

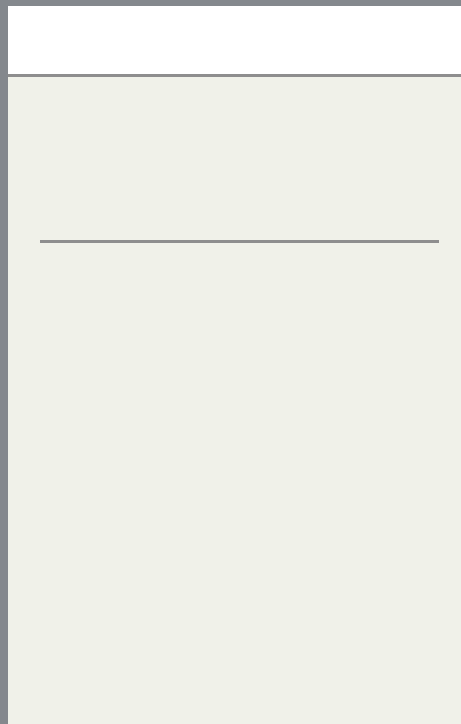
Lighthouse Trails E-Newsletter - May 21, 2025

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LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS RESEARCH PROJECT **May 21, 2025**
LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS RESOURCES

In This Issue



This content will be included.

[“Chicago Public School Students Awarded \\$2.6 Million in Damages for Forced Transcendental Meditation”](#)

[“‘Rewriting the Bible’ and Calling Israel’s War ‘Shameful’: Pope Francis’ Changing Stance on Israel”](#)

[White House Responds to Anti-Trump Ideology Expressed by New Pope](#)

[The Catholic Mass versus The Lord’s Supper by Harry Ironside](#)

[Letter to the Editor: A Former Hindu/New Age Follower Finds the TRUTH](#)

[Warning: Stay Away from “YogaFaith”—So-Called Christian Yoga](#)

[Letter to the Editor: Insights From an 86-Year-Old](#)

[Video by Warren B. Smith – Antichrist’s NewAge/New Gospel](#)

[Booklet Highlight: Calvinism, Catholicism, or Blessed Assurance—Which One Will It Be?](#)

[Supporting Lighthouse Trails](#)

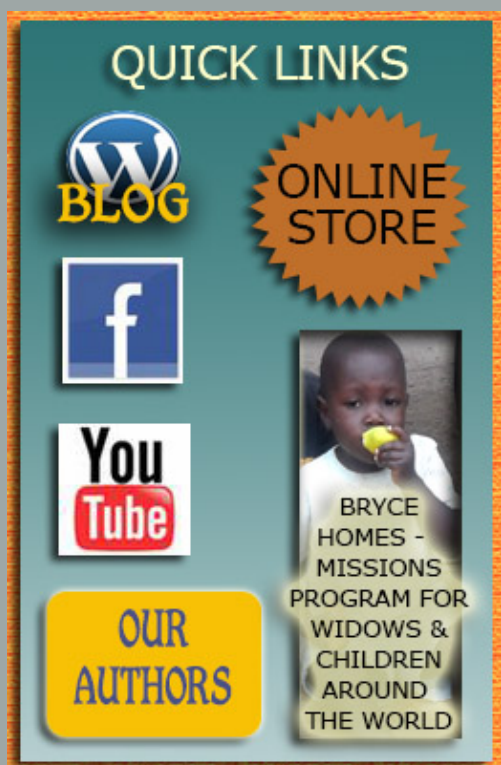
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WHEN PRINTING: To print this e-newsletter, click the green Print button above. There will be an option to remove all images. Also if the PDF format doesn't format well for you, just use the regular print option after you click the green Print button. We have recently improved this feature so that the font size is larger. You may also go to our [blog](#), enter the title of any individual article in the search engine and print just that article in a nice PDF format.

Note: Because we are a research ministry, we do post news articles from various secular and Christian sources along with our own in-house articles if we believe our readers can benefit from the information. We also post video clips from YouTube at times.

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E-NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE
(21 years of newsletters)

“Chicago Public School Students Awarded \$2.6 Million in Damages for Forced Transcendental Meditation”



LTRP Note: The following is posted for informational and research purposes. For many years, Lighthouse Trails has been reporting on public schools that have been making students participate in meditation practices (including mindfulness), often unbeknownst to parents. This class-action settlement described below could start making public school administrators and board members across the country think twice before enforcing their New Age/Eastern religion meditation on the lives of children and teens.

Press Release | By Tom Ciesielka

The Chicago Board of Education and the New York-based David Lynch Foundation will pay out \$2.6 million to former Chicago Public Schools high school students over forced Transcendental Meditation indoctrination. On May 13, 2025, Judge Matthew Kennelly of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois approved the class action settlement.

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Who We Are

Lighthouse Trails is a Christian publishing company and research project ministry. We work with a group of Christian journalists and authors, all who understand the times in which we live from a biblical perspective. While we hope you will buy and read the books and booklets we have published, watch the DVDs we have produced, and support our ministry, we also provide extensive free research, documentation, and news on our Research site, blog, and this e-newsletter. We pray that the products as well as the online research will be a blessing to the body of Christ and a witness to those who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, trusting in Him for the salvation of their souls.

[Click here](#) for contact information.

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INTERNATIONAL IN KENYA SINCE 2011.**
Visit the Understand the Times website for the latest updates on the Bryce Homes International missions outreach in Kenya, helping Christian widows and children.

Categories of Our Resources

The funds will be distributed among 773 individuals who, while students at Chicago public high schools, were either required to participate in Transcendental Meditation as part of their in-school curriculum or were deprived daily of a half-hour of academic instruction and required to maintain silence while their classmates focused their minds on secret mantras.

The Chicago Board of Education partnered with the David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-Based Education and World Peace, which was founded by filmmaker David Lynch to fund Transcendental Meditation instruction in schools. Though presented as a nonreligious exercise, Transcendental Meditation is rooted in Hinduism. The Hindu American Foundation describes the practice as “wholly and unequivocally Hindu.” [Click here](#) to continue reading.

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**“‘Rewriting the Bible’ and
Calling Israel’s War
‘Shameful’: Pope Francis’
Changing Stance on Israel”**



LTRP Note: On April 21, 2025, Pope Francis died. The following news story is posted for informational and research purposes.

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Pope Francis became increasingly vocal in condemning Israel's war against Hamas in the months before his death, including a nativity scene featuring baby Jesus wrapped in a keffiyeh, which was unveiled at Pope Francis' Nativity Scene and Christmas Tree inauguration in December in St. Peter's Square.

"The Pope's inauguration of a nativity scene that showed baby Jesus cradled in a Palestinian keffiyeh is an affront to Jesus, the Bible, and the 80% of Christians who have fled Bethlehem since the Palestinian Authority took over the city" . . .

"Let's be clear. The Pope can't rewrite the Bible – Jesus was a Jew from Judea, not a Palestinian. He was born to a Jewish mother in Bethlehem, in Judea – there was no Palestine" . . .

Pope Francis also suggested the global community study whether Israel's military campaign in Gaza constitutes a genocide of the Palestinian people, in some of his most explicit criticism of Israel last November. [Click here](#) to continue reading.

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Related Reading

["Ailing Pope Francis Hurries to Bolster His Progressive Legacy"](#)

["One World Religion: Pope Francis Signs Historic Covenant With Islam"](#)

[Pope Francis Proposes New Beatitude – to See God in Every Person](#)

[DRESS REHEARSAL FOR A FALSE REVIVAL? – Evangelical, Charismatic, Emerging Leaders, & Pope Francis Unite for "Together 2016" in Washington, DC](#)

[BOOKLET: A Former Nun Speaks Candidly About Pope Francis, Deception, and Mind Control in the Catholic Church](#)

[Jesuit Pope Francis, Pastor Rick Warren And The Coming One-World Religion for Peace](#)

[BOOKLET: Pope Francis and the Thomas Merton Connection](#)

White House Responds to Anti-Trump Ideology Expressed by New Pope



LTRP Note: The following is posted for informational and research purposes.

By Bob Unruh
WorldNetDaily

As cardinal in Catholic church, Prevost had adopted pro-illegal alien agenda.

When Robert Prevost, a Chicago archbishop for the Catholic church, this week was picked to be the new pope, Leo XIV, President Donald Trump wished him well. . . Then surfaced social media statements from Prevost, while a cardinal, that adopted an anti-Trump, pro-illegal immigration agenda. The statements specifically targeted the current White House administration with condemnation.

