



Proclaiming

The Gospel

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." - [Romans 1:16](#)

May/June 2005
Vol. 14 No. 3

Editor - [Evangelist Mike Gendron](#)

"And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me." ([John 16:3](#))

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Pope John Paul's Disputable Influence on Christianity

If ever there was a more important time for faithful servants of our Lord Jesus Christ to take a stand for the truth, it is now. Many evangelicals are praising John Paul II for being a great spiritual leader. But why are they giving such honor to the former head of an apostate church which keeps over a billion people in spiritual darkness?

There are times when our faith is tested and this is indeed such a time. Will we honor the Lord Jesus or praise the pope who denied the sufficiency of Christ and rejected His finished work of redemption? Will we earnestly contend for the faith or say what the world wants to hear? On the *Larry King Live* show (2/24/05), Billy Graham praised John Paul as "the greatest moral and spiritual leader of the last 100 years." Graham said: "He's traveled the whole world, giving his version of the Gospel and spreading the Catholic faith." Later on April 2, after his death, Graham told King that there is no question John Paul II is now with the Lord. Jack Van Impe also assured his TV audience on April 16 that the pope is now in heaven. Rob Moll, the online assistant editor for *Christianity Today* wrote: "The pope stood for truth, as revealed in God's Word and his creation."

This pope never claimed to be God, but he took pleasure in being addressed with titles reserved for God alone. He usurped the titles "Holy Father" from God the Father, "The Head of the Church" from the Lord Jesus Christ and "The Vicar of Christ" from the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus promised to send in His place. John Paul often sat in pompous arrogance on his royal throne as his loyal subjects knelt before him. Never did he refuse worship as Peter did when men fell at

his feet. Peter, knowing that only God deserved such reverence, immediately ordered: "Stand up; I too am just a man" ([Acts 10:26](#)).

Who knew that Pope John Paul II would have greater success in deceiving the world after his death than during his 26-year pontificate? Who knew the global media would become his willing partner in spreading his perverted theology? Through non-stop television coverage, the pope's church became the world's stage. All eyes were focused on the St. Peter's Basilica, the very church that was financed with the filthy lucre obtained from the sale of God's forgiveness through indulgences. Its princes enjoyed the media spotlight as they piously masqueraded in their purple and scarlet robes as "ministers of righteousness." They successfully cast a spell over the TV audience with the splendor or their rituals and the pomp and pageantry of their pagan traditions. The magnificence and grandeur of this corrupt religion bewitched much of the gullible world into believing this is what Christianity is all about. Thousands of hopelessly deceived people stood in long lines for as long as 18 hours to venerate a dead man with a rosary in his hands and a twisted crucifix by his side. The idolatrous veneration and adoration of Pope John Paul II was unprecedented. His elaborate and theatrical funeral was said to be the largest in human history.

The death of Pope John Paul II has provided a glimpse of where "Christianity" is headed in the future. Post modern church leaders have replaced truth and discernment with pluralism and tolerance. Evangelicals and Catholics together have publicly praised John Paul as a godly and holy spiritual leader. ([see Pope on page 2](#))

[\(Pope from page 1\)](#)

Year after year he was the most loved and admired man in the world. This should not surprise us. Jesus said "the world would love its own" but hate those whom He chose out of the world ([John 15:19](#)). He also warned, "Woe to you when all men speak well of you" ([Luke 6:26](#)). The gullible world responded in the same fashion it will when the man of lawlessness is revealed. "God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth" ([2 Thes. 2:11-12](#)).

Judging the Pope's Gospel

Only God can judge John Paul's heart but all Christians are all called to judge every man's teachings. The apostle John warned us: "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" ([1 John 4:1](#)). John Paul's false teachings are clearly exposed by the new [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) (CCC) which he endorsed in 1994. His damning gospel was diametrically opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul warned that anyone (including himself or the pope) would be condemned if they were to preach another gospel. He wrote, if "we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed" ([Gal. 1:6](#)). If apostles and angels were to be accursed for preaching another gospel how can the pope possibly escape? Clearly the pope condemned himself by perverting God's Gospel of grace with additional requirements for salvation.

