When the Catholic youth comes to know of this he will blame his wife and seek annulment of the marriage. This is a never-ending saga in the history of Mumbai and Goan catholic marriages.

The base of the Catholic problem comes in followed a self-centered life embroiled in family traditions and society pressures. Such problems arise when Christians forget the basic principle "To live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21). No Catholic will have the moral fiber to defy the catholic traditions and follow the traditions that will make Christ proud of him. Most Catholics will be thinking of "what society will think of them" rather than "what Christ will think of them"? And the net result is a minimum of three hundred thousand rupees spent on useless pursuits. Christianity is a simple religion leading to godly life. It is the Catholics who have incorporated it with the traditions of men and society and converted it into pagan gobbledygook. This is called the self-centered life. The Christ centered life is putting Christ first in all your endeavors and doing what would make him proudly utter the words "*Well done my faithful servant*" (Matthew 25:23)

Christmas and New Year dances

Every Christmas and New Year, pagan clubs organize dances in prominent Indian cities. Catholics eagerly look forward to these pagan dances all year round. Catholics are supposed to attend Holy Mass on these two days to thank God for the blessings showered on them during that year and to pray for a better next year. But the Mass is just a formality for most Catholics. They are so engrossed in the forthcoming dances that they already start daydreaming about the dances during mass itself. To top it all a lot of sexual sins follow during the night. Adultery and fornication are fairly common. A lot of young girls loose their purity during these two nights. This is the blasted catholic culture of India that we know of. Visit any city Catholic church in

India for the mid night mass on these two days and you will find the priest advising caution to young couples who will be indulging in these revelry. But who pays heed?

Faith in Christ

Catholics today are talking of inter-faith prayers. Inter faith prayers are prayers where people of different religions come together and pray to their Gods. From the Christian perspective it is worshipping God and Satan at the same time. It is paganism. The second commandment strictly declares not to have any other God before the true god of the bible. And inter-faith prayers have resulted in other Gods before the true God of the Bible.

Catholicism is going the route of Hinduism. Hinduism is a pagan religion much on the same lines of Baal Worship. With its huge array of fictitious gods, Hinduism has everything to gain and nothing to lose in inter-faith prayer meets. What about Catholicism? What does it have to gain? The mixing of hot water (Catholicism) and ice cold water (Hinduism) has always resulted in cold water. Catholics have to take this point into account before indulging in inter-faith prayers. Same goes for Islam. Islam and Christianity are two opposite religions. There is very less commonality in these two religions. The differences between these two faiths are extremely great. Christianity offers everlasting life while Islam offers death and eternal doom. Further Islam is a very deceptive and dangerous religion which calls on Muslims to convert non-Muslims by hook or by crook using torture and force (in Islamic countries or regions where Muslims are in majority) or the institution of marriage.

Many Catholics including their clergyman visit non-Christian places of worship giving offerings and flowers to pagan gods. In the morning you will see them in the Church and in the evening at some temple or mosque. There are others who will visit Baba's, fakirs, gurus, Tantriks and so on. It talks volumes of their faith in Christ. As Christ said, by their fruits you shall know them (Matthew 7:15-20).

They keep telling me that Malayali Catholics are the most religious of all Indian Christians. (Malayali's are the inhabitants of the south Indian state of Kerala. Approximately 20% of Malayali's are Christians). Yet Malayali Catholics lead the pack among Indian Christians in visiting non-Christian places of worship and marrying non-Christians. As Christ said, by their fruits you shall know them.

There are other Catholics who do not believe in Jesus being the only way to God. They believe that all religions lead to the same God. If this were so, then why did Jesus die on the cross? Was his crucifixion and death in vain? More importantly why are these people still following Christianity? There are much easier religions out there to follow. Why follow the narrow way of Christianity, if the narrow way of Christianity and the broad way of other religions both lead to the same destination? Only a fool will take a bullock

cart for a thousand mile journey when there is a bus or train available to reach the same destination. These marginal Christians who believe all religions lead to the same God are fooling themselves by remaining Christian. My advice is, convert to some religion having very less dogmas and rituals.

These Catholics would have us believe that Jesus suffered that horrible death on the cross for nothing. But the Bible says, He did not die in vain. Scripture declares that Jesus gave His life because there is **no other way** to God.

*"He that **believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:18)*

Jesus repeated this same truth again and again in the Bible,

*"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which sees the Son, and **believeth on him, may have everlasting life...**" (John 6:40)*

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. **No one comes to the Father (God) except through me.**" (John 14:6)*

And so did the other apostles,

"There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved (other than the name of Jesus)." (Acts 4:12)

The message of the Bible is remarkably clear. Jesus is the only way to Salvation. There is simply no other way. But God in his great glory and compassion has given us the choice – to accept him or to reject him. It is us who have to take the most important decision of lives. Do you want eternal Salvation or eternal damnation? On our decision rests our fate - where we will spend eternity and the eternity of our Children and future descendents – in Heaven or in Hell? Think about it!

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Rashid Alamir "Brother Rashi" was born to Muslim parents in a small village on the outskirts of Srinagar, Kashmir in 1969. He became a Christian during the May of 1995 while doing his MS degree in the States. In 1998, Alamir became an evangelist to the Muslim world. Alamir is the founder of Muslims for Jesus movement in India and is one of the pillars of the Byzantine Orthodox Church of India (BOCI). He is extremely fluent in Arabic and Urdu and has been instrumental in bringing several thousand lost souls to Jesus Christ both in India and the Arabic speaking Asian and African countries.

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