



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 44 No. 4

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17)

April 2020

Winning Roman Catholics To Jesus Christ

By Brian Donovan

There are only a few very basic things that a soul winner should understand when trying to lead a Roman Catholic to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Before even starting out, there should be a separation in the soul winner’s mind between the individual soul of the lost Roman Catholic, and the satanic, pagan hierarchy of the Romish religion into which he was born. The fact that she is “**MYS-TERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**” (Revelation 17:5), needs to be divorced from the individual dealings with the soul that you are trying to lead to salvation. The typi-

cal Roman Catholic is unaware of what his church actually teaches and expects him to believe, so it is not wise to spend time trying to disprove all of the false doctrines that his church teaches. Until an individual question about one of their specific teachings is brought up, it is best to not even mention any of them. Putting them on the defensive about the hundreds of child molesting, sodomite Roman Catholic priests around the world is also not the ideal way to get them to think about their eternal souls.

The average Roman Catholic individual thinks that, though they have committed some sins, only the really bad people go to hell (such as murderers, rapists, bank robbers, etc.). Their church teaches that there are two main types of sins, the “minor” ones that everyone commits are called

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The Fourth Commandment

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: Wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it” (Exod. 20:8–11).

This command stands out as different from all the rest. The Ten Commandments are moral commandments except for this one. The fourth commandment is a ceremonial commandment given as a *sign to the Jews* (Ezek. 20:12, 20). The Bible says, **“the JEWS require a sign”** (1 Cor. 1:22). It was not given to the *Gentiles* or *the church, the body of Christ* (see 1 Cor. 10:32), and if you are saved, you are no longer a Jew (or a Gentile, for that matter) even though you may be one **“after the flesh”** (Gal. 3:28 cf. 2 Cor. 5:16–17).

You say, **“God ‘rested on the seventh day,’ and ‘blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it”** (Gen. 2:2–3). Yeah, but who wrote that? Why, Moses did nearly 1,500 years after the fact. That Bible says:

“And madest known unto them [Who? Those Jews that came out of Egypt to Mt. Sinai—Neh. 9:9–13] thy holy sabbath, and commandest them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of MOSES thy servant” (Neh. 9:14).

Did Adam keep the Sabbath? How

could he; he had no work from which to rest. Did Noah keep the Sabbath? No. Did Abraham keep the Sabbath? Not a day in his life. Did Isaac keep the Sabbath? Never! You don't read of anybody between Adam and Moses keeping the Sabbath. Nobody kept the Sabbath in Genesis because nobody knew anything about it. God didn't reveal it to anybody until Moses because it was given as a sign to the nation of Israel, and there was no nation of Israel until God brought those Jews out of Egypt.

Now sabbatarian groups like the Seventh-day Adventists will say, “Well, Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath (Mark 1:21; Luke 4:16), and Paul went to the synagogue on the Sabbath (Acts 13:13–14, 17:2, 18:4).” The Seventh-day Adventists *don't go to the synagogue on the Sabbath*; they go to a *church* building. Everyone in the New Testament who observed the Sabbath went into a *synagogue*. A synagogue is a *Jewish* place of worship; it's not a Christian church.

We Christians don't keep the Sabbath because we aren't under the Old Testament law, particularly the *ceremonial* part of that law specifically pertaining to the *Jews*. The Old Testament law was done away with as far as salvation is concerned (2 Cor. 3:3, 11). Now when it comes to living a *holy life* and your *fellowship with God*, the Apostle Paul lays every commandment in the “Ten” on the believer *except one*. He'll say, **“Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet”** (Rom. 13:9). He'll say, **“Hon-**

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our thy father and mother” (Eph. 6:2). He'll say, “**For though there be that are called gods . . . But to us there is but one God**” (1 Cor. 8:6). He will say, “**how ye turned from idols to serve the living and true God**” (1 Thess. 1:9), and “**flee from idolatry**” (1 Cor. 10:14). Do you know what you *never* hear him tell any of the Gentile churches to which he wrote? He never told a one to *keep the Sabbath*.

“**Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the SABBATH DAYS**” (Col. 2:16).

Do you know what all of those things have in common? They are all *ceremonial* parts of the law given specifically to the *Jews*. No other Christian is to judge you for eating pork or catfish, observing one of the Jewish feasts like Passover, observing the new moon like you read back in the Old Testament (e.g., 1 Sam. 20:5, 18, 24; Psa. 81:3; Amos 8:5), or KEEPING THE SABBATH. Why not? Because it wasn't given to any believer between Acts 2 and the rapture of the church (Col. 2:17). The Sabbath is a peculiarly *Jewish* commandment, and it is measured as all Jewish days from sunset to sunset (see those “evenings and mornings” in Gen. 1 that comprised a day in the Old Testament). So the Jewish Sabbath is from 6 p.m. Friday to 6 p.m. Saturday.

Now why do Christians meet for worship on the first day of the week, our Sunday? A Presbyterian will say, “It's the Christian sabbath.” Aww nuts! There is no “Christian sabbath” in the New Testament. But there are reasons, and they have nothing to

do with Constantine or the Roman Catholic Church or Baal worship or sun worship.

The main reason Christians meet on Sunday is because when Christ rose from the dead, He didn't rise on the seventh day of the week (the Sabbath); He rose on the *first* day of the week (Matt. 28:1–6). Moreover, the risen Christ met with the disciples on the first day of the week (Luke 24:13–49)—*twice* (John 20:26–29).

Moreover, the Holy Spirit came down on the first day of the week, not the Sabbath (Acts 2:1–4 cf. Lev. 23:15–16). The early Christians in the book of Acts met for fellowship and preaching on “**the first day of the week**” (Acts 20:7), and the offering was taken upon “**the first day of the week**” (1 Cor. 16:2).

We Christians observe the first day of the week because we are *New Testament Christians* and not *Old Testament Jews*. Whenever you read about Paul going to the synagogue on the Sabbath, it was to become “**as a Jew**” so he could “**gain the Jews**” (1 Cor. 9:20). He was going to the synagogue to preach to lost Jews because that's where lost Jews congregated together one day a week on the Sabbath. He wasn't meeting with any Gentile he had led to Christ.

Now, even though Sunday is not the Christian sabbath, that doesn't mean there aren't some principles we can apply from the fourth commandment to our present situation. The first principle is that of *rest*. Of course, when God rested from His creation, it wasn't because He was tired, but He was setting an example for His creatures who would get tired.

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In Mark 6:31, Christ told His disciples, **“Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and REST a while”** (Mark 6:31).

Everyone needs rest. Gallup took a poll one time and asked Americans what were their main problems in life. Number one was eating too much, number two was not getting enough exercise, and number three was not getting enough rest. This nation before World War II was different from the same nation after World War II. Before World War II, factories closed at nights and over the weekends. But to sustain the war effort, the factories began staying open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, during World War II. People these days just keep going, going, going, and don't get enough rest.