If the Philippian jailer could have asked John Paul what he must do to be saved ([Acts 16:31](#)), the pope would have responded with his gospel: "You must have faith plus baptism (CCC, [1256](#)), receive the sacraments ([1129](#)), do good works ([2016](#)), consume the Eucharist ([1405](#)), keep the law ([2068](#)), belong to the Catholic Church ([846](#)) and have your sins purged in purgatory" ([1030](#)). What a contrast to Paul's clear response: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" ([Acts 16:31](#)). Paul made it clear there is **only one Gospel** and anyone who believes another gospel has believed in vain ([1 Cor. 15:1-4](#)). Therefore, either the pope was right and is in heaven as many evangelicals are claiming, or those who believe the Gospel of grace are wrong and destined for the eternal lake of fire.

Few evangelicals have had the courage to expose the pope's false gospel that shuts the kingdom of heaven to those wanting to enter. Clearly, there is no greater evil than deceiving people about the eternal salvation of their souls.

Eternal Truths Are Confirmed

As with anyone who passes into eternity, the pope now knows the truth. He knows he was never infallible, or holy, or the Vicar of Christ. He knows there is no such place as Purgatory. He now knows the gospel he preached is leading over a billion people down the wide road to destruction. John Paul may now be experiencing what the rich man in [Luke 16](#) endured. Both of them once dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in splendor every day. When the rich man died and found himself tormented in the flames of Hades, he begged the Father to send someone to tell others the truth so they would repent and not end up in the same place. The pope may now be making the same request. What would he tell Catholics if he could return? I believe he would urge them to trust Christ and His Word over the teachings and traditions of men. He would admit that he was terribly wrong about entrusting the church to Mary's protection. John Paul would tell his flock that Jesus indeed finished the work of redemption 2000 years ago and His one offering is necessary and sufficient to save sinners completely and forever.

Who Did John Paul Represent?

John Paul said he represented Jesus Christ, yet he lived in stark contrast to the Savior who had no place to lay His head. On several occasions he denied that Jesus was the only way to the Father. He foolishly proclaimed: "If God is the one true God, He must save all people" (Vatican Info Service, 4/21/99). A year later he pronounced: "All who seek God with a sincere heart, including those who do not know Christ and His church, contribute to the building of His kingdom" (Vatican Info Service, 12/6/00). He also denied the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice by declaring punishment for sin could be remitted "by abstaining from unnecessary consumption (of tobacco or alcohol) and donating a proportionate sum of money to the poor" (VIS, 9/29/99). His perverted theology was also reflected in this pronouncement: "Hell is not a punishment imposed by God, but the condition resulting from attitudes and actions which people adopt in this life" (Detroit News 7/28/99). When he addressed

The Ministry of Proclaiming the Gospel

OUR PURPOSE

The ministry was established in 1991 and is incorporated in the State of Texas as a non-profit [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) corporation for the purposes of: 1) glorifying, honoring and serving the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming His Gospel of man's redemption with clarity, conviction and consistency; 2) providing evangelistic training and resources with an emphasis on biblical integrity; 3) exposing any doctrines that oppose or nullify the Gospel of grace so that people can discern truth from error, avoid deception and come to a knowledge of truth; 4) contending earnestly for the faith against the agents of compromise who suppress doctrinal truth for the sake of ecumenical unity; 5) encouraging and supporting former Roman Catholics who may be feeling a sense of guilt, ostracism or persecution from their family or friends for leaving the Catholic religion and culture.

OUR METHOD

In a spirit of love and humility, we teach evangelistic seminars, conferences and workshops to train and encourage Christians to be effective witnesses to Roman Catholics and others who may be lost in their religion. We also offer resources designed to teach, equip and encourage others to labor in this huge mission field.

