

If I were to insult you, you'd feel the sting immediately. If I were to embarrass you, you'd be the first to know. But if I were to deceive you...you might never know it!

As painful as being insulted or embarrassed can be, at least you're aware of what's taking place. But people who are being deceived are not even aware they are being misled unless they are confronted with the truth. Tragically, many go to their graves deceived about life's most important issue – “What must I do to be saved?”

Choosing Your Source for Truth

What is your source for truth? Is it trustworthy? Will it protect you from the schemes and lies of Satan, the master deceiver whose servants disguise themselves as apostles of Christ? Such men are false apostles and deceitful workers (2 Corinthians. 11:13-15).

There is really only one truth source that is absolutely trustworthy. Jesus Christ, who is the personification of truth, said: “**Thy word is truth**” (John 14:6, 17:3). His word – the Bible – is our only protection from being deceived.

Who Will You Trust?

Roman Catholics believe that their clergy teach exactly what the Bible reveals. But how can we know for sure? The only way is to do

what the first century Christians did. They examined the Scriptures daily to see if what the Apostle Paul taught them was true (Acts 17:11).

Scripture was the standard for testing the veracity of an apostle's teaching! The same standard must be used for testing all religious leaders, including popes, priests, pastors and Sunday School teachers. If we are not using the objective truth of God's Word to test the subjective teachings of men, we are making a serious, and potentially fatal, mistake.

The Danger of Deception

Since your eternal destiny depends on what you believe and whom you trust, this information should cause you to examine your faith. Here are some Catholic teachings that have proven to be false because they oppose God's word and His plan of salvation:

- Catholics can make satisfaction for their sins through acts of penance (Catechism of Catholic Church, 1459)
- Purgatory is a cleansing fire that achieves the holiness necessary for heaven (1030-31)
- Jesus Christ is offered daily on Catholic altars for the sins of the living and the dead (1367)
- Most sins are not deserving of hell (1863)
- Catholics can obtain their own salvation and also cooperate in saving their brothers (1477)

The Bible reveals man is saved, not by what he does, but by believing the Gospel (Ephesians 1:13). Any religion that teaches salvation is obtained through human effort and merit is nullifying the grace of God. Grace is the only means by which God saves sinners! The Bible says “**if by grace, it is no longer because of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace**” (Romans 11:6).

Misplaced Faith

Some people blindly put their faith in religious leaders, assuming their leaders would never deceive anyone. Yet the Apostle Paul warned that “**from your own church, men will arise perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them**” (Acts 20:30). Other people simply ignore God's word and listen to teachers who say what they want to hear (2 Timothy 4:2-4). Then there are people who have a zeal for God, but not according to biblical knowledge (Romans 10:1-4).



It was misplaced faith that separated Adam and Eve from God and brought spiritual and physical death to us all. Adam and Eve shifted their faith from God to the deceiver when they believed his lie. God now uses the very instrument that separated us from Him—faith—to restore us back to Him. By shifting our faith back to God, we receive spiritual and eternal life: **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast”** (Ephesians 2:8,9).

Where Will You Spend Eternity?

The Bible makes it clear - we will either spend eternity enduring the wrath of God or in His loving presence (John 3:36).

Jesus said, **“Whoever rejects Me and does not accept My words has something to judge him: the word that I spoke, it will condemn him on the last day”** (John 12:48). Those who reject the words of Jesus and follow the traditions, opinions, and philosophies of men will be condemned. By contrast, how wonderful are God’s words, **“to those who did receive Him He gave power to become children of God to those who believe in His name”** (John 1:12).

What will you do with this information

Will you repent and trust the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word or continue to trust religious leaders and their traditions?

Please be aware that in this life you can be wrong about a lot of things and still survive. But when this life is over, if you were wrong about God’s only provision for your sins, you will pay for that mistake throughout all eternity.

For other publications contrasting Roman Catholicism with Christianity contact:



**Proclaiming
the Gospel**

Evangelist Mike Gendron
Proclaiming The Gospel Ministry
PO Box 940871
Plano, TX 75094
Phone: 972-495-0485
www.pro-gospel.org

Bible quotes:

The New American Bible for Catholics.

Catechism references:

Catechism of the Catholic Church, @ 1994 by the United States Catholic Conference.