“A 2014 tweet is going viral where Prevost called Jesus a migrant and some of his social media content has been critical of the president,” the report explained. “Prevost specifically criticized the White House’s actions regarding immigration and in the past has expressed support for progressive causes.” [Click here](#) to continue reading.

(Image of Pope Leo XIV taken from a 2-second video clip at YouTube; used in accordance with the US Fair Use Act)

Related Articles:

"The Only Reason for Picking an American Pope was to Fight Trump" by Daniel Greenfield (Front Page)

"Ailing Pope Francis Hurries to Bolster His Progressive Legacy"

The Catholic Mass versus The Lord's Supper by Harry Ironside



Lighthouse Trails is pleased to release our latest topical booklet *The Catholic Mass versus The Lord's Supper* by Harry Ironside. The booklet is 18 pages long and sells for \$1.95 for single copies. Quantity discounts are available. Our booklets are designed to give away to others or for your own personal use. Below is the content of this new booklet. **To order copies of *The Catholic Mass versus The Lord's Supper*, [click here](#).**

The Catholic Mass versus The Lord's Supper*

By Harry Ironside

I am not here to say anything unkind against the Roman church. As my friend, Brother O'Hair, has reminded you, our government guarantees to every man the right to full liberty of conscience in regard to religious privileges. As we wish to enjoy that liberty ourselves, we are glad to accord it to others. But I simply desire to examine some of the teachings of the Church of Rome and compare them with the teaching of the Word of God, particularly on the great central doctrine of that church, which is called the Sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist, or the Sacrament of the Mass.

THE CRUX OF THE MATTER

Every Roman Catholic priest will tell you that all the claims of the Church of Rome stand or fall with the doctrine of the "real presence" of Christ in the Mass. If the bread and wine used in the Sacrament of the Mass, when consecrated by the priest, are changed in some mysterious way into the body, blood, soul, and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ so that the communicant receiving the bread actually takes into his mouth and eats and digests the body, blood, soul, and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ—if this is true—then the Church of Rome is the true church of Christ, and every one of us should be members of it. But if it is false, if it is absolutely opposed to the teaching of the Word of God, then the Church of Rome is an apostate church, and every faithful believer should come out of her in order that he might not be held accountable for her sins.

It was because some of the reformers of the sixteenth century saw this clearly and were assured in their own hearts that the doctrine of the Church of Rome in regard to the Eucharist or the Mass was absolutely opposed to the Word of God and was not only blasphemous but idolatrous, that they came out in protest against that apostate system; and they won for us, at tremendous cost of Christian blood, the liberty that we now possess. And yet we, unworthy children of such worthy sires, are frittering away our liberty, and we are allowing our children to be ensnared again by this evil system from which our fathers escaped with such tremendous effort.

BASIC TRUTH

I want to call your attention first of all to a passage in Hebrews, which may not seem at first sight to have any reference to the subject in question, but I think we shall see that it not only has reference to it but presents the basic truth in regard to it:

And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (Hebrews 10: 11-17)

Now here is the crucial text that I want you to get, “Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin” (v. 18).

CHRIST’S FINISHED WORK

In the Epistle to the Hebrews, the apostolic writer contrasts the ritual system of the Old Testament dispensation with the glorious work achieved by Jesus Christ when He offered Himself on Calvary’s Cross for our redemption. He draws our attention to the fact that under the old economy, the priest’s work was never done because the sin question was never settled. No sacrifice had been found that was of sufficient value to atone for the sins of the world; and so whenever men sinned afresh, they had to come with a new sacrifice. One offering followed another constantly; therefore, there was not even provision made for the priest to sit down in the tabernacle or in the temple of the Lord. The priest’s work was never done for sin was never put away. But the apostle goes on to say that in those sacrifices, there was an acknowledgment again made of sin from year to year. That is, the worshiper under the Old Testament dispensation came to God in faith, confessing his sin, and brought his animal sacrifice, whether a bullock from the herd, a sheep from the flock, or two birds. He confessed his sin, and these sacrifices were offered for him. They did not cancel his guilt. They did not cleanse his heart. They were rather in the nature of a note that a man gives to his creditor for a debt. A man is owing a certain sum of money. He makes out a note for that sum. He is unable to pay when it is due, so he makes out another note, and in those notes, there is an acknowledgment again made of the debt from year to year. So in the sacrifices of old, there was simply an acknowledgment of sin made year after year. Sometimes when a man must give a note for a debt, he has a wealthy friend who is good enough to endorse that note for him. By endorsing that note, his friend says, “If you are not able to pay when the note becomes due, I pledge myself to pay it for you.”

THE SIN QUESTION SETTLED

When these people of old gave their *notes* to God by bringing their sacrifices again and again, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son still ex-carnate, endorsed every note, and He said:

Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. (Hebrews 10:7)

In the fulness of time, He came, made of a woman, made under the law; and He went to Calvary’s Cross and there, may I say, gathered up and settled for all those notes of the past; and He undertook the full responsibility to the end of time and offered Himself a sacrifice for the sins of men. By that one all-sufficient offering of Himself upon the Cross, He settled the sin question so that now God can be justifier of him who believeth in Jesus.

The sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ had both a backward and a forward aspect. It put away all the sins of the past that had only been covered by the blood of the sacrifices and made ample provision to put away all the sins of the future for every one who would believe on Him. The means by which needy sinners avail themselves of an interest in the finished work of Christ is very simple. The sinner has to take his place before God as a lost, guilty man, owning his iniquity and putting

his trust in the Man who died on the Cross; for, “By him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses” (Acts 13:39).

In this New Testament economy, Christ is the only sacrificing priest. He is the one all-sufficient victim. Christ, having made atonement for sins, rose from the dead, and God has manifested His righteous satisfaction in the work of the Cross by seating Him in Heaven at His own right hand.

A FEAST OF LOVE

Before He went away, our Lord Jesus, foreseeing all this, gave to His disciples that feast of love, which we commonly call “The Lord’s Supper.” In the Lord’s Supper, this mystery of redemption is wonderfully and beautifully pictured. I want to read to you the various Scriptures in the New Testament that refer to it. I am going to read each passage that speaks of this feast of love in order that you, hearing them, may compare them in your own mind with the celebration—that idolatrous celebration; and I ask you to put the questions to yourself: Is there anything here that is remotely connected with this ceremony that myriads have been so occupied with? Is there in this a sin offering? Is there a sacrificing priest? Is there any provision here for incense, any provision for worshipping the Virgin Mary, any provision for a great hierarchy with their brilliant garments? I read the other day that \$200,000.00 worth of priestly garments were ruined by the rain during the celebration at Mundelein. You could put all the apostles, and the 500 who saw the Lord after His resurrection, and all the Christians in the early days, out in the rain and hail, and they would not ruin \$10.00 worth of priestly vestments! Is there anything that compares with the ceremony that has been enacted in this city, which is supposed to be the continuation of that of which our Lord speaks here?

In Matthew, our Lord had just eaten the Passover with His disciples. We read:

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
(Matthew 26:26-28)

How beautiful in its simplicity is this first celebration of the Lord’s Supper! How different to that mysterious ceremony, which is the very center of the Roman Catholic system!

OTHER VERSIONS

Now turn to the Gospel of Mark and get *his* account of the same Supper. See if there is anything that Matthew left out which he has inserted that might give some ground, some basis, for the doctrines that have gathered round the so-called Sacrament of the Mass:

And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. (Mark 14:22-24)

“And as they did eat.” I would draw your attention to that. Every Roman Catholic is instructed to take the Sacrament of the Mass fasting. Have you read that after “they did eat, Jesus took bread.” They were just concluding the Passover meal. And “Jesus took bread.” Mark you, not some special cake marked with the mystic letters “I.H.S.” which are supposed to mean “Iesus Hominum Salvator,” but that might just as well mean the Egyptian deities “Isis,” “Horus,” or “Seb,” as they did ages ago in a similar ceremony.

Now I turn you to the account given by our brother Luke, Doctor Luke, the beloved physician:

And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. (Luke 22:19-20)

PAUL SPEAKS

The apostle John does not give us any account of the institution of the Lord's Supper; but after Christ's ascension and after the conversion of Saul of Tarsus when he became the apostle Paul, a special revelation was given to Paul, and in First Corinthians we get the full account of it:

When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper. For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not. *For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you*, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. (1 Corinthians 11: 20-26; emphasis added)

Observe how this feast links together the two great facts of Christianity—the death of Christ and His second coming. The Lord's Supper is taken in remembrance of One who died, but as we take it, we look forward to and wait for His coming again.