OUR NEWSLETTER

Proclaiming the Gospel's bi-monthly newsletter is designed to extend the purposes of the ministry throughout the world. The editor is Evangelist [Mike Gendron](#), a graduate of [Dallas Theological Seminary](#) and a former Roman Catholic of over 34 years.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, satisfied the righteous justice of God by paying the complete penalty for sin when He died as man's substitute on Calvary's cross. Any person who repents and receives Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior by grace through faith in His life, death and resurrection, ceasing to trust in anything else for salvation, becomes a child of God and receives the gift of eternal life, which can never be revoked.

OUR PROVISION

Everything we do is made possible through the prayers and financial support of those who share our burden for the lost. We recognize the sacrifices God's people make to sustain our work and pledge to use these resources effectively and efficiently. Donations (except for products) are tax deductible.

Last Fatima Messenger Dies in Her Convent

Catholic priest Nicholas Gruner reported the death of Sister Lucy on February 13 at the age of 98 in Portugal with this message:

"We now have a most powerful new advocate in heaven. While we mourn Sister Lucy's loss to us, we take great comfort in remembering Our Lady's promise to her at Fatima: "I will never forsake you! My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and will lead you to God." Our Lady also said: "Jesus wishes to make Me known and loved. He wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. Whoever embraces this devotion, I promise salvation." We will depend deeply on this new advocate who stands before the throne of God as a protector of all those who love and serve her Immaculate Heart. Devotion to Mary's Heart is the "golden Key" by which we will all be led to God and the world saved from destruction.

Sister Lucy suffered mightily, a holy victim of persecution and ridicule for this message. Now our goal is to have a book on Sister Lucy in the hands of 100,000 Catholics by the Feast of Our Lady's Assumption. We'll obviously need every single Rosary you can say and whatever financial help you can give."

Will Evangelical Leaders Also Promote Gibson's Next Movie?

First Mel Gibson made "The Passion of the Christ" - now he's planning to make a movie about the miracle of Fatima. He will bring to life the story of three peasant children who were said to have been given a prophetic vision of the future by the Virgin Mary at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917. The follow-up to last year's gory depiction of Christ's crucifixion comes after Gibson met with one of the trio, Sister Lucia, before her death at age 98 last month. Lucia and her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco, had a vision of Mary that many believe predicted World War II, trouble in Russia and the shooting of Pope John Paul II. Gibson arranged for a projector and copy of "The Passion" to be brought to the Carmelite nun's convent. He did this because members of her order are not allowed to leave the convent. (NY Post, 3/6/05)

Quick Quotes

"False gods, attempts to represent the true God, and indeed, all material things which are worshipped, are so much filth upon the face of the earth, whether they be crosses, crucifixes, virgins, wafers, relics, or even the Pope himself. We are by far too mealy mouthed about these infamous abominations: God abhors them, and so should we. To renounce the glory of spiritual worship for outward pomp and show is the height of folly, and deserves to be treated as such." Charles Spurgeon ([The Treasury of David](#))

"A man who deludes other people, by degrees comes to delude himself. The deluder first makes dupes of others and then becomes a dupe to himself. I should not wonder but what the pope really believes that he is infallible, and that he ought to be saluted as "his holiness." It must have taken him a good time to arrive at that eminence of self-deception, but he has gotten to that by now, and everyone who kisses his toe or hand confirms him in this insane idea. [Charles Spurgeon](#) (MTP, vol. 21, pg. 413)

Benedict XVI Brings to Mind Benedict IX

Pope Benedict XVI was elected as the oldest pontiff in 275 years and the first Germanic pope in almost a millennium. The choice of the papal name "Benedict" by Joseph Ratzinger is indeed a curious one that has historical German connections.

The Catholic Encyclopedia gives a detailed history of another Pope Benedict. It reveals Benedict IX was a shameful disgrace to the Chair of Peter. His father placed him upon the papal throne when he was twenty in October, 1032. Twelve years later, he was driven from the throne because of the dissolute life he was leading. An "[antipope](#)", Sylvester III, was elected in his place but Benedict expelled him and took back the throne in the same year.

Later Benedict IX resigned his office to get married and sold the papal throne for a large sum of money to John Gratian who became Gregory VI in 1045. Benedict later attempted to depose Gregory and regain the papacy. King Henry III had to intervene to settle the papal mess. He decided to depose all three contenders: Benedict, Sylvester, and Gregory. A German bishop named Suidger was then elected as Pope Clement II. After Clement's speedy demise, Benedict once again seized the throne in November, 1047. A year later he was driven from the throne to make way for a second German pope, Damasus II.