I have learned in the ministry that I need rest. People will just wear you out, if you let them. So every day, at some point after lunch, I'll take the phone off the hook, lock the doors, put on some classical music, and “zonk out” for an hour or so. I have found that helps.

Second, you need a day every week dedicated to one thing: *thinking about God*. Christ said:

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Matt. 11:28–29).

The important thing about the Sabbath wasn't mere inactivity; it was a day set apart to honor the Lord and please Him in doing so.

“If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy plea-

sure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words” (Isa. 58:13).

Of course, I'm not telling you just to think of God on Sunday and let the rest of the week go. But you need a day dedicated to God, with everything else on hold. God knows there are enough things during the rest of the week to distract you and take your mind off Him.

Southerners are bad about doing other things on Sunday. That's the day they go visit relatives or go out fishing in the bass boat. “Well, Bro. Ruckman, I feel closer to God out there on the lake than I do in church.”

Is that so? Do you take your prayer list with you and do some interceding? Do you sing hymns out there in the boat? Do you do any “boat-to-boat” visitation and try to win the other fishermen to Christ? Don't kid me. You're out there to get you a stringer full, boy, if you can. You're not worried about the troubles of the brethren or praising God or some lost soul headed for hell.

Blessed is the man who comes to church when it snows or drizzles.

Blessed is the man who has prayer meeting on his calendar.

Blessed is the man who can stay in the building more than one hour during a service.

Blessed is the man who loves God with his checkbook as well as his heart.

Blessed is the man whose watch keeps church time as well as busi-

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ness time.

Blessed is the man who leaves the back rows for the late comers.

Blessed is the man whose eyesight can take as much Bible as it does television.

Church is not the place of exhibiting saints. It is a place to train sinners to live like saints. If you go to church just to show off your finery, you've missed the whole point. The early church met on the first day of the week to remember the resurrection of the Lord, to hear the teaching and preaching of the word of God, and to take up the collection for the saints.

People are always complaining about the pastor asking for money, but have you ever thought about what it takes financially to operate a church? Put yourself in the place of the pastor for a minute and think. Suppose you had a business with 500 employees and half of them never showed up for work, and every time it rained or snowed a bunch of them took the day off, and most of them only worked when they felt like it, and you couldn't fire any of them, and you had to be sweet to all of them, and you have to beg and plead with them to come back to work without offending them, and you were in competition with someone with no scruples who would use anything to keep your employees from showing up at work, and you had to operate entirely on the capital of your workers, and they only gave when they "felt led." Can you imagine running a business like that?

Back there in the book of Acts, the church was assembled when the resurrected Christ appeared to them; the

church was assembled when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. Both times were on the first day of the week. The church today should assemble on the first day of the week, not the seventh. Don't stay home to cook. Don't stay home for company. Don't let the weather stop you from coming. Don't stay home because your church is not perfect.

You ought to appreciate going to church. You ought to be there because of its *influence on your family*. Find yourself a church where your kids can see grown men *excited about their religion*. That will stick with them. I know because it stuck with me. I hadn't been saved very long when I got exposed to the "shout" up there in those churches in North Carolina. I've been with the "shout" for over sixty years and haven't lost it yet.

You never know what you have until you lose it. We have students come through here all the time and get exposed to real preaching and real rejoicing. When some of them graduate, they go back home to discover they have nothing in common with any church in the area.

When I was down in Orlando, Bobby Ware took me to Disney World. I didn't get much out of it, but there was one thing I did notice. In all of "Main Street" and "Frontier Land," there was *no church*. When Epcot Center opened, Bro. Ware took me over there too, and there was *not one church* in the American section. How do you represent early America without a church? Why, most of the early settlements in this country were built *around the church*: the church building was the first one set up, and then

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all the other houses and businesses were built around it. There were so many Christians in colonial America that the Continental Congress had to pass a law importing Bibles for them. When the first English Bible (a KJV) was printed in the newly formed republic, Congress put out an official recommendation on it. This nation, in its spiritual "heyday," has been responsible for more Bible distribution, more church planting, more missionary outreach, and more revivals than any other nation on earth; and you're going to have a fun place for the kiddies with no church?!

I wouldn't want to live in a town with no church. Things are bad enough in a town with fifty or sixty churches. You'd have "hell on wheels" with no church. That's why things were so "wild" in the old west. Towns would be set up as the railroad came through with all the vices to take the workers' money and no church. Things didn't "calm down" until the citizens got together and got them a preacher in there to set up a church.

That Bible says that believers are "**the salt of the earth**" (Matt. 5:13). Salt is used to preserve meat. When the salt is gone from a place, the rot sets in. Any Bible-believing work puts pressure on a town and helps keep the devilment down.

Some people think that because I "call" the brethren "hard" on the issue of the Book that I'm against them. That's not true. I'm glad PCC is here in town, did you know that? Their kiddie school exposes a lot of children to the Bible that might not get it any other way. They have a good radio station that plays some good Christian music.

I appreciate that; sure I do. That helps this town.

They might not feel the same way about us, but that doesn't matter. These dumb, stupid Christians might not like our students preaching on the street corners from April to September, but they don't realize how much it *helps*.

Now some of the brethren try to be so "scriptural" that they become *unscriptural*. "There's no church buildings in the New Testament; there's no prayer altars in the New Testament; what's that pulpit doing up on the platform; church steeples are sex symbols"; blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. A Campbellite says, "Why do you have a piano and organ up on the platform; there were no instruments in the New Testament church." There were no flush toilets or electric lights either; what of it? To be "scriptural" are you going to have an outhouse and oil lamps? Where did you read in that Bible where *cars* are scriptural? Are you going to become Amish and come to church in a horse and buggy?

I knew a hyperdispensationalist who got on this kick. His name was Bill Sharpe. He was a fisherman over in Tupelo, Mississippi. He came to one of my meetings and wanted to learn the Bible. That was before I started a school, so whenever I was within driving distance, he would come to one of my meetings, and we would get together afterwards for Bible study. The deal was, I would teach him Bible if he would teach me fishing.

Well, for a while, he did all right. He began winning souls, but then he got messing around with Cornelius Stam and the "Berean Bible Society"

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and got totally screwed up in hyperdispensationalism. He got to dating a girl who was a teacher at PCS, and who went to Brent Baptist back then. On Saturdays, that girl helped get the church bulletin ready for Sunday. Bill wanted her attention for himself, so he began this thing about "Church bulletins aren't in the Bible; they aren't in the New Testament."

I told him, "Why don't you do your fishing on Saturday and date her in church on Sunday?" You see, Bill would skip church to go fishing on Sunday. Of course, he didn't have a good conscience about it, so he would try to soothe it by witnessing on occasion. He was out at one of those dams over in Mississippi, fishing for bass in the spillways. There was some Mississippi redneck out there fishing too, and Bill tried to strike up a conversation about the Lord. That old timer said, "You a Christian?" "Yes," said Bill. "Then what the blankety-blank are you doing out here on Sunday?"