TILL HE COMES

A friend of mine, giving some lectures at a church not long ago, spoke of the second coming of the Lord, and the pastor came up to him after the service and said, “I am sorry that you touched that subject. We

don't believe here in the second coming of Christ."

"Oh, you don't?"

"No."

"What is that table that you have down there in front of the pulpit?"

"That is the Lord's Table."

"What do you do with it?"

"We use it when we take the Lord's Supper."

"What do you take the Lord's Supper for?"

"Because the Word of God tell us to."

"How long are you going to take it?"

"As long as we are here, I suppose."

"What does the Bible say?"

"I don't know what you mean."

"'As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup ye do show the Lord's death till He come.' If you don't believe He is coming again you'd better cut that out. It is a witness that the Christ who died is coming again. He says, While you are waiting for Me, do this in remembrance of Me." Then in the same Epistle, we read:

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? . . . Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. (1 Corinthians 10:16, 21)

THE TEACHING IS CLEAR

I have read these passages because they give you the verses in the New Testament that definitely refer to the Lord's Supper. You can see just what they teach. Our blessed Lord was going out to die, and before He left His disciples, He gave them this memorial feast. There is a striking passage in the book of the prophet Jeremiah in which he is predicting dire judgments coming upon Israel, and he says that so many people will die that there will be none left to break bread for them (that is the marginal reading), nor to give them the cup of consolation. It evidently refers to an old custom that when somebody died, loving friends gathered together with those who were left, and they sat down and ate and drank in memory of the loved one and probably talked of his virtues and tried to comfort his loved ones.

Now our Lord Jesus Christ has come to the end of His thirty-three wonderful years here upon Earth. He is about to go out to die. He came for that purpose. He said, "[T]he Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). Now He has His little company of disciples gathered about Him.

They have kept the Pascal feast, the last Passover that God ever recognized. Actually, they kept the Passover, and Christ died on the same day because the Jewish day began in the evening and went on until the next evening. So the Lord ate the Passover with His disciples on the first evening and before the next evening—between the two evenings—He died on the Cross—Christ, our Passover, sacrificed for us.

A MEMORIAL FEAST

Jesus took bread and held that bread in His hand and said to the disciples, “This is my body which is given for you” (Luke 22:19). Observe: There He sat at the table. He is not indicating that any change takes place in the bread. He is there in His perfectly human body; and He holds this bread in His hand, and He says, “This is my body.” Surely anyone must be blind who cannot see what He is telling them is this: *This bread, I want you to understand, is to bring before you the truth that my body is to be sacrificed for sin.* He had not yet been sacrificed, and yet He speaks as though it had already taken place. “This do in remembrance of me.” And He passes the bread around to them. There is no mysterious priesthood; there are no costly vestments; there are no candles burning in a ceremonial manner; there is no smoking incense ascending. They have partaken of one meal, and then He gives them this beautiful memorial feast. He does not even appoint a clergyman to preside there. He addresses them as brethren, and He says, “This do in remembrance of Me.”

SIMPLE AND BEAUTIFUL

I think the simpler we can be in our thoughts of the Lord’s Supper the better. I read some time ago of a Hindu who was living in a village when a missionary came to that village for the first time and some said to him, “Come. You must see So-and-So.”

The missionary went to this man’s house. When the Hindu saw a white man coming with a Bible, he rose to greet him and bowed at his feet. The missionary said, “Stand up. I am just a man like yourself.”

“Oh,” said the Hindu, “you have come with the Book. I have waited for it for twenty years.”

“How is that?”

“Well, twenty years ago I took a long journey. I heard a man in the market place (he looked like you) read from a book. He told the story of the Great God of Love who sent His Son to die for sinners. I bought a book.” He produced a copy of Matthew’s Gospel all worn so that hardly a leaf was whole. “I took it home. I have eaten that book. I have read it over and over. I have read it to all the people in the village. I have been praying that God would send somebody to tell me more.”

The Hindu asked the missionary to eat with him. Now the host was a little embarrassed. He had a bowl of rice, and he turned to the other man and said, “Before we eat, I always do as Jesus said.”

The missionary did not understand. But he said, “Go ahead. Don’t let me interfere.”

The Hindu closed his eyes, thanked God that Christ had died for him, and then he said, "I eat this rice because the body of my Lord Jesus was nailed on the Cross for me." Then he took the common drink of the land and said, "I drink of this because my Lord Jesus died for me," and he gave some to the missionary, as he had given the rice, and they ate and drank together.

The missionary said, "How long have you been doing this?"

"For twenty years."

"And how often!"

"Every time I eat a meal."

He saw nothing in the Book that would tell him how often. So, I repeat, the simpler we can be the better. It is a memorial—that is all.

REMEMBERING HIS SACRIFICE

A Roman Catholic layman in St. Louis recently put out an advertisement like this: "Catholics believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist; Protestants believe in the real absence." But that is false. Protestants do not believe that the bread and wine undergo any mystic change, but they do believe that as you eat and drink in remembrance of Christ, Christ is present in His sweet and wonderful way, manifesting Himself to the hearts of His beloved people so that by faith they are enabled to feed upon Him. We feed upon Him in remembrance. We look back and think of the sorrows He bore. We contemplate His Cross and bitter passion, and as we do, we—figuratively speaking—eat of His flesh and drink of His blood.

NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN CHRISTIANS

In this feast, Christ gives the bread, and then He gives the wine. He did not separate believers into a clergy and a laity and say to the clergy, "The wine is for you: the bread is simply for the laity." There is no such distinction made in the Bible. For two and a half centuries after Christ's Gospel began to be preached in this world, you will search reputable church history in vain to find such a distinction. There were officials in the church; there were elders; and there were deacons. Elders had a special oversight but no such distinction as the dividing of Christians into the laity and the clergy with the clergy having special access to God and special authority in dispensing divine mysteries. This was unknown in the early days of Christianity, and in those early days, the Lord's Supper was observed in simplicity.

WHEN THE CHANGE OCCURRED

But you go down through the Christian era a few centuries, and you find everything is changed. You enter a Christian church. The Lord's table is conspicuous by its absence. Instead of a table, you have an altar. An altar in a Christian church! The altar belonged to Judaism. But the altar is typical of Christ Himself whose glorious person sanctifies the offering He gives; and second, it typifies the Cross upon which He was uplifted. The Christian's altar is the Cross of Christ, but in these churches of the centuries after Constantine, we find an altar again and, serving there, is a priest with special vestments, not such as were used

by the Jewish priesthood, but vestments which were identical with those worn by the priests of Babylon centuries before. What had brought about the change? Simply this: As long as Christianity was persecuted, as long as the Christian company was under the ban of the Roman government, simplicity and reality prevailed. But the day came when the state became the patron of Christianity, and an effort was made to unite the ancient heathen religion and the Roman Empire with the new Christianity. The result was that little by little pagan forms and ceremonies were brought in and displaced the early Christian forms which were so simple, so beautiful, and so scriptural. The altar was not even taken from Judaism, for no such altar as the altars of Judaism was ever found in so-called Christian churches.

HEATHENISM

A few years ago, I had a company of Indian youths in Oakland, California, that I was educating. I was teaching these young men church history, and one day, to give them a practical lesson, I took them to San Francisco through three Chinese [Buddhist] temples, and then I took them through two Roman Catholic churches. After our visits, I said to these youths, "Now tell me what you saw in each place."

They wrote it all out. They said, "In each building, we found holy water at the door. Each building had an altar. Each building had priests in costly vestments bowing below the altar. Each building had candles and incense. In each building, a bell rang when the worshipers were to kneel down." The Romanist and pagan temples were practically alike!

Anyone who familiarizes himself with the history of the ancient heathen cults can see where all these forms and ceremonies came in that are now linked up with what is called the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The identical customs were practiced by Babylonish priests over 500 years before Christ. There was in the Babylon temples and on the altars an image of a woman with a child in her arms. This woman was said to be the Queen of Heaven. Her child was called the Seed, which was evidently Satan's imitation of the truth involved in the words, "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head." To this woman was sacrificed a bloodless offering consisting of round moon-shaped cakes, and these being presented to her were put upon the altar and the faithful bowed down in reverence before them.