In spite of the colorful history of Benedict IX, Pope Benedict XVI has pledged to work to unify all Christians and to reach out to other religions. He has made it clear that his pontificate will closely follow the trajectory of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II. The new pope said he wanted to continue "an open and sincere dialogue" with other religions and would do everything in his power to improve the ecumenical cause. His message was clearly designed to show that he was intent on following many of the groundbreaking paths charted by John Paul, including his total trust in the Blessed Virgin Mary. Benedict XVI proclaimed: "[In support of this promise, I invoke the maternal intercession of Mary Most Holy, in whose hands I place the present and the future of my person and of the Church. May the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and all the saints, also intercede.](#)"

Where Mike Is Speaking

- Apr. 29-31 [Immanuel Baptist Church](#)
Sheboygan, WI (920) 458-4979
- May 8 [Grace Community Church](#)
McKinney, TX (972) 562-4253
- May 21 [Steeling the Mind Bible Conf.](#)
Santa Barbara, CA (800) 977-2177
- May 23 [First Southern Baptist Church](#)
Clairemont, CA (858) 560-6065
- May 25 [The Rock Church](#)
San Diego, CA (619) 226-7625
- June 2-4 [Calvary Chapel Tri City](#)
Tempe, AZ (480) 345-6200
(conference will be broadcast live on [Calvarychapeltricity.com](#))
- June 5 [The Bridge Community Church](#)
Mesa, AZ (480) 358-9851
- June 12 [Cornerstone Bible Church](#)
Lubbock, TX (806) 783-9551
- Aug. 27 [Steeling the Mind Bible Conf.](#)
Denver, CO (800) 977-2177

To schedule Mike Gendron to speak at your church or event, contact him at:
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Seeking His Truth

Letters to the Editor



How dare you assume you know whether the Pope was saved or not! The fact that you pass judgment on this good and holy man only indicates that you are the one who works for the enemy! Your ministry started in 1991 and you think 14 years can compare to the 2000 year history of the Church? Shame on you! You lead people astray. Your attitude is evil and it pushes potential converts away from Christianity. Yours sect can only criticize and bad-mouth other religions because you have no leg to stand on!

Anonymous

Thanks so much for setting apart time to come to Honduras and minister to my people on subjects of such importance in Central America. I express this in view of living in a country where our Catholic Cardinal was a strong candidate for the new Vatican Pope. I thank God this did not happen, because the Roman Catholic Church already is a strong influence in the decision making in Honduras. I am very impressed with the knowledge and the wealth of information that you shared. Also the wisdom the Lord has granted you and Jane to minister so effectively to so many. You did it with boldness and character under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Blessings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

D.E., San Pedro Sula, Honduras

How sick and perverted you are. Anyone who does not agree with their church just starts their own. Like you, they become their own "pope." I left the Catholic Church for several years and explored many churches until I realized they can't all be right. After I studied church history, I came back home to the faith established by Christ.

Chris, Internet

If you would study the Bible as you did Church history, perhaps God will open your heart to the true faith that was once delivered to the first century saints ([Jude 3](#)). Like you, all of us will be accountable to God for what He has revealed to us through His infallible word and majestic creation ([Rom. 1:18-32](#)). Keep in mind that religion is what man says God says. The

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Bible is what God says. The Bible is your only objective source for knowing what to believe and what to reject ([2 Tim. 3:16](#)).

As one who was born into a large RC family (10 kids) and the first to come to Christ at 17 (after Catholic schools, altar boy and Mass lector) I consider your work just priceless. I found your site while looking for some [irenic](#) way to show my deep disgust with the treatment given the dead pope by a fawning evangelical world -- like a dead Pharaoh!