Bill would always argue with me that there was no scripture that said you had to be in church on Sunday. That's true, but you have a testimony before an unsaved world to consider. If your neighbors know you're a Christian, they watch to see if you head to church on a Sunday or out to the lake or ball field.

Bill learned some lessons the hard way about being in church on Sunday. He was fishing one Sunday down at Alabama Point. Between a rock jetty that went way out into the water and then a sandbar after that, you could go way out and fish for bluefish. Bill was fishing out there in two or three feet of water, with a stringer of blues hanging

down his belt in the water beside him. If you don't watch it, in a situation like that, other fish will come and nibble at your catch.

Well, Bill had been warned about a twelve-foot tiger shark that used to hang around Alabama Point. There have been a couple of times I drove over the bridge going out there where I could see that sucker lying in the water off a little island there in the channel.

As Bill was out there fishing, he got a tug on the line, and he thought it was a big one. All of a sudden something yanked that line so hard that the rod almost came out of Bill's hand. About that time he saw the dorsal fin of that tiger shark cutting through the water on its way to him. When something like that happens, the "school solution" is to hit the water with your rod and scare the shark away. But that shark wasn't "scarin'"; it just kept on coming. Bill dropped that hundred-dollar rod and reel and ran for his life. He told me afterwards, "You wouldn't think a man could walk on water, but he sure can if he has to." That kept him out of the water on Sundays for about nine months before he was back at it again.

If you have a good Bible-believing church to attend, you had better be there every chance you get and support the work. It's a barren wasteland out there in modern Christianity with its "promise keepers" and "emergent" liberals and "seeker sensitives," and its rock music and its "contemporary worship."

I think about that when I visit the graves of my mother and father up in Delaware near Rehoboth Beach. They're buried in a Methodist grave yard, but they were Episcopalians. My

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momma and daddy weren't saved. They both drank, smoked, and played cards. In the Episcopalian Church to which they took me in Topeka, Kansas, that "rector" (and that's a good name for him because he sure did make a *wreck* of the ministry) never preached the gospel one time in all the years I was there. My mother and father lived and died in the company of unsaved church folk who didn't believe the Book and didn't believe the gospel. Their lives were just wasted.

As far as I know, both of my parents are in hell right now. Of course, you hope maybe something happened at the last minute before they died, but it is a vain hope. There's nothing of which you can be assured, no testimony of any kind.

If you want to be saved and be assured of a home in heaven some day, you have to place your trust in a man who finished the work of your salvation and then sat down at the right hand of God to *rest* (Heb. 10:12). Do you know what your Saviour has been doing for twenty centuries? He's been up there at the right hand of His Father, *resting*. That Bible says that when He gets ready to come back, He *awakes* "**as one out of sleep**" (Psa. 78:65).

If you're not saved, do you know what your problem is? You've never learned to *rest in the Lord*. Psalm 37:7 says, "**Rest in the LORD.**" When you rest in the Lord, you *cease from your own works* for salvation and rest in His accomplished work for you on Calvary (Heb. 4:10).

Do you realize that there was no rest for those priests in the tabernacle. They were on their feet from morning

to night. There was no place to sit down and rest. They couldn't sit down in the Holy of Holies: they would be dead before they ever made it to the mercy seat. They couldn't sit down on the golden candlestick or the altar of incense or the brazen altar without burning their britches. That table of showbread had a crown around it, and they would stick themselves in the behind if they tried to sit on it. They couldn't sit in the brazen laver: they'd drown.

But when Jesus Christ completed His atonement, He said, "**It is finished**" (John 19:30), and He *sat down* (Mark 16:19). That's where you need to be. Paul said that when you get saved, you are raised up to *sit* with Him "**in heavenly places**" (Eph. 2:6). *That's resting in the Lord.*

Why, Seventh-day Adventists don't rest in the Lord on the Sabbath or any other day of the week. They are working their heads off to get saved—with no assurance of salvation after they have done everything required of them.

No Seventh-day Adventist keeps the Sabbath. If a Seventh-day Adventist turns on the ignition of his car to drive to church, he has broken the Sabbath: he has kindled a fire in those spark plugs (Exod. 35:3).

I asked one of those birds one time if he cooked his meals on the Sabbath. He told me he did. I opened my Bible to Exodus 35:3 and read him the verse about not kindling a fire in your habitation on the Sabbath. He said, "Oh, '**The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath**'" (Mark 2:27). I laughed at him and said, "Oh, I see. You keep the part

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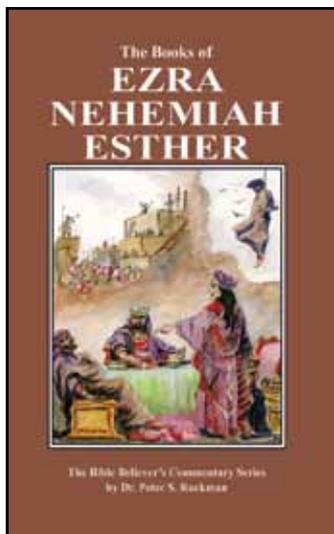
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of the Sabbath you want and then let the rest go. In that case, I'm as much of a Seventh-day Adventist as you are." Listen, people, if you are trying to keep the law to be saved, then you are **"a debtor to do the whole law"** (Gal. 5:3), not just the parts that you want or that are convenient.

Now I am not a "letter-of-the-law" guy when it comes to this business of going to church on Sunday. I mean, if you have to work and have no choice or you'll be fired, then do your job. But if that is the case, pick you out

another day of the week where you rest and devote it to the Lord. Some of your brethren in Moslem countries like Saudi Arabia or Iran are in situations like that. They can't gather on Sundays because if they do, the religious police will get them. So they pick out another day of the week, and for them, that's "the Lord's day."

Give God your time. Take some time to rest—and I mean *rest*; not sit for two hours watching a pig skin being run up and down a field. And if you're not saved, learn to rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ for your sins.

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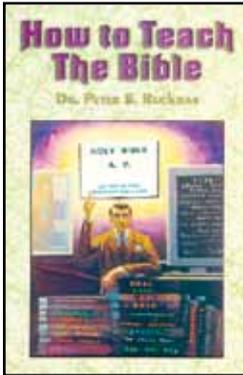
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Winning Roman Catholics to Jesus Christ

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“venial” sins (lying, envy, lust, greed, etc.), and are pardonable through confession to priests, and paying money. The second kind is called “mortal” sin (divorce, murder, and anything considered “grave” with a deliberate turning from God). If a Catholic dies without repentance through confession to his priest, he immediately goes to hell if he dies with any “mortal” sins on his soul. Of course, the Bible does not teach this nonsense, but rather defines sin as **“All unrighteousness is sin”** (I John 5:17), **“whatsoever is not of faith is sin”** (Romans 14:23), **“to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin”** (James 4:17), and **“sin is the transgression of the law”** (I John 3:4), among others. What is critical for the soul winner to recognize, is that the average Roman Catholic believes that he is not in any real danger, as long as he does not die in a state of mortal sin. Hence, the answer that a Roman Catholic will often give to the question, “Do you know if you will go to heaven when you die?”, will be along the lines of, “I think that I will go to heaven because I am a pretty good person and I confess my sins and believe in Jesus.”