In the book of the prophet Jeremiah, the people had read of the same cult transferred to Palestine and observed afterwards among the dispersed Jews in Egypt:

Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger. (Jeremiah 7:17-18)

The people had turned from their idolatry, but they declare that they are going back to it. In Jeremiah, we read:

Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying, As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the Lord, we will not hearken unto thee. But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. (Jeremiah 44:15-17)

COMPROMISE

This ancient custom of offering these round cakes was taken up by the apostate church. They said, "The best way is to get all the different religions into one, and we can take this heathen rite and turn it into a Christian ceremony. This round cake we will call the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ." That is what is called the host. It must be absolutely round. It is taken into the church and the priest blesses it. If it has a piece broken off of it, anybody can eat it.

The Roman Catholic Church will tell you that this is taught by our Lord when He said, "This is my body which is given for you." But as He said that, He was there with them. He handed them this bread, and they partook of it, clearly giving us to understand that the bread was God's wonderful way of illustrating the value of feeding upon Christ. We feed upon bread, and we get physical strength. We feed upon Christ, and we get spiritual strength.

But now they tell us that the bread is changed when the priest blesses it. We charge that to fall down and worship that piece of bread is an act of idolatry. The Roman Catholic Church says that bread is actually Christ.

They say that at the moment of consecration, Christ comes and enters it. Here is a man making images. You say, "Are these images actually gods?"

"No, not yet."

"When will they become gods?"

"When the priest takes them and blesses them and consecrates them to the deity they represent. Then the deity will come and dwell within them so that when the worshiper bows down he is not worshipping the image but the soul of the divinity that dwells within."

BLASPHEMY AGAINST CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

Is there any difference between that [the ancient heathen traditions] and the Romish doctrine? None whatever. The bread was bread until the priest blessed it, and then in some mystical way, Christ's body, blood, soul, and divinity became identified with it. Worship in the New Testament is only given to God the Father and God the Son in the energy of the Holy Ghost. Then the Roman church tells us that this host is a continual unbloody sacrifice for the sins of the living and the dead.

Christ died once on the Cross, but Christ is offered daily upon the altars of the Roman church. This, we maintain, is a denial of the all-sufficiency of the one offering of our Lord Jesus Christ. As long as sacrifice had not been found that could put away sin, it was necessary for one offering to follow another, but when Christ came into the world and offered Himself without spot unto God, then the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom (Matthew 27:51) thus signifying that the way into the holies is made manifest and every believer is entitled to enter into the very presence of God, washed from every sin and justified from all things through the infinite value of the atoning work of the Son of God. [See Hebrews 6:19; 10:19-22.]

Now, to talk of any man on Earth offering a continual sacrifice for the sins of the living and the dead is not only blasphemy against the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, but it is absolute nonsense for the Word of God says, “[W]ithout shedding of blood is no remission [of sins]” (Hebrews 9:22). It is worthless because being bloodless, it has no value to atone for sin; and it isn’t needed to atone for sin because Jesus’ atonement has already been made [in full].

A REVIVAL OF DOCTRINAL PREACHING

Therefore, I say, there is a tremendous chasm between the Roman Catholic doctrine of the Mass and the biblical doctrine of the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper is a memorial feast. Christians, members of the body of Christ, come together to remember the One who died for them and who put away their sins; and they do this because their sins *have been put away*. No instructed Christian would approach the Lord’s Table to get forgiveness. I come because my sins have been forever put away [as a finished work] by the atoning blood of the Lord Jesus, and I desire gratefully to remember the One who offered that mighty sacrifice and so fitted me for the presence of a holy God.

There can be no compromise between the two systems. While Protestant churches have been sleeping, Rome has been . . . getting a great many weak Protestants who have looked in vain for spiritual help because they have not been hearing the precious Gospel of the grace of God.

But let there be a revival of doctrinal preaching; of the universal priesthood of all believers, doing away with anything like a special priesthood; of the membership in the body of Christ of all who have been washed in the blood of Jesus, justified from all things, by faith in the one offering that has forever settled the sin question; of the Lord’s Supper not as a sacrament but a memorial feast. Let these great truths be re-emphasized, and wherever the Word is preached in faith and dependence upon the Holy Ghost, God will use it to bring joy and peace and gladness to souls.

The Acts of the Early Church **By Roger Oakland**

The early church celebrated communion frequently, and their actions are recorded in the Book of Acts. Let’s look at how the apostles and disciples celebrated communion after Jesus’ ascension. In Acts, we read:

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness. (Acts 2:46)

The Lord's apostles, the very same ones that were present at the Last Supper, broke bread daily, celebrating communion, and not once did they refer to the bread as the literal body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus. Even on Sunday, which is the day that the Lord rose, they referred to communion as mere bread. In a key verse in the Book of Acts, we read, "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread . . ." (Acts 20:7).

Notice that the disciples broke bread on Sunday in remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection. Search as we might, there is no hint in the entire Book of Acts that the disciples considered the communion service as anything but a memorial service. This does not lessen its importance; rather it emphasizes the reason for the communion celebration—to remember the completed work of the Cross and that Jesus is now in Heaven as our triumphant King!

The biblical Gospel teaches that Jesus died once for all time for the sins of the world, having paid the full penalty for sin through the shedding of His blood. Eternal life is promised freely to all who receive Him by faith and are born-again (a spiritual birth). This salvation in no way depends on any of our own works. In contradiction to this, the Catholic way of "salvation" acknowledges an intellectual belief in Christ's atonement but does not make it accessible by faith alone, but is rather pivotal on the recipient's participation in the sacraments, as explained in the Baltimore Catechism when it says: "The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation."¹ Consequently, the Catholic's salvation rests in his own performance, and this is why the Catholic Church also teaches that you can never be sure of your own salvation—and it would be a sin of presumption to think so.

Having elevated the breaking of bread to a position God never intended, the Catholic Church has mistakenly deified bread into becoming a pseudo-Christ, whose pseudo presence is a substitution for the born-again experience, offering false hope in another Jesus.²

"Mrs. Prest"

By John Foxe (from *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*)

During the Reign of Queen Mary (Bloody Mary) in England – [1553-1558]

Mrs. Prest for some time lived about Cornwall, where she had a husband and children whose bigotry compelled her to frequent the abominations of the Church of Rome. Resolving to act as her conscience dictated, she quitted them and made a living by spinning. After some time, returning home, she was accused by her neighbors and brought to Exeter to be examined before Dr. Troubleville and his chancellor Blackston. As this martyr was accounted of inferior intellect, we shall put her in competition with the bishop and let the reader judge which had the most of that knowledge conducive to everlasting life. The

bishop bringing the question to issue respecting the bread and wine being flesh and blood, Mrs. Prest said, "I will demand of you whether you can deny your creed, which says that Christ does perpetually sit at the right hand of His Father, both body and soul, until He comes again; or whether He be there in heaven our Advocate and to make prayer for us unto God His Father? If He be so, He is not here on earth in a piece of bread. If He be not here, and if He do not dwell in temples made with hands but in heaven, why shall we seek Him here? If with one offering He made all perfect, why do you with a false offering make all imperfect? If He is to be worshipped in spirit and in truth, why do you worship a piece of bread [the Eucharist]? Alas! I am a poor woman, but rather than to do as you do, I would live no longer. I have said, Sir."

Some persons present convinced the bishop she was not in her right senses and she was permitted to depart. The keeper of the bishop's prisons took her into his house where she either spun, worked as a servant, or walked about the city discoursing upon the Sacrament of the altar. Her husband was sent for to take her home, but this she refused while the cause of religion could be served. During the liberty granted her by the bishop, before-mentioned, she went into St. Peter's Church and there found a skillful Dutchman who was affixing new noses to certain fine images which had been disfigured in King Edward's time. To him she said, "What a mad man you are to make new noses for those who shall all lose their heads." The Dutchman accused her and laid it hard to her charge. But she said to him, "You are accursed, and so are your images." He called her a whore. "No," said she, "your images are whores and you are a whore-hunter; for doesn't God say, 'You go a whoring after strange gods, figures of your own making'? You are one of them." After this she was ordered to be confined and had no more liberty.

During the time of her imprisonment, many visited her, some sent by the bishop and some of their own will. Among these was one Daniel, a great preacher of the gospel in the days of King Edward, but who, through the grievous persecution he had sustained, had fallen off. Earnestly did she exhort him to repent with Peter and to be more constant in his profession.