D. Z., Texas

I just love your newsletter! It occurred to me that the RC church is very much like the Judaizers back in the days of Paul. They kept all the old traditions and harassed Paul for not doing so. Then, your last newsletter came and I was amazed. It is exactly as I thought. I am truly saddened by people who are so bound by the laws that they've never experienced the freedom that is in Christ Jesus. I have many friends who are still in bondage - especially to the Eucharist. I never have to wait for a priest to make an offering to bring Christ into my life. My prayer is that many Catholic hearts will be troubled and stirred up enough to get them into the Bible. My mother is scared stiff to even open the Bible because they're still told to let the priest explain! The movie "Luther" is a wonderful example of how the RC priests are not true shepherds. When Luther was sent to learn scripture, he realized how many lies were being forced upon the blind sheep.

M.N., Cary, NC

If you believed in an authority higher than yourself for interpreting Scripture you would not have any difficulty reconciling Tradition with Scripture. When St. Paul says that there is [one mediator between God and man](#) this does not exclude the possibility of subordinate mediators. Christ Himself used His Apostles as subordinate mediators. St. Paul understood this just as the Church has understood it for 2000 years. It is you, who place all your trust in your own fallible interpretation of the Bible, who is having the problem. Who has the authority to interpret Scripture? Is it every man for himself? Or is

there a higher authority to whom we must look to properly interpret our reading of Scripture? Every apparent contradiction you drag out comparing Catholic tradition with Scripture is in appearance only. In substance there is no contradiction. The error is on the part of your own fallen judgment.

J.N., Internet

Jesus Christ is the One and only mediator because He is the only One qualified to reconcile sinful man to Holy God. He is man's perfect God and God's perfect Man. Only through His atoning death can a man's relationship with God be changed from one of enmity and hostility to one of peace and harmony. Jesus was both the priest and the sacrifice. He revealed God's righteous demands of the law and then provided the means by which man can be reconciled to God. Your attempt to justify Roman Catholic Tradition by introducing "subordinate" mediators is typical of Catholics who refuse to believe the plain and literal meaning of Scripture. When Catholics stand before God, they will not be able to use the excuse: "I believed the Magisterium's interpretation therefore I should not be punished." The word of God warns us repeatedly not to put our trust in man ([Jer. 17:5-8](#); [Psalm 118:8](#); [146:3](#); [Acts 17:11](#)). Paul warned us not to trust other interpreters ([Acts 20:29-31](#)). He wrote: "[by] declaration of the truth we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God" ([2 Cor. 4:2](#)). I pray that you will study the word of God carefully and reject anything that stands opposed to it. If you choose instead to reject the Word and hold to your tradition, the Word will judge you on the last day ([John 12:48](#)).

Six years ago, I trusted my Lord and Savior, and renounced the lies of Catholicism. We are very interested in having you back to teach/preach the truth about Catholicism. So many Protestants don't seem to want to know this, because then they would be accountable. But there are some who do want to learn how to evangelize Catholics. I was 29 before someone cared enough about my salvation to **offend me with the truth**. Praise God he did. He offended the hell out of me! Thank God for your ministry. It is one of few which addresses the truth about Catholicism. We cannot be tolerant of its lies and, at the same time, say we love Catholics.

B.M., KY

Your piece on Pope John Paul II is junk. He

was a genuine holy man. You seem to imagine heaven will be like one of your church picnics. Not so, you will see people of many stripes there. Then you will know Truth.
Tony, Internet

It is so sad that you are so anti-Catholic. Your little church ministry is one of tens of thousands founded by men. The Catholic Church was founded by Jesus Christ. I suggest that you research the Church to find the Truth. Many are coming back to the Church and coming into the fullness of the salvation. This includes many former ministers from over 60 Denominations! Many of them at one time were extremely anti-Catholic until they read books from Doctors of the Church. Jesus established Peter and the papacy as the spiritual leaders for his Church. He knew in his Wisdom that many would wander aimlessly with little churches springing up like dandelions each touting that they have the truth. I pray for your soul!
C. T., Internet