He has been taught that at

death, his soul (with only venial sins charged to him), will go to a place of temporary punishment called Purgatory, an invented place of fire where the soul pays for sins that were supposedly forgiven by the priest while on earth. Purgatory is the Pope's bank account. His henchmen collect money under the pretense of having the power to release a departed loved one early from the torments of Purgatory and into heaven, as long as the right amount of money is paid through indulgences, masses, candles, etc. The doctrine of Purgatory did not become an official doctrine within the church of Rome until the Council of Florence in 1439. In other words, it took about 1400 years after the death of Christ for this satanic idea to become an official Roman Catholic doctrine. Their weak attempts to make early church leaders (Ambrose, Augustine, Clement, and Origen) in agreement with the idea of Purgatory is a farce if one reads the so-called “proofs”. Augustine is actually an ancient Roman Catholic authority against the doctrine, writing that, “Catholic faith, resting on Divine authority, believes the first place is the kingdom of heaven and the second hell. A third place we are wholly ignorant of; yea, we shall find

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in scripture that it is not.” Of course, the lack of scripture in the Romish church has never been a deterrent to declaring something to be so. The Council of Trent in 1545, damned anyone who refuses to believe in Purgatory, claiming “unanimous consent of the Fathers”, hoping that none of their members will ever look up the facts. The Roman Catholic Church has handled Mary’s elevation to the “Queen of Heaven” and her “sinless life” in the same manner. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Mary’s sinless birth and nature) was first introduced in Lyons, France, and the idea was opposed by two of their own canonized “saints”, who also both had the title “Doctor” conferred on them (Thomas Aquinas and Bernard). The Roman Church has conferred the title of “Doctor” on only 33 of their leaders over the years, meaning that they were recognized as a “saint who made significant contributions to theology or doctrine.” Bernard wrote, “How can a conception that proceeds not from the Holy Ghost, but from sin, be holy?”, while Aquinas wrote that Mary, “could not have been redeemed by Christ if she was not sinful”.

The Roman Catholic Church

does not even attempt to reconcile these discrepancies and lies; they simply continue to put out the hoax that there has been an agreement among the Roman Church “Fathers”, throughout all of the history of their church, when it comes to their peculiar doctrines that are not found in the Bible. The reader can find a “unanimous consent of the fathers” on the doctrines of Purgatory, confession of sins to the priest, the sinless life of Mary, her Immaculate Conception, the body and blood of Christ present in the wafer at Communion, and the Infallibility of the pope, as easily as he can find a proven error in the King James Bible. As late as 500 A.D., Gregory said that “whoever calls himself the universal bishop, or desires this title, is the precursor to the antichrist, because he thus attempts to raise himself above the others.” Yet Boniface III. in 607, had no trouble accepting that title upon himself from the pagan Emperor Phocas. Finally, in 1870, a papal bull put out by Giovanni Mastai Ferretti (alias Pope Pius IX), threatened excommunication for anyone denying both papal supremacy and papal infallibility of the Roman bishop.

In attempting to reach the lost Roman Catholic soul with the

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gospel, the soul winner should try to make it plain to him that the requirement for being saved is the new birth (John 3) by faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9), as a one time (Hebrews 10:10), free gift for his justification through faith in his blood (Romans 3:24-25). But he should also try to make plain that it is the sin of unbelief (John 8:24) that damns a soul, not some "unforgiven mortal sin". In the mind of the lost Roman Catholic is the idea that he needs to continually and repeatedly obtain forgiveness of his sins in order to gain heaven, and that he hopefully will die in a good enough condition (called a state of grace) to make it to glory. Most are not even aware that the Lord Jesus Christ said, "**Ye must be born again**", and this new birth is not through any work of the sinner. As a lost Roman Catholic, I was completely unaware that the Jesus Christ that I was supposed to believe in, actually said those words, and that the scriptures said that "**ye may know that ye have eternal life**" (I John 5:13), as a present possession in this life. As my religion taught me, I was under the mistaken idea that at death, I would most likely go to burn in the fires of Purgatory for a while to pay for my venial sins, and then

after that, hopefully be allowed into heaven. There was even a prayer book I had that gave certain times off my sentence in Purgatory for saying them at specific times of the year. A few years ago, the Vatican even offered indulgences off Purgatory time for Catholics who follow the Pope's Twitter account. Of course, a Cardinal warned that they must follow with true contrition for sins. We lived in complete ignorance of the scripture and the blessing of the new birth.

The lost Roman Catholic has a head knowledge of a Jesus Christ who died for the sins of the world, was buried three days, and rose again. Here is part of the Nicene creed that I memorized as a young Catholic boy, "We believe in one God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God of God, Light of Light, True God of True God, begotten of the Father...born of the Virgin Mary, became flesh and was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He died, was buried, and rose again the third day, according to the scriptures." In reading that confession, anyone can see

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Winning Roman Catholics to Jesus Christ

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the “fundamentals” of what a sinner should believe. In reading that confession, anyone can find that the gospel of I Corinthians 15:1-4, is found within the creed, yet the subtle, satanic trick never makes that confession an individual trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour. It is a head knowledge that never makes it the eighteen inches from the head to the heart. As a Roman Catholic, I always believed that Christ died for the sins of the whole world, but MY personal sins being cleansed by His blood, by MY personal faith in His work alone, was never appropriated until a soul winner took me through the scriptures, explaining the new birth.

There is not a Roman Catholic alive who professes to believe their Church's Creed, who knows what will happen to them when they die. Neither Pope Bergoglio, nor Cardinal Zenari, nor Archbishop Damiano, nor Boston's Bishop O'Malley, New York's Bishop Dolan, nor a single Roman Catholic priest or nun, knows what will happen to their souls when they die. All they can do is hope. As far back as from 1953 until her death, poor “Mother Teresa” wrote of the darkness and lack of faith and lack of God's love in her soul. Listen to this “saint” as

she writes, “...there is such terrible darkness within me, as if everything was dead...it has been like this more or less since I started the work... repulsed, empty, no faith, no love, no zeal...souls hold no attraction... my prayer of union is not there...I no longer pray...the smile is a mask to cover everything.” Her poor lost soul cried about “the darkness, loneliness, torture, and dryness” that she constantly felt. These were not some words penned at a dark, doubting time of her life, but were consistent confessions that covered over fifty years and the whole time of her “ministry”. A year before her death, she was so tormented that an Archbishop ordered a priest to arrange for a prayer of exorcism for the disturbed nun. Fearful, the priest took along some nuns and performed the ten-minute rite. In his words, “We do not know if she was possessed by the devil.” The Archbishop later said that the fact that this prayer for exorcism was performed should not in any way adversely affect the process of her sainthood. Compassion for a lost, tormented soul like that should almost overwhelm the saved to want to reach these lost, dying, Roman Catholic souls.