Mrs. Walter Rauley, Mr. William, and John Kede, persons of great respectability, bore ample testimony of her godly conversation, declaring, that unless God were with her, it was impossible she could have so ably defended the cause of Christ. Indeed, to sum up the character of this poor woman, she united the serpent and the dove, abounding in the highest wisdom joined to the greatest simplicity. She endured imprisonment, threatenings, taunts, and the vilest epithets, but nothing could induce her to swerve; her heart was fixed; nor could all the wounds of persecution remove her from the rock on which her hopes of felicity were built.

Such was her memory that, without learning, she could tell in what chapter any text of Scripture was contained: on account of this singular property, one Gregory Basset, a rank papist, said she was deranged and talked as a parrot, wild without meaning. At length, having tried every manner without effect to make her nominally a Catholic, they condemned her.

When sentence was read condemning her to the flames, she lifted up her voice and praised God, adding, "This day have I found that which I have long sought." When they tempted her to recant, she said, "That will I not. God forbid that I should lose the life eternal for this carnal and short life. I will never turn from my heavenly husband to my earthly husband; from the fellowship of angels to mortal children; and if my husband and children be faithful, then am I theirs. God is my father, God is my mother, God is my sister, my brother, my kinsman; God is my friend, most faithful."

Being delivered to the sheriff, she was led by the officer to the place of execution without the walls of Exeter called Sothenhey, where again the superstitious priests assaulted her. While they were tying her to the stake, she continued earnestly to exclaim "God be merciful to me, a sinner!" Patiently enduring the devouring conflagration, she was consumed to ashes and thus ended a life which in unshaken fidelity to the cause of Christ was not surpassed by that of any preceding martyr.

To order copies of *The Catholic Mass versus The Lord's Supper*, [click here](#).

Endnotes:

1. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (New York, NY: Doubleday, First Image Books edition, Second Edition, April 1995), para. 1129, p. 319.
2. This section by Roger Oakland is from his book *Another Jesus: the eucharistic christ and the new evangelization* (Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2007, 2nd printing 2020), pp. 51-52, 61-62.

*This booklet is taken from a sermon that Harry Ironside gave at Moody Memorial Church in Chicago on June 27, 1926. He gave the talk in response to a Catholic Eucharistic meeting that had just been held in Chicago. Lighthouse Trails editors have made certain small grammatical edits in order to convert a spoken sermon to a written text that is consistent with Ironside's fine writing style in his written works. The last two sections of the booklet are from Roger Oakland's book, *Another Jesus* and John Foxe's book, *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*.

Letter to the Editor: A Former Hindu/New Age Follower Finds the TRUTH



LTRP Note: This letter to the editor was written to us this past weekend.

I can identify somewhat with [the LT [May 5, 2025 article](#) warning about Yoga]. Want to share part of my testimony but can't do so without referring to myself. I live in a suburb of London, England and used to visit a second-hand bookstore in my little area. Was searching for spiritual books, esoteric, yoga etc. Surprisingly found a lot there. The store owner was a conspiracy-theory type of person into UFOs and weird things. Had a Tarot card reader in a tiny booth inside the tiny store. Well, I found *Gods of the New Age* by Caryl Matrisciana in there one time and actually purchased it because I wanted to know what "crazy" Christians thought about Hinduism etc. At the time (around 2007), I remember thinking while reading this book that it was absolutely crazy and stupid. But for some reason I didn't throw it out.

I think it was because of some similarities between Caryl's story and my own that I kept the book. But a seed was planted that sprouted 6 years later in my life. I had forgotten completely about that book until my meditation practice came to a dead end due to having automatic movements of my body while sitting down still. All I wanted was for the movements to stop so I could concentrate while meditating. But they continued against my will. I had a huge collection of New Age type books—more Hinduism and psychology than New Age—and had recently purchased another book about Bhaktis in India who go into trances and get "Divine" possession. I noticed similarities between these automatic body movements, which included strange breath holding stuff, and it felt like a force was trying to rise up out of my throat and speak, so I made a guttural sound with my throat, and I'd heard that type of noise in some trance mediums I had listened to on the Internet. So basically, I suspected I might have been possessed.

I started searching online about all this. I kept on coming across Bible references. Then I strayed upon a YouTube video of a girl who was Indian who had left Yoga and come to Christ. Her experiences were very similar to mine so I emailed her, and she replied. She was extremely gracious to me even though I was rude to her initially. I kept on thinking about that; and it wasn't so much what she said to me but that she never retaliated or got angry with me, and that really impressed me. I was a lost person of course and antagonistic towards Christians. (My interactions with them over the years online was negative, but I followed the teachings of a Yogi who blended Hinduism with Christianity—interesting isn't it?) So this girl recommended I read a book called *Occult Invasion* by Dave Hunt. I got the book. And boy did that hit me over the head! I had a collection of around 3000 spiritual books on most topics—science, psychology, yoga, philosophy, Hinduism, Buddhism, and a few New Age ones. As I read Dave's book, my eyes were opened to the fact that practically all these books I had were being debunked by Dave in every chapter of his book, and he linked loads.



So I decided to buy a *King James Bible* when I searched on Amazon. I didn't know anything about translations or that there were big study Bibles. And I don't know why I chose a KJB. It was just plain text, no notes, no concordance, nothing. But Dave Hunt mentioned prophecy in the Bible so I started to check out the places in the Old Testament that predicted Jesus. The more I read, the more excited I became. I couldn't believe that right there, in front of my own eyes, in black and white print was a real, verified, evidential and blatant supernatural phenomena that was printed and unalterable. I had experienced some odd things in meditation, but it was all subjective. I had even experienced demonic things in various ways, some of which was semi-objective. But now I had real proof, real evidence of the supernatural, and it was in the Bible! God drew me in, and I remembered Caryl's book at that time too. Then I discovered that she had been friends with Dave Hunt. What a surprise! There I was, years earlier, mocking the whole thing, and now I couldn't deny what I knew and was seeing. As I read the Bible a little more, it started to actually take on the quality of being alive; with my own eyes, I was staring at the pages, and light was coming off of them! Living light! Then God regenerated me, and I was born again. Praise be to God! It was a most awesome thing. God changed me in only the way God could have. Otherwise I would probably still be a lost person today.

God is magnificent, majestic, Holy, light, life, peace, joy, perfect, pure, good. The peace of His presence was utterly beautiful; I could feel it tangibly. Heaven will be flooded with that tranquility forever and ever, what a mind-blowing thing! What utter beauty and bliss and joy! We down here on Earth can't even fathom how awesome eternity will be; our minds cannot really contain it.

What a blessing Dave Hunt was. And Caryl. And some others. Sadly, Dave Hunt passed away a few months before I was saved so I never got a chance to talk to him. I look forward to seeing him and telling him that his influence led to my salvation. And to think—he grew up in California around the corner from the Yogi's church, the guru I was stuck with before. What an amazing set of coincidences.

So if you want to know if yoga is bad, yes it is—it creates demon possession. Yogis hate Jesus, and they hate Christians and Christianity. I know that, because that used to be me.

David

(images from bigstockphoto.com; used with permission)

Warning: Stay Away from “YogaFaith”—So-Called Christian Yoga



YogaFaith is an organization that has been around for more than a decade that teaches and promotes what they call “Christian Yoga.” However, as Lighthouse Trails has shown for many years, there is no such thing as Christian Yoga. It’s an oxymoron because the two terms are diametrically opposed to each other.

A number of years ago, we read an article by a Hindu professor (of Hindu University of America) titled “**Yoga Renamed is Still Hindu.**” In the article, Professor Subhas Tiwari stated:

The simple, immutable fact is that yoga originated from the Vedic or Hindu culture. Its techniques were not adopted by Hinduism, but originated from it. . . . Efforts to separate yoga from its spiritual center reveal ignorance of the goal of yoga. . . . If this attempt to co-opt yoga into their (Christians) own tradition continues, in several decades of incessantly spinning the untruth as truth through re-labelings such as “Christian yoga,” who will know that yoga is—or was—part of Hindu culture?

After reading that article, we e-mailed Dr. Tiwari and received a response from him. He gave us permission to share some of it with our readers:

Hello and Namaste,

Namaste is a universal Hindu greeting which recognizes and bows to that Divinity within you.

Mantra and its practice is a core component in Hinduism. The language of Sanskrit which predates any and all languages known to humanity, and which hasn't evolved and become something other than what it has been from its inception, forms the oldest mantra, the first cosmic sound of OM (aum). One of the four sacred spiritual scriptures the Vedas, the Sama Veda is written in chants. The written forms of the Veda are pegged at 3500 to 5000+ BCE. (They are recited all over the world among Hindus exactly as they have been handed down). . . .