*Whenever I bear witness of the sufficiency and finished work of Jesus Christ to Roman Catholic priests, they try to persuade me, as you have done, to come home to Rome for the fullness of salvation. I tell them as I proclaim to you, that because **Christ has saved me** I now have: 1) the complete forgiveness of sins; 2) a permanent right standing before God; 3) the assurance of eternal life and 4) the power to live a victorious life ([Col. 2:13-14](#); [Heb. 10:14](#); [1 John 5:4,13](#)). If you continue to believe and adhere to the teachings of your church you will never possess these spiritual gifts of God's grace. It is time for you to exchange your religion for a trusting relationship with the Lord Jesus and then you too can enjoy the **true** fullness of salvation.*

Thank you for speaking the truth about the pope. The world might call it hateful, but the Bible calls it Truth.
M.W., Canada

As a Christian, you ought to show more understanding of Catholics. It is a sign of weakness to build one's faith by defaming the faith of another. We share many beliefs and can reach mutual agreement by promoting love and understanding, tolerance and mutual respect. Protestant leaders have applauded the pope's legacy that advanced ecumenism. They have praised his efforts to foster greater Christian unity and fight

the global culture wars. That's not false worship. That's respect. Your comments are hateful and ignorant of the Bible.
M.P, Internet

I just wanted to say it is encouraging to know there are still real Bible believing Christians out there and I am thankful your site has the backbone and spiritual integrity to stand up and say what is doctrinally sound. So many people are confused about the Gospel. This is a set up for the last days.
Paul W., Internet

Thank you for encouraging me and my friend who came out of the Catholic Church by proclaiming the truth and exposing their false teachings. You model Paul, loving the Lord more than wanting to please people. You present the truth to set people free ([John 8:32](#)). Keep up the good work!
L.T. Yreka, CA

Recently, I left my purpose driven church due to it's worldly driven compromise. In going back to the Bible and church history, I learned more than I ever did in church, especially about Antichrists which were well known by the Reformation martyrs. Having read some of your articles, you seem to have knowledge of the Reformation and the role of the Roman Catholic Church in history. Do you know a church in my area that is not afraid to preach the truth and offend unbelievers with the offense of the cross?
J. T., Mesquite, TX

I commend you for examining everything carefully and being a good Berean ([1 Thes. 5:21](#); [Acts 17:11](#)). It is getting more and more difficult to find churches that resemble the apostolic churches of the first century. The apostles were strong, bold, fearless, dogmatic, intolerant and unaccommodating of sin and error. They were inflexible concerning the Gospel, controversial, offensive to those who were offensive to God and devoted to Christ. The twenty-first century, post-modern church in America has been influenced by leaders who are pragmatic, ecumenical, gullible, politically correct and tolerant of doctrinal error and sin. Many church leaders are choosing to get on board with the latest fad while avoiding the offense of the Gospel. Their ministries are compromised by self-serving agendas and their desire to please men over God. In your search for a church home, look for a fellowship of Christians who faithfully teach and submit to the Word of God while

exalting the Lord Jesus Christ in worship and sound doctrine. Seek a church whose leadership demonstrates discernment in the content and practice of the apostolic faith. Find an assembly of believers where [Christ's last command](#) is their first concern and where you can serve the body with your spiritual gifts.

You put into words what I felt in my heart. I could not watch the thousands of people amassed in Rome without weeping for them. To hold the pope up in such honor made me feel sick. He had such power and he abused it so completely by leading the people of his flock down the road to everlasting damnation. Thank you for having the courage to speak out against such great sin.
J.U., Canada

Thank you for speaking the truth about the life and death of John Paul II! He has been revered by so many and yet he spread a counterfeit gospel. Yes, it is sad to see so many "professing" Christians unable to discern truth from error and the counterfeit from the real thing! We appreciate you telling the truth in love and most importantly, using God's word to correct and rebuke, not your own. Anyone who reads your newsletters will hear the gospel message very clearly proclaimed! Your ministry is very appropriately called "Proclaiming the Gospel", which is what you are so faithful to do! We just want to exhort you and encourage you to continue on in spite of the opposition you face! Christ also experienced lots of opposition to the truth and said we should expect the same if we follow Him.
J. & S. B., Rowlett, TX

Thanks for the article on John Paul II. You are very careful about what you write and that is good. I sent it to my church but they don't want to offend anybody in our "Purpose Driven Church." I guess we'll just let Catholics slip off into a Christless eternity rather than warn them of the wrath to come.
J.T., Soux Falls, SD

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Blueprint for Cover-up?