The individual Catholic is not

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Winning Roman Catholics to Jesus Christ

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 an enemy of the gospel. The real enemy is the satanic church into which they were born. The Roman Catholic Church is the bride of the devil (Revelation 17:3), an imitation of the bride of Christ (Revelation 21:9), and she ensures that her members remain in spiritual darkness through her deception and lies (Revelation 17:5). It is not just a matter of a different interpretation of the scriptures that they claim to believe, but at the highest levels, a purposeful deception and hatred of the Bible takes place. A young man entering the Roman Catholic priesthood might have good intentions at the start, but by the time he reaches the level of a Bishop, Cardinal or Pope, he has committed himself to the darkness of hell and takes part in what the Lord calls **"the depths of Satan"** (Revelation 2:24). The Cardinals once met with

Pope Pius III, reminding him of the need to keep the Bible from the common people, saying, "Of all the advice that we can offer your Holiness we must open your eyes well and use all possible force in the matter, namely, to permit the reading of the gospel as little as possible in all the countries under your jurisdiction...So long as the people will be content with the small amount, your interests will prosper...The Bible is the book, which more than any other, has raised against us the tumults and tempests by which we have almost perished. In fact, if one compares the teaching of the Bible with what takes place in our churches, he will soon find discord, and will realize that our teachings are different from the Bible, and oftener still, contrary to it." Those are not the words of the deceived, but of the deceiver.

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Brian Donovan

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Winning Roman Catholics to Jesus Christ

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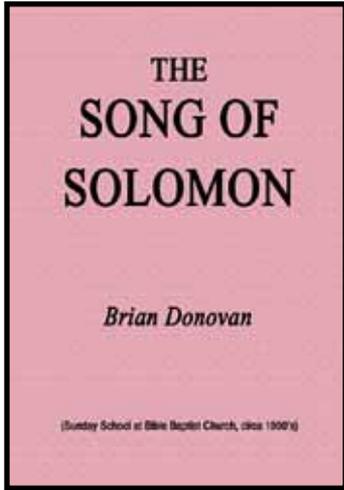
A few years back, President George Bush (2008) eagerly awaited the arrival to the USA of Josef Ratzinger, alias Pope Benedict XVI, calling him "Holy Father", and claiming that the Pope's "moral strength is key for politicians". When asked by an interviewer what he saw when he looked into Benedict's eyes, Bush replied, "God". Bush obviously cannot discern the difference between God and a devil, but what else would you expect from a politician, who was put into office among **"the basest of men"** (Daniel 4:17).

As a young Roman Catholic boy, I was reminded by my teacher ("Sister Nazarita"), that the Bible was not a book that we should ever read on our own, but it was to be explained to us by the nuns and priests. She then proceeded to fulfill the Cardinal's advice and give us the scriptures "as little as possible". As a result, I became a 21-year-old man who was shocked when a soul winner opened a Bible and showed me that Jesus said, **"Ye must be born again"**, and that I could **"know that ye have eternal life"**, and that salvation was by **"grace...through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"**. These are the

truths that a Roman Catholic needs to be shown, not the perversions of his church.

In attempting to win a lost Roman Catholic to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, the soul winner should present the gospel alone as the sinner's way out of hell. The most important thing is to get them to see their personal need to trust in the finished work of the Saviour on the cross of Calvary alone, to make them a child of God. They must understand that salvation is not a process, but a one time gift that is received by faith. Recently, the Lord allowed me the privilege to lead a Roman Catholic man and his wife to Christ, and there was no talk about their pagan church, their damnable doctrines, or any of the horrors of the depths of Satan. During the witness, one question came up about their statues, but I told them to just completely put their trust in Christ alone, and He would show them later about that issue. They were shown the gospel, along with the very words of Christ, in order to see their condition as lost sinners on their way to hell without the new birth. What a joy to hear two sinners call out to the Lord Jesus Christ to give them the gift of eternal life by faith (Romans

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Winning Roman Catholics to Jesus Christ

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10:9-10). Just in the last few weeks, I have had open doors with three Roman Catholics, two of them still practicing, and one completely disgusted with (in his words), "that sham religion". The doors are still open for me to continue with these three, and although it has come up that I was at one time a Roman Catholic, I have not spent a single second on the horrors of the religion, or about the fact that she is "**MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS**", or about the deceitful liars that her popes have been, or of the disagreements in doctrine that their own leaders have had throughout the years. We have spoken about why I am no longer in the Catholic religion, with the main reason being that I became a born again Christian who now reads the Bible. The discussion is always centered on the simplicity of salvation as a gift, and the difference between any and all "sham religions", and biblical salvation by faith without works. Once in awhile, a Roman Catholic will ask specific questions about some of these things, and I do not hesitate to deal with them, but I never bring any of these subjects up in witnessing.

The real need of the individual

Roman Catholic, is to be shown that a new birth is required and that it must be a personal faith on their part, by believing in their heart and calling on him with their mouth (Romans 10:9-10), to be saved from hell. Otherwise, he will continue to live out his "faith" as a kind of corporate mentality that he is a part of the right religion, with the idea that as long as he isn't "too bad", things will work out.

Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

April 3-5

Bible Baptist Church
619 Albemarle Road
Asheboro, NC 27203
Pastor Tom Cochran
(336) 625-3095

May 1-3

Lakeside Baptist Church
3055 Bacom Point Road
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Pastor Ted Hines
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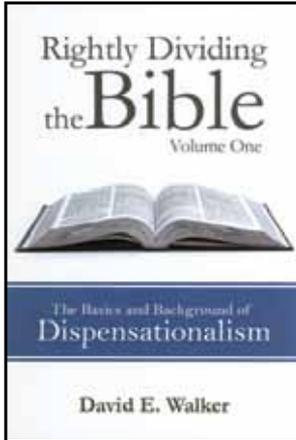
June 12-14

Bible Believers Bapt. Church
596 SE Alexander St.
Hillsboro, OR 97123
Pastor John Robinson
(503) 706-7147