Hinduism and its offshoot spiritual traditions, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, have never chosen the path which states that we are superior to everyone else and therefore deserve to engage in crusades and conversionism on global scale. That would be incongruent to our core belief tenets which holds all creatures are part of the Divine creation, and equal in the eyes of that divine parent. The moment we lose sight or consciously choose to believe and behave otherwise means we are acting from a place of limitation, superiority, arrogance and according to Vedanta, from a place of individual and global ignorance, avidya. Imagine any religious or spiritual tradition which defines its strength based on converting that which is already divine in nature, and the audacity to claim that they are doing the work of that Divine? There is only one Divine.

Sincere Regards, Subhas

Professor Tiwari set the record straight. There is no such thing as "Christian" Yoga, even though a fast-growing number of Christians, especially Christian women, are involved in "Christian Yoga" classes through organizations such as YogaFaith.

Nearly twenty years ago, we posted a portion of an article titled "There Is No Christian Yoga" written by Yogi Baba Prem, who is a Hindu Yogi, a Vedavisharada trained in the traditional gurukural system. In his article, he stated:

It was quite astonishing to see on the flyer "Christian Yoga! This Thursday night. . . ." I could feel the wheels spinning in my brain. "Christian Yoga," I thought. Now while Christians can practice yoga, I am not aware of any Christian teachings about yoga. Yoga is not a Judeo/Christian word! It is not a part of the Roman Catholic teachings and certainly not a part of protestant teachings. It is not found within the King James Version of the Bible. It is a Hindu word, or more correctly a Sanskrit word from the Vedic civilization. So how did we get "Christian Yoga"? (source)

Yoga is like a "gateway drug" because it can lead to more intense forms of occultic New Age meditation; and tragically, a growing number of Christians (and churches) are engaging in Yoga practices. If you know someone who is practicing "Christian Yoga" or any other Yoga activity,

we encourage you to ask him or her to read the material Lighthouse Trails has provided, warning about Yoga. Two of our authors, Chris Lawson and Ray Yungen, have written excellent booklets on Yoga. These may be purchased inexpensively or can be printed for free from this site:

[“YOGA and Christianity – Are They Compatible?”](#) by Chris Lawson

[YOGA: Exercise or Religion—Does it Matter?](#) by Ray Yungen

We also have [a database on Yoga](#) with over 100 articles and reports. And if you have never watched Caryl Productions documentary called *Yoga Uncoiled*, we encourage you to do so. Caryl Matrisciana, who was raised in India and later became deeply involved in the New Age movement (before becoming a Christian believer) leaves no room for question in her film that “Christian Yoga” is a New Age practice and a great deception. Her film can be [watched on YouTube for free](#) or purchased as a [DVD](#).

Incidentally, it’s worth noting that YogaFaith founder and lead trainer [Michelle Thielen](#) presented an online class in 2023 called [“The Enneagram for Spiritual Formation.”](#) Both of those practices ([Enneagram](#) and [Spiritual Formation](#)) are frequently addressed at Lighthouse Trails because of their New Age/occultic roots. Thielen has also been quoted in an [article in Yoga Journal](#) that was promoting Yoga in public schools. Thielen stated: “Sometimes I just have to scratch my head. . . . I’m like, “Christians, are you not reading your Bible? Because meditation is in there.” So is chanting, mudras, and even some of the yoga postures.”

(Image is from the cover of Chris Lawson’s booklet, *Yoga and Christianity – Are They Compatible?*)

Letter to the Editor: Insights From an 86-Year-Old



Dear Friends at Lighthouse Trails:

At 86, my days here under the sun are waning, and that's fine with me. I don't make plans for the future—my future is secure in my Lord and Savior Jesus.

But I'm really writing to thank you for how you have blessed me over the years, for all the booklets from you which I've given out to bless others. All the wonderful books warning about the "New Age" (really old-age) spirituality, books by Ray Yungen, warnings from Warren Smith, truths about *The Shack*, *The Chosen*, Calvinism, truths about Israel and the promised Kingdom. I could go on and on.

The Lord rescued me from 31 years of Armstrongism, sending me in search of a "good" church. Believe me, I tried many. "Water baptism" groups, Rick Warren's heresy, charismatic (the need for a "second filling" of the Spirit—because we leak!!), other wild, wild groups—falling down, etc. The very last group I tried is an offshoot of the Plymouth Brethren. They call themselves an "Assembly." There are two kinds—the "Open" and the "Closed." They are both controlling with the Closed being most severe. Both believe women or all females should wear some kind of head-covering. The Closed enforce that, the Open prefer it; and you are made to feel you're more holy (a better Christian) if you wear one. In those Assemblies, women are second-class. So, after this last experience (about eight years ago), I decided to stay home. I now fellowship by phone, mail, and in-person with others who've also given up the "search for a church" as well.

I have wondered for a long time what would cause people to be under such strong delusion that they would take the mark of the beast. I believe your ministry has answered that question. New Age spirituality, pantheism [all is God], panentheism [God is in all], the "god" within, etc. It appears what we're experiencing now is a pre-cursor to the final deception. I wonder if about half of America (other nations too) have bought into that lie. How else could people actually think homosexuality, gay marriage, and transgenderism are OK? They have to be under a strong delusion, with schools, businesses, clubs, gyms, and even churches teaching that all this is good, normal, and even beneficial.

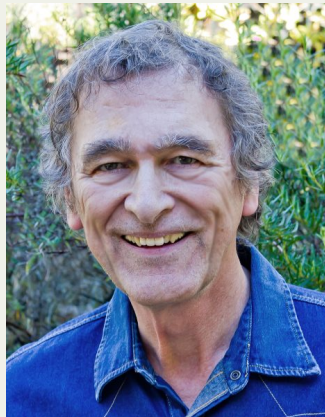
So, thank you for allowing God – through the Holy Spirit—to work through you in all the help and warnings you have published.

With love and gratitude as we continue loving and believing our Great God and Savior.

Norma

LTRP Note: See some of the [interesting comments](#) made by our readers regarding Norma's letter (click the link and scroll down to comments section).

Video by Warren B. Smith – Antichrist's NewAge/New Gospel



Former New Ager Warren B. Smith presents a lecture video on his YouTube channel called [Antichrist's NewAge/New Gospel](#). This New Gospel will most likely be the deceptive leaven that will unite all the world's religions one day. Examples are given on how this New Age/New Gospel leaven has already entered a very undiscerning Christian church.

Warren Smith's YouTube Channel has dozens of lecture videos. Smith is also the author of [10 books and numerous Lighthouse Trails topical booklets](#). On his website, www.newagetoamazinggrace.com, there are dozens of articles and other information.

Booklet Highlight: *Calvinism, Catholicism, or Blessed Assurance —Which One Will It Be?*



**A Lighthouse Trails booklet.
By David Dombrowski**

When I was a boy, about eight years old, a stranger in a Safeway grocery store parking lot gave my mother a plaque he had cast of plaster of paris that bore the words, “In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:6). Mom had a special devotion to the Lord because as a child of about twelve years of age, after losing both her parents to mushroom poisoning, she knelt alone in a small chapel in Poland and invited Jesus into her heart. This was not something she was told to do but rather something she longed to do that she might have the life-long companionship of God in a world that had enclosed her with loneliness. There was something unique about her relationship with God in that it was somewhat spontaneous and very personal, though she had been raised in the Catholic Church where being Catholic meant going to Mass and receiving Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Her strong belief in Jesus being the Son of God giving His life on the Cross for the sins of the world always burned in her heart as she knew Him as her personal Savior—sadly, something most Catholics miss due to the Catholic Church’s misrepresentation of the Gospel. And, like most Catholics, I too missed the meaning of the true Gospel (a gift entirely from God that offers redemption fully and salvation freely to all who put their trust in Christ).

My mother hung that plaque on our wall, and it became a witness to me that God was available and desired to have a personal relationship with me. At the age of 22, while serving in the U.S. Army in Germany, I too invited Jesus into my heart knowing He had died for all my sins and was inviting me into a new life with Him.¹

Some years after my mother had received Christ in Poland as a young girl, she received word from her uncle in Portland, Oregon that he very much wanted her to live with him until she could establish herself on

her own. He made all the arrangements for her to cross the Atlantic to New York harbor and from there to go by train to Portland, Oregon (where she would later meet my father). Shortly after her excursion from Poland, Hitler's troops invaded the country; chances are great that she may have never survived the war if she had stayed because the area in Poland where she grew up was closely bordering Germany. But God knew, and He provided the way of escape.