An Eyewitness News investigation reveals secrets at the highest level of the Catholic Church. The investigators obtained a 1962 Vatican document that directs church leaders how to handle sex abuse cases. It indicates the secrecy surrounding these cases started at the top. We talked to Richard Sipe, a former Catholic priest and expert on the church sex abuse scandal. He calls the 1962 Vatican document a blueprint for cover-up and says it's a document that demands even victims remain silent. Sipe says the Vatican document threatens to excommunicate anyone who violates the oath of secrecy. (Minneapolis-St. Paul Sky5Max, 3/3/05)

Benedict XVI Charged with Obstruction of Justice

Pope Benedict XVI faces claims he 'obstructed justice' by sending an order to ensure the church's investigations into child sex abuse claims must remain secret. The order was made in a confidential letter, obtained by The Observer, which was sent to every Catholic bishop in May 2001. It asserted the church's right to keep the evidence confidential for up to 10 years after the victims reached adulthood. Breaching the pontifical secret at any time carries penalties, including the threat of excommunication. Lawyers acting for abuse victims claim it was designed to prevent the allegations from being investigated by the police. They accuse Ratzinger of committing a 'clear obstruction of justice'. (The UK Observer, 4/24/05)

Ancient Ritual Coming Back

The ancient Roman Catholic ritual in which someone continuously adores the Eucharist, the wafer at the heart of the Catholic Mass, is making a comeback. The practice known as "perpetual adoration" was once the purview of nuns and monks, but now is avail-

able for the faithful. They stare straight at the Eucharist, the blessed bread Catholics believe is the body of Jesus which is enshrined in a glass case flanked by flickering candles. Throughout the Roman Catholic church's long history, perpetual adoration has rarely been widespread, so it is astounding that it's made a resurgence in Minnesota. Parishioners call it miraculous. In 1991, the pope began perpetual adoration at the Vatican and urged parishes everywhere to do the same. There are now 728 adoration chapels in the United States, according to the Real Presence Association of Chicago, a Catholic nonprofit that tracks and promotes adoration (AP, 3/4/05).

Radio Host Fired for Comments on Pope

An evangelical Christian talk show host who questioned the beliefs of the Catholic church and entertained a caller's question about whether the late Pope John Paul II would go to heaven has been fired. Marty Minto, 39, a senior pastor at a New Castle church, was fired Friday after three years as a host on WORD-FM in Pittsburgh. He said he was told that he was alienating listeners. "I was doing what I've always done on the radio -- look at events around the world from a biblical perspective," said Minto who is also senior pastor of the 100-member Turning Point Community Church. Last week, Minto questioned some of the Catholic church's beliefs, such as purgatory. Chuck Gratner, the general manager of the station said, "WORD-FM needs to function in this city in support of the entire church -- that means everybody -- and not focus on denominational issues." (AP, 4/14/05)

Annulments Are Soaring

The Vatican said Tuesday requests for marriage annulments have been soaring, with one cardinal lamenting that some Roman

Catholics view them as a kind of church-sanctioned equivalent of divorce. For the year 2002, there were 56,000 requests for annulments and 46,000 of them were granted. Reasons for nullifying a marriage include impotence, refusal by a spouse to have children, and psychological immaturity at the time of marriage. Critics contend the last reason is frequently interpreted too widely. Annulments are attractive to divorced Catholics who remarry. The church bars divorced Catholics who remarry from receiving communion, unless they abstain from sex with their new spouses. (YahooNews, 2/8/05)

New Abuse Allegations Arise

Roman Catholic bishops in the United States said they have received 1,092 new allegations of sexual abuse against at least 756 priests and deacons. Last year, the bishops released a statistical review that found 4,392 priests had been accused of molesting children in 10,667 cases between 1950 and 2002. (CBC News, 2/18/05)