July 10-12

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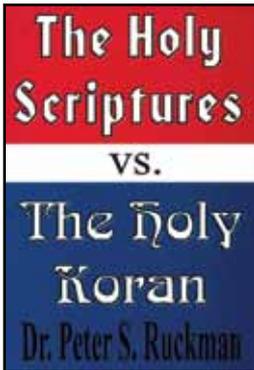
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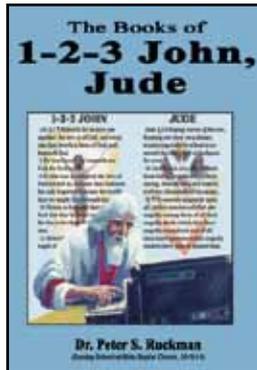
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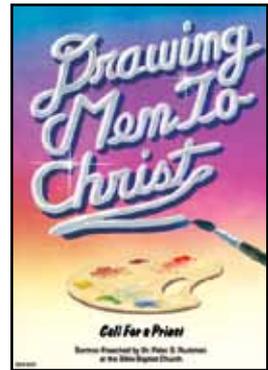
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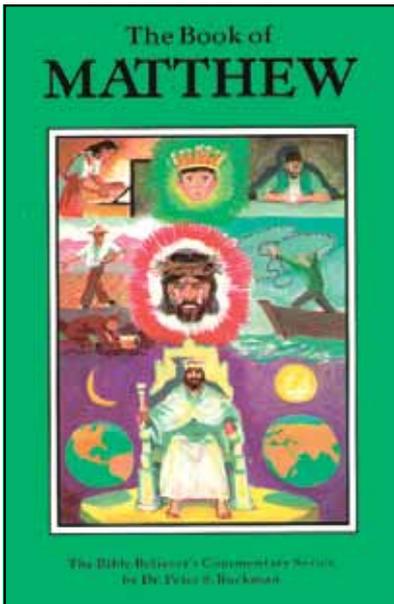


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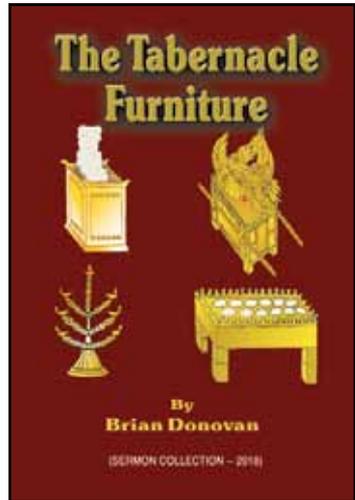
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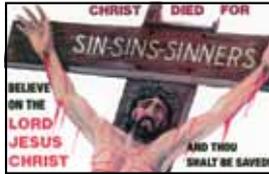
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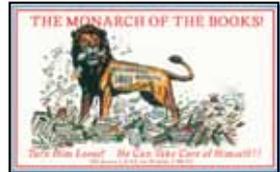
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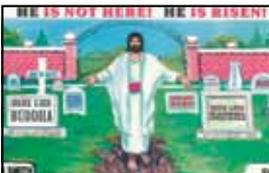
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Rome's Great Fear

By Robert Militello

“Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as you can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch” (Matt. 27:65–66).

Why did Pilate commit Roman soldiers to guard the Lord's tomb? Rome has always had a vested interest in keeping the truth from seeing the light of day, or haven't you noticed? God's word has no greater enemy today than Pope Francis. Is it coincidental that verse 66, the number of books in our Bible, describes a futile attempt to keep the TRUTH from coming out? Rome partnered with the truth-hating Jewish leadership because both instinctively knew that a resurrected rabbi was a real threat to their power to control the masses. There is a power in the word of God that terrorizes those who enjoy power over people whether spiritual or political. **“Where the word of a king is, there is power”** (Eccl. 8:4).

It is interesting to note that the Jewish leadership used their temple guards to arrest Jesus in Gethsemane. Yet when it came to making sure that Jesus stayed in the grave, they went to Pilate for a guard. Weren't the temple guards capable of performing that duty? Why further involve Rome in a religious dispute that Pilate was eager to avoid when the Jews first brought Jesus to him? Condemning an innocent man to death rattled Pilate, and I believe the Jewish rulers took advantage of that. Putting a seal on the Lord's tomb by order of a Roman governor gave a certain legitimacy to the sentence of

death that the Jews craftily maneuvered the governor into ordering. Remember, this was the man who refused to change the sign over Jesus which read, **“JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS”** (John 19:19–22). So Pilate could exhibit determination when he wanted to.

“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways” (James 1:8).

There is a partnership developing in our day between the Church of Rome and the United Nations. The political world and the religious world recognize only one obstacle to this fast-growing union. Since Francis became the “Holy Father” in March of 2013, he has worked tirelessly to unite professing Christianity and the political elite committed to an international socialist agenda. What stands in the way of the further development of this satanic union are beliefs held by millions—especially in the USA. There is only one way to God: His name is Jesus. Also, faith in His blood atonement for sin delivers one from eternal condemnation. Those who hold these beliefs are seen as dangerous fanatics. Rome alone cannot neutralize these believers; it must have the power of Caesar to keep the tomb sealed.

Resurrection Sunday is a reminder that no power on this earth can keep the truth bound. Rome has done all in its power to keep the resurrected Saviour from walking about forgiving sinners and bestowing freely the grace that saves. Rome prefers a dead Christ hanging on a cross and suggesting that Mary, the Lord's mother, has power to save.

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Rome's Great Fear

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The Jewish Sanhedrin accused the Lord of blasphemy at the kangaroo court they assembled, and Rome steals the glory of God and confers it upon Mary, "Queen of Heaven." A resurrected Saviour has power to change lives. Religion has no such power, and political movements stir the masses for a while and then fade away.

Around 1436, the Lord took a German named Johannes Gutenberg to develop a press, putting words on paper. This invention would be used by the Holy Spirit to terrorize Rome. Later, the Lord took another German, Martin Luther, a Catholic monk, to put Bibles in the hands of ordinary Germans. Rome's superstitions were brought to the sunlight of God's word, and all Europe was convulsed. The Devil responded quickly by energizing a Spanish knight, Ignatius de Loyola, who would gather men and train them to oppose and discredit all who challenged Rome's authority. These men were called Jesuits, but their official title was the Society of Jesus. They dedicated themselves to education and became tutors to those connected to the royal houses of Europe. The idea was to gain power by influencing and cleverly manipulating those in positions of authority and having political power. Religion and politics are a diabolical mixture. Remember, Jezebel had her prophets.

At the heart of our faith as Bible believers is belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the great stumbling block to those who follow other faith traditions. Atheists, agnostics, and those devoted to sci-

ence and medicine smirk at the idea of bodily resurrection after rigor mortis has begun.

"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain" (1 Cor. 15:14).

I sat at Mass as a youth and was told Jesus Christ rose up and, later, ascended into heaven. Still the priests could not really preach a risen Christ because they didn't know Him. They knew *of* Him and could tell the story of His birth, passion, and resurrection; and that was it. The priests were storytellers and not preachers. For years, I listened to storytellers, and the risen Christ with power to save was unknown to me. His tomb was still sealed and remains sealed because Rome teaches that works and grace help you to get to heaven. The gospel is supposed to be good news. Rome's gospel is bad news and will remain so until the Lord destroys that false church.

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:8).

Did you know that the chaplain of the United States House of Representatives who leads that body in prayer is a Jesuit priest? "Father" Conroy took the coveted position on May 25, 2011. Republicans who controlled the House in 2018 tried to get him to resign, but he was kept on by "friends" both Republican and Democrat. Those who wanted him out, mostly all evangelicals, questioned whether a man not married and without experience raising a child could

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Rome's Great Fear

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be an effective counselor. This objection was tossed aside as being irrelevant. Church and state collusion can bear only one fruit and a poisonous one at that—spiritual leprosy.