Ironically, fifty years after my mother received the Lord, I was in Germany and likewise invited Jesus into my heart and within that year, having completed my service in the military, returned home to Portland, Oregon.

While in Germany, I too encountered some life-threatening challenges, but God delivered me from these dangers. Looking back, I can see His handiwork in my life. I can only affirm that God is love and God is faithful. As Jeremiah declared during a most turbulent time in Jewish history:

It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They [His mercies] are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

The True Nature or a Distorted View of God

One thing I have learned in my walk with the Lord is that it is crucial that we attribute to God His very nature because we, as believers, take on the shape of our depiction of God. John Calvin depicted God as a monster, and he himself became a monster. Read the bio of his theology, life, and ministry, and you will see this is true.² It is both fortunate and conversely unfortunate that our view of God has a way of shaping us. There is a danger to the hardening of the heart that can occur if we entertain our minds with depictions of God that are not real. The resulting damage to the soul can be extreme as the Psalmist declares:

With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright; With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward. For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks. (Psalm 18:25-27)

God will bring down high looks, but He will bless those who bless Him, who esteem Him, and who attribute to Him His true nature. And to view God as an unloving hard-hearted deity or the author of sin (as John Calvin did) is nothing short of blasphemy.

A Powerful Yet Dangerous System

Calvinism is perhaps the most powerful force sweeping through the church today as it has been revived as never before—now promoted in most Bible colleges and seminaries. We often hear from proponents of Calvinism that the reason they embrace Calvinism is because it is the one thing that offers a full assurance of salvation, but the only true assurance of salvation is in knowing that God is faithful to His Word.

Even though the word “predestination” is not used in the Bible to directly signify salvation (I will explain this later), John Calvin used it to formulate a gospel of complete assurance. His idea was that God has already decided who will go to Heaven and who will go to Hell, and there is nothing anyone (including yourself) can do about it. This, in one sense, is very comforting if you can know that you are among the “elect.” But the problem is that, while this may seem very comforting to the novice, Calvinist scholars understand, as did John Calvin himself, that this “belief” system actually offers no true assurance at all because it is impossible to know if you are among the elect. The only thing you can be sure of with this system is that if you are “predestined for Hell,” you are sure to go there because that is God’s “pleasure,” and there is absolutely nothing you can do about it.

It is interesting to note here that the Hegelian Formula (a branch of philosophy) states that when a thesis (an idea) is combined with an anti-thesis (a counter idea), the resulting synthesis achieves a higher level of truth; but with Christianity, when truth is mixed with error or light with darkness, the resulting grey area is very dangerous as Harry Ironside pointed out:

Error is like leaven of which we read, “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (Galatians 5:9). Truth mixed with error is equivalent to all error, except that it is more innocent looking and, therefore, more dangerous. God hates such a mixture! Any error, or any truth-and-error mixture, calls for definite exposure and repudiation. To condone such is to be unfaithful to God and His Word and treacherous to imperiled souls for whom Christ died.³

I fear for the church of today; and I think that perhaps at the present moment Calvinism may be the greatest danger because, just as Ironside describes, it looks very innocent. In fact, over the years Calvinism has been building momentum as its leaders have grasped the Olympic torch of academia and “biblical” scholarship and run with it. Consequently, many who are looking for a deeper and biblical walk with the Lord are embracing it, which Bible colleges and seminaries are welcoming with open arms. Indeed, many of today’s biblical scholars are Calvinists who like to quote John Calvin’s axiom *sola scriptura* to maintain that truth is found only in the Scriptures.

However, the sad truth about John Calvin is that while he was correct in asserting that spiritual truths need to be derived solely from Scripture, his life and ministry (theology) largely contradicted the Bible. In life, he started his own inquisition in Geneva where he was directly or indirectly involved with the tortuous deaths of dozens of people, whose crimes were to disagree with his convoluted teachings. Among those whom he most hated were the Anabaptists who disagreed with his practice of infant baptism. His theology was excised largely, not from Scripture but from the writings of Augustine (a Greek philosopher turned Christian). While Augustine did much to reshape biblical Christianity into what became the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church and the foundations of Medieval thought, John Calvin hopped the train of the Reformation and embedded in it the doctrines of his tainted thinking.

Before I go any further, please allow me to offer my observations on philosophy, having been a student of philosophy myself. Oftentimes, philosophers will frown at Christianity as lacking logic. In the case of Augustine having formerly been a Greek philosopher, he thought he could use his skills of logic to reformulate Christianity into its various doctrines expressed in a logical and orderly manner. But the problem is not that Christianity is illogical but that we typically lack the insight to tackle spiritual matters using earthly logic. Even Paul, whom I consider to be the greatest theologian of all time, spoke of his own understanding when he said, "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Paul found great wisdom and insight in Christianity though he had formerly persecuted the church. When he encountered the Greek philosophers on Mars Hill,⁴ they were much entertained by his thinking, but they could never wrap their minds around the simplicity of the Gospel. That is why Paul could say,

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. (1 Corinthians 1:18-30)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

The real problem the philosophers of Paul's time had was not that they were too smart for Paul but that the one and true God who created everything was, in their case "THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom . . . ye ignorantly worship" (Acts 17:23); and most of them were too proud to really hear Paul. Pride has a way of stopping the ears of the proud while the humble have ears to hear: "Howbeit certain men clave unto

him, and believed” (Acts 17:34). The folly of the proud was that they trusted in their *own* wisdom, making their skills at reason and dialogue their own god and final authority.

As far as we can know, Calvin most likely never came to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. He, too, fell under the spell of exalting his own reasoning above the truth of the Gospel while looking to the writings of Augustine to confirm his errant thought to be true. Although he considered himself to be a humble man, his ruthless and demonic way of treating Christians who disagreed with his thinking reflects a whole other side to John Calvin that Calvinists would want to dismiss, but this is also at the peril of countless people who look to Calvinism to secure their own salvation. Consider, for example, some words Calvin addressed to God in his will shortly before he died in 1564:

I testify also and profess that I humbly seek from God, *that He may so will me* to be washed and purified by the great Redeemer’s blood, *shed for the sins of the human race*, that it may be permitted me to stand before His tribunal under the covert of the Redeemer Himself.⁵ (italics in original; underline added)

Though he here refers to himself as “humbly” seeking God for his own salvation, the words “that He may so will me” betray the contradictory and fatalistic nature of Calvin’s belief and conduct. While he acknowledges the efficacy of Jesus’ death on the Cross for the sins of mankind, he refuses to recognize its availability to all as revealed in all of Scripture, particularly the Gospels.

Consider, for example, how Jesus, in speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well, referred to the salvation He was offering as water freely given—as “a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14). The Jewish religious leaders of the day frowned upon the Samaritans, and the path to Heaven they offered was paved with many obstacles and burdens too heavy to carry. Sadly, and as Paul warned would happen, the apostate “Christian” church soon followed after them, placing heavy yokes upon believers and distorting the truth of the Gospel. It wasn’t that long before the Roman Catholic Church began to form, claiming that Peter had been their first pope and absorbing much of the teachings and doctrines, not from the Bible, but from so-called “church fathers” and mystics who received much of their inspiration from mind-altering techniques borrowed from the east.⁶

This abandonment of the Scriptures led, as we should expect, not to revival but to a period in Western history known by terms such as “the middle ages,” “the medieval period,” or “the dark ages.” This was also a period of history when the Scriptures were withheld from the people and only spoon-fed by the clergy, who were deemed the only ones able to properly interpret the Bible. This period was marked by crusades conducted with sword and spear and inquisitions conducted under papal authority by fire and unbelievable tortures. The demons laughed as they witnessed the fruit of their labors. Long forgotten were Scriptures like 1 John 4:8 that says, “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

Ironically, Calvin, who claimed to be a reformer, followed suit and became what was known as “the Protestant Pope” with a reputation spanning continental Europe, though his treatment of humanity was brutal.

Words nearly fail me to express my heart-felt sense of dismay and urgency at the tremendous loss to the true Gospel reaching the hearts of God’s people.