Rosary For Non Catholics

American soldiers in Iraq have been asking for rosaries but none of the soldiers have been Catholic. Episcopal priest Jim Burns said the rosary appealed to the soldiers because, Catholic or not, "when you are in harm's way, you want a talisman." The story is one of many pointing to growing interest among Protestants in the rosary. The rosary figures in Protestant retreats and classes focusing on prayer and contemplative practices. The Catholic rosary is a centuries-old devotion that involves repeating a series of prayers, mostly "Hail Marys". Terry Ziegler, co-owner of *Catholic Art & Gifts* in Farmers Branch, Texas, said Protestant customers will sometimes ask, "Can you sell me a rosary if I'm not a Catholic?" His reply: "If you've got cash or a credit card, sure." Ziegler believes when Pope John Paul II declared 2003 a "Year of the Rosary", he boosted awareness among Catholics and non-Catholics. Debra Farrington teaches the rosary at her Episcopal church as part of classes on contemplative prayer. She said "It's a wonderful meditative practice and becomes more and more meaningful the more you do it." Farrington believes Protestants are getting more interested because praying the rosary involves using the body. "You're holding and moving the beads," she said. "It's like walking the labyrinth. People don't want to just live in their heads anymore." (Dallas Morning News, 2/26/05)

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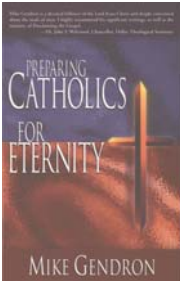
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*"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves."
([Matthew 7:15](#))*

A Contrast of Two Men Catholics Call Pope

The Apostle Peter

- an elder who submitted to Jesus as the head of the Church ([1 Pet. 5:1](#); [Col. 1:18](#))
- taught we are born again through the living, abiding Word of God ([1 Pet. 1:23](#))
- taught eternal life is a gift of grace and secured by the power of God ([1 Pet. 1:3-5](#))
- knew Jesus was the rock ([1 Pet. 2:7-8](#))
- taught Jesus was the guardian of the souls in the church ([1 Pet. 2:25](#))
- warned of false teachers who would introduce destructive heresies and malign the truth ([2 Pet. 2:1-2](#))
- taught salvation by faith in Jesus Christ alone ([Acts 4:12](#))
- was fallible ([Gal. 2:11-14](#))
- refused adoration of men ([Acts 10:26](#))
- shared common spiritual bond with Christians ([1 Cor. 12:13](#)).

John Paul II

- believed he was supreme head of the Church with universal power (CCC [882](#))
- taught we are born again through the ritual of baptism (CCC [1213](#))
- taught eternal life is attained by merit and lost by mortal sin (CCC [2027](#), [1035](#))
- believed Peter was the rock (CCC [442](#))
- entrusted the souls of the church to the Virgin Mary (12/8/90)
- became a false teacher by perverting the Gospel of grace and denying the sufficiency of Jesus (CCC [969](#), [1129](#))
- taught salvation apart from Jesus Christ (CCC [841](#))
- believed he was infallible (CCC [891](#))
- welcomed adoration of men
- shared common spiritual bond with Muslims (speech in 1998)

(Pope from page 2)

Muslim leaders in 1998, he said there is "a common spiritual bond that unites us."

John Paul has also been acclaimed as a great moral leader, yet he failed to discipline American Bishops for tolerating the detestable sexual abuse of children by their depraved priests. After Cardinal Bernard Law of the Boston Archdiocese magnified the scandal by protecting the guilty priests, John Paul appointed him to a prestigious position in the Vatican. Law's cover-up of the abuse of over 600 children, which cost the Boston archdiocese more than \$90 million in settlements, outraged many Catholics but not the pope.

The passing of John Paul II has opened up a tremendous opportunity for Christians to talk about spiritual issues. Let us make the most of this opportunity to speak the truth in love and proclaim the Gospel with clarity and completeness! Let us all seek the approval of the One who purchased us with His precious blood! We must also earnestly contend for the faith against everything that stands opposed to God's word. May God help us to be faithful in these times of great deception and compromise!