“Father” James Martin, a Jesuit and editor at *America* magazine, *The Jesuit Journal*, has appeared often on FOX TV. He is LGBT friendly and is allowed to teach Fox viewers what is the “Holy Father’s” (another Jesuit) viewpoint on various issues. Now, after reading Dr. Ruckman’s book *Mark of the Beast* many years ago, I always had suspicions about words ending in X. Here’s FOX, a pro-Trump, heavily-Catholic cable news outlet, helping to make a TV personality out of this pathetic, lost priest pretending to be a trusted religious commentator. What’s with FOX? Remember what Jesus said about Herod? **“And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that FOX”** (Luke 13:32). So there’s a fox in chapter 13. Interesting, isn’t it? I don’t trust FOX or any other news outlet. I get my news from a King James Bible. To stay informed on issues that affect me and my community, I’ll rely on local news outlets.

How many millions of professing Christians attending services on Sundays all across our nation see a sealed tomb and not a rolled-back stone? The women who went to the Lord’s tomb on Resurrection Sunday were asked a question by two angels that label most Christian assemblies as spiritual tombs. **“Why seek ye the living AMONG THE DEAD? He is not here, but is risen”** (Luke 24:5–6). The risen Christ is not in those churches. Sad, isn’t it? I once asked

a pastor of an evangelical church on Staten Island, New York, this question: If the Holy Spirit left this church would anyone know He was missing? Wherever the King James Bible is not taught and believed, you have a morgue with a Roman seal on the door.

“The entrance of thy words giveth light” (Psa. 119:130). There is no light in a mausoleum, and a great day of reckoning is coming for those pastors and teachers who became critics of the Authorized Bible. How many ministers will discover at the Judgment Seat of Christ that their buildings were nothing but garnished tombs long vacated by the risen Saviour? What awful and devastating surprises await these men. **“Prove all things”** the scripture says in I Thessalonians 5:21. A man called to preach or teach ought to make sure he preaches the risen Redeemer, or he is an accomplice with Rome whether he knows it or not.

Death has been man’s bogeyman hiding in the closet since Cain walked away from his brother’s limp body on the ground. A rolled-back stone and an empty tomb written about by four Gospel authors give every man a hope that cannot be found in any other book. God’s word, if embraced by faith, robs death of its terror.

“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5:8).

A hatred of sin works in us what no unsaved person looks forward to.

“For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven”

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Rome's Great Fear

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(2 Cor. 5:2).

Living in this body polluted by sin is like walking around in the same clothes you had on after falling into an overflowing septic tank. We stink, and the more we cling to Jesus and forsake this world, the more we groan longing to get into a new body. Resurrection Sunday is God's promise to us that He will change our clothes. Then we'll have what this world does not give: **"in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore"** (Psa. 16:11). This is what Paul desired more than life here.

"When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was" (John 11:6).

Our Saviour knew Lazarus was sick and purposely let him die. **"Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep"** (John 11:11). The real Lazarus, not just a body, was very much alive in the heart of the earth (Abraham's Bosom, Luke 16:22) thousands of miles away. What was in the earthly tomb was a rotting corpse which Jesus said was sleeping. You and I will fall asleep one day if the Lord delays His coming (1 Thess. 4:13–14 cf. Tit. 2:13). Many saints will not have a resting place because cremation has become widespread. It's a lot cheaper than buying a hole in the ground, amen? Also, many have been buried at sea. The Lord knows where His saints are sleeping. He had every one of their hairs numbered while they were alive. Some have left no earthly remains at all. When the Trade Towers went down

on 9/11/2001, there were bodies that melted and fused with metal cabinets and chairs due to the intense heat of the burning jet fuel. How could you identify anyone when even dentures melted and ashes mixed with the powder of broken concrete and all kinds of debris? Who but our Saviour can reassemble the protons, neutrons, and electrons of the atoms that once formed a body?

From thousands of miles away, Lazarus heard the Lord's voice and journeyed up to reenter his decaying carcass.

"And when he had thus spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth" (John 11:43).

So he comes forth, and I suppose the stone had been rolled away on the Lord's order. What a sight! Lazarus comes out bound in grave clothes. Did he float out like a zombie levitating a little off the ground? Forgive me, I am not being facetious, but what took place at that cave (John 11:38) destroys the belief of many Jews who looked upon Jesus as some kind of magician.. No magic known to man gets a heart beating again in a body stiffened by rigor mortis and in the early stages of putrefying. God alone has that kind of power, and the Jewish ex-carpenter turned preacher demonstrated conclusively that He was God **"manifest in flesh"** (1 Tim. 3:16). Someday soon, many will hear their name called, and they will fly up **"to meet the Lord in the air"** (1 Thess. 4:17). This earthly body which cannot defy gravity that way will be instantly changed in a nanosecond. We will have Christ's body escaping this

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Rome's Great Fear

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earth where we walk in the shadow of death into a state of awareness with peace and joy that our minds could not presently fathom.

Walking with the risen Christ is not a hallmark of the last days Laodicean church. Colossians which has the word "**Laodicea**" and "**Laodiceans**" in it five times, contains a heartfelt plea by Paul to get right.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God" (Col. 3:1).

What things are Christians focused on in Laodicea? Read Revelation 3:15–19, and you'll see if Paul's warning was taken seriously.

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:2).

Does not walking with the risen Christ encourage you to die to this world? Laodicean Christians are good at professing Christ, but profession does not always mean possession.

"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3).

To bring about the deadness to this world which makes for genuine fellowship with the risen Saviour, Paul in verse 5 lays out a hitlist to be executed like a Mafia contract—a rubout, or a whack job, if you will.

Verse 5, the number of death, begins with the word "**mortify**," or kill, if you value your relationship with Jesus. Five sins are listed with the last being covetousness. Refer back to Revelation 3:17 and note that in Laodicea, the saints said, "**I am rich, and increased with goods, and**

have need of nothing." They had a need, but because they were spiritually blind (Rev. 3:17), they couldn't see that the Lord was outside their assembly (Rev. 3:20). He was at the door and not participating in their "love feast" or "worship experience." Pastors and churches across this greatly blessed nation of ours do not know the risen Saviour, but they pretend they do. What is given in these churches on Sundays is a performance designed to please the congregants and keep them coming back. Again, this year, there will be thousands of sunrise services, and the resurrection story will be told again. Catholics will do their "Easter duty," and a comfortable religious feeling will come over the churchgoers, many of whom have not opened a Bible in God only knows how long. There will be little or no preaching on repentance because it would be in poor taste to bring up the sins we indulge ourselves in on such a special Sunday.

Again, we'll have the Roman Caesar dressed like a clown giving his Easter blessing to the world from his palace in Rome. Our president and his party will continue to paint a picture of an America becoming greater and greater. After all, 2020 is an election year, so expect a double portion of the hot air that is served up to those fixated on politics. Remember, I wrote before that as a youth I thought wrestling was real and that the combatants were really hurting each other. They would put on a good show and draw big crowds. Well, both parties in Washington, D.C. know how to put on a good

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Rome's Great Fear

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show. They get free television exposure every day on the cable "news" programs. So the pope and the professional politicians in Washington have a genuine interest in keeping Christ in the tomb. A risen Saviour who turns souls away from the things of this world is a threat. Oh, they will give him lip service especially on Christmas and Easter, but to preach against sin and save souls from hell,

they have no interest.

"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8).

That's the work of the Holy Spirit. Do you think Rome and Caesar would want to further that work? **"If you were of the world, the world would love his own"** (John 15:19). Paul told us to set our affection on

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THE CREED OF THE ALEXANDRIAN CULT

1. There is **no final authority** but God.
2. Since God is a Spirit, there is **no final authority** that can be seen, heard, read, felt, or handled.
3. Since all books are material, there is **no book on this earth that is the final and absolute authority** on what is right and what is wrong, what constitutes truth and what constitutes error.
4. There **WAS** a series of writings one time which, **IF** they had all been put into a **BOOK** as soon as they were written the first time, **WOULD HAVE** constituted an infallible and final authority by which to judge truth and error.
5. However, this series of writings was lost, and the God who inspired them was **unable to preserve their content** through Bible-believing Christians at Antioch (Syria), where the first Bible teachers were (Acts 13:1), and where the first missionary trip originated (Acts 13:1-52), and where the word "*Christian*" originated (Acts 11:26).
6. So God chose to **ALMOST** preserve them through Gnostics and philosophers from Alexandria, Egypt, even though God called His Son **OUT** of Egypt (Matthew 2), Jacob **OUT** of Egypt (Genesis 49), Israel **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 15), and Joseph's bones **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 13).
7. So there are two streams of Bibles. The most accurate—though, of course, there is **no final, absolute authority** for determining truth and error; it is a matter of "preference"—are the Egyptian translations from Alexandria, Egypt, which are "almost the originals," although not quite.
8. The most **inaccurate translations** were those that brought about the German Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Boehler, Zinzendorf, Spener, et al.) and the worldwide missionary movement of the English-speaking people: the Bible that Sunday, Torrey, Moody, Finney, Spurgeon, Whitefield, Wesley, and Chapman used.
9. But we can "tolerate" these if those who believe in them will "tolerate" US. After all, since there is **NO ABSOLUTE AND FINAL AUTHORITY** that anyone can read, teach, preach, or handle, the whole thing is a matter of "PREFERENCE." You may prefer what you prefer, and we will prefer what we prefer. Let us live in peace, and if we cannot agree on anything or everything, let us all agree on one thing: **THERE IS NO FINAL, ABSOLUTE, WRITTEN AUTHORITY OF GOD ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH.**

This is the Creed of the Alexandrian Cult.

Rome's Great Fear

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things above and when Christians make no serious effort to do so; they become useful idiots for Caesar and Rome to exploit. Beware the joining of the flag and the cross. Adolf Hitler ran on a moral majority platform in Germany. I'm not suggesting that our President is anything like Hitler, and I thank God for that. Nevertheless, the Devil, who is a lot smarter than you or I, knows what works and what doesn't. He wants to neutralize the soldiers of Christ. If nationalism and super patriotism can be used to pacify God's army and take **"the sword of the Spirit"** out of their hands, he succeeds. Hitler promised the Germans that he would restore family values. He made a nation become proud of itself again. He aroused their emotions and said things they longed to hear. My maternal grandparents listened to his speeches on radio. He painted a great future for Germany. Catholic priests and Lutheran pastors fell under his spell. Patriotism was packaged as the ultimate virtue. A nation of sixty million souls educated, scientifically advanced, and rich in culture drank spiritual kool aid, the Devil's poison.

You won't find the resurrected Christ at a political rally, a Catholic Mass, Laodicea magachurches, and most sunrise services. He is not easy to locate these days. After all, life is good in America, amen? I know where to find him, and I do every day in my King James Bible.

"Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth" (Psa. 119:151).

He is as near as any Christian

wants Him to be. We do what we want to do most of the time. We make choices every day. Jesus Christ could, if He wanted to, open the door of the Laodicean assembly and walk in. Still, he says in Revelation 3:20, **"if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me."** There's the free will. We decide whether we will open the door to real fellowship or play at Christianity, pretending we have the real thing. We decide to open the Bible or keep it closed. We decide to go to our knees or turn on the TV. We decide to hand out a tract or talk to someone about Jesus. Lastly, we decide whether or not the sins we accommodate ourselves to should be put to death. Because our Lord decided in Gethsemane to put his Father's will first, a Roman seal was violated, a great stone was rolled away, and death finally met its match.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Cor. 15:55).

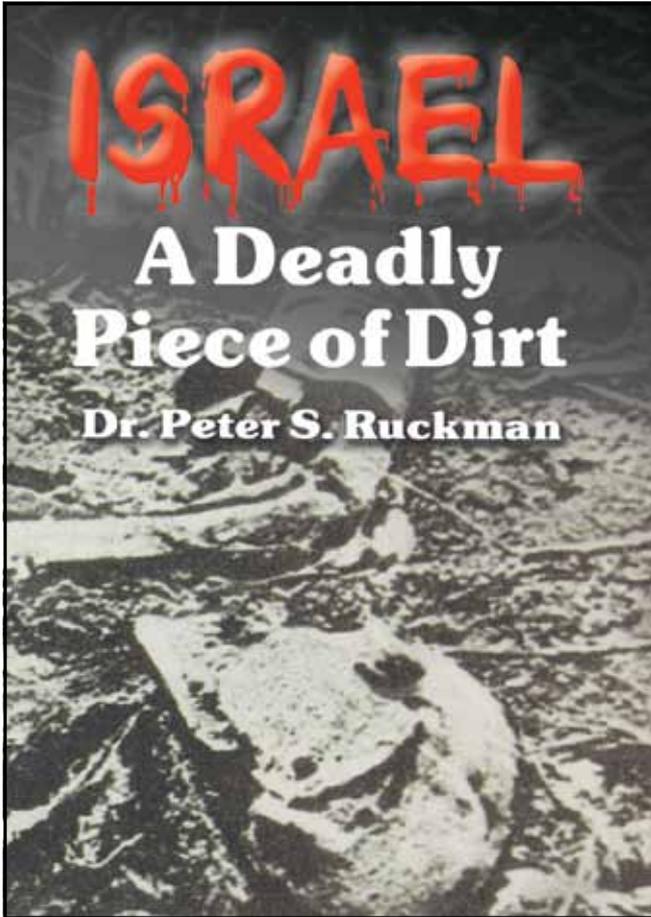
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