As a Christian, there are two things that concern me most greatly. The first, as it should be, is for the Gospel to reach the unsaved as it really is, unpolluted by human “wisdom” and innovations. The second is for Christians to recognize how much of what we call “the church” has diverged from the truth and simplicity of the Gospel.

I don’t question that there are a good number of Catholics (like my mother) and Calvinists (who are growing exponentially in number) who are truly saved, but they are saved only because they have put their trust in Jesus who shed His blood at Calvary to redeem us and cleanse us from all sin. But I fear for those who have never actually put their faith in Christ for His free gift of salvation—simple and uncomplicated—but have exchanged it for burdensome religion founded on earthly logic and philosophical reasoning. As a former Catholic, I know all too well that the Catholic version of the Gospel is not founded on the one-time sacrifice of Christ at Calvary (as described in chapters 9 and 10 in Hebrews) and received by faith alone but on the works-based sacraments, in particular the sacrament of the Eucharist where Christ is re-sacrificed daily at the altar as a “non-bloody sacrifice.” This sacrament offers a way to earn the free gift of salvation. All of this is contradictory to the Scriptures and to true logic.

Likewise, Calvinism requires that the Scriptures be altered to create its own version of the Gospel. In a nutshell, Calvinism is actually the philosophic religion of fatalism. Its chief precept is that God has unalterably predetermined who will go to Heaven or Hell. Its formulation is philosophic logic that goes like this:

Premise: God is sovereign, and everything He does is for His pleasure. If God is sovereign, then everything that happens in the universe and all of creation is His will. If everything is His will, then:

- God is the author of all good.
- God is the author of all evil.
- God is the author of sin.
- God delights in sending people to Heaven.
- God also delights in sending many more to Hell.

If all the above is true, then man can have no free will.

The reasoning, as one can see, goes on and on, which could lead us to one final conclusion: If God can only be sovereign when everything is His will, then He has given everyone absolutely *no* free will. He makes people sin and then punishes them in an eternal Hell for sinning—and this is all for God’s pleasure. Sadly, this is what the *more seasoned* Calvinists are teaching. In doing so, they are describing God to be a monster, yet I don’t know of any Calvinist who would admit to this. But, this is what they do, continually and all the time. God is

insulted, even blasphemed, yet they do not seem to know they are doing it. That is delusion. It is what happens to Calvinists who have allowed human logic to overrule a heart-felt appreciation they should have for who God really is—a God of love.

Though it is claimed to be so, there is no actual eternal security in Calvinism. Just as with philosophical fatalism, Calvinistic fatalism works in the same way in that we are all doomed/chosen to what God has already ordained for us, and there is nothing we can do to change that.

The problem with Calvin's "God" is that "He" is totally unbiblical and incomparable to the God of the Bible. According to the Bible, "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5); He has never and will never sin; therefore, He cannot be the author of sin or evil. "God is love" (1 John 4:8); therefore, there is no wickedness with God. Calvin was a wicked man, having lived the life of a despot, but his wickedness was his own doing and only reflected the character of the god of his own imagination. When Calvinist teacher, A.W. Pink says that no one can resist the will of God,⁷ this would even mean that someone like Hitler was not able to resist God's will and that he (Hitler) was only doing what God wanted him to do. How could God be called just and righteous for not only causing men to do evil but then condemning them for doing what they could not even control?

Calvin's God Too Small

There is another difference between Calvin's god and the God of the Bible: Calvin's god is too small. His god could only be sovereign if man had no free will. The only way Calvin's god could be sovereign would be if man were a puppet on a string with God pulling the strings. The God of the Bible is much greater and more powerful than this. He can be sovereign, even though He has given man free will, while God's light penetrates the darkness of our world; and He is brilliant enough to work all things together for good. While the God of the Bible is big enough to be sovereign even while man has free will, Calvin's god lacks the ability, greatness, and intelligence to do this. The more one studies Calvinism, the more apparent it becomes that to make the Calvinist scenario work, extensive alteration of not only the Scriptures but of God Himself must take place.

The Foundation

The foundation of one's faith is always what's most important, just as the foundation of a building is most critical. What is the foundation of the Christian faith? It is Jesus Himself as presented in the Gospel. The Gospel tells us that when we place our faith and trust in Christ, who paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world, God forgives us, cleanses us, and we are born again as the Holy Spirit now indwells us. This salvation is freely given because Jesus paid the price of our redemption in full, way back at Calvary. The words "New Testament" is a legal term that really means "New Covenant" whereby God inscribes His righteous nature on the tablet of our hearts in place of the tablets of stone Moses gave—which exposed the sinfulness of man's heart but lacked the power to transform us to a godly nature.

Having been raised as a Catholic, I can see now that the foundation of my faith as a Catholic was not in trusting in the one-time sacrifice of Christ at Calvary but in the continual re-sacrificing of Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist (communion) and my participation in it. There was never an altar call for me to come to receive Christ by faith and be born again because I was taught that I was already a Christian by virtue of having been baptized as a baby. Not until I was 22 did I recognize that I was lost and needed to receive Christ as my Savior. I should add, however, that while the Roman Catholic Church still adheres to salvation through participation in the sacraments with the Eucharist being the focal point of the Mass, Catholicism is gradually being transformed through mysticism and aligning itself with New Age practices and beliefs. Roman Catholicism has never claimed that one can be assured of one's salvation. Being works based, it sees such assurance as being presumptuous and prideful. The inroads of mysticism into the church perhaps is filling that void of assurance in that New Age mysticism is pantheistic (or panentheistic) in believing that we are one with and a part of God and therefore in no need of a savior.

In the case of Calvinism, John Calvin's foundation for the faith was his doctrine of predestination which, like the sacrament of the Eucharist, looks innocent but ends up placing a barrier between us and our ability to receive the Gospel. While the doctrine of predestination purports to offer assurance of salvation, in reality, it places doubts in the minds and hearts of people. The problem is that it is an unworthy substitute for the truth of the Gospel.

It should be noted that the word for predestination only appears four times in the Bible—in Romans 8:29 and 30 as predestinate and in Ephesians 1:5 and 11 as predestinated; and in none of these instances is it referring to the experience of salvation. In fact, Romans 8:30 draws a distinction between predestination and salvation by using separate terms: "Moreover whom he did predestinate . . . them he *also justified*" (emphasis added). The meaning of the word "predestination" is actually found in the word itself: God has prepared a destination for the believer—for us to be like Christ ("to be conformed to the image of his Son . . ."—Romans 8:29) and to "obtain an inheritance" (Ephesians 1:11). Paul goes on to say in Ephesians, "*after* that ye believed, ye *were sealed* with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession . . ." (Ephesians 1:13-14; emphasis added). Here Paul is using legal language to say that God has prepared a place for those who put their trust in Christ! And Jesus did say, "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2).

There is much comfort that can be derived from a proper understanding of predestination, while Calvin's understanding of the term plays havoc on the minds of seasoned Calvinists. Consider, for example, this confession from the late R.C. Sproul (d. 2017):

A while back I had one of those moments . . . suddenly the question hit me: 'R.C., what if you are not one of the redeemed? What if your destiny is not heaven after all, but hell?' Let me tell you, that I was flooded in my body with a chill that went from my head to the bottom of my spine. I was terrified.⁸

Sadly, R.C. Sproul was only being honest in that, having been one of the foremost Calvinist scholars of our time, he had a proper understanding of what Calvinism actually teaches. To the novice, Calvinism appears to be offering eternal security, but to the seasoned theologian, there is every reason to fear when Calvin's god delights in sending most people to Hell; and "believing" the Gospel is seen as ineffectual to this vast number of people already doomed to Hell.

Is There Assurance of Our Salvation?

It is frightening to see how so many people who profess to be Christians are falling into the delusions that are encompassing our world today. A while back, I was questioning, what is to keep *me* from becoming part of a world-wide delusion? After all, Jesus Himself warned that in the last days massive delusion will sweep the Earth.

The fact is, we do need to guard our hearts, and no one is assured of getting everything right. But at the same time, we have a haven of safety in the Lord. I think the secret is to come to God as a child—that is in child-like faith and simple humility. Though the Bible warns of a massive world-wide delusion in the last days, the Bible also is filled with warnings and exhortations, both in the Old and New Testaments, to steer clear of the massive deceptions of the day. All these promptings from Scripture indicate that God does *not will* this deception in our lives and offers His protection to all who take refuge in Him. The Bible says, "But He giveth more grace, Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (James 4:6).

We can, therefore, flee the deceit of the world if we flee to God. It is important to know there is one thing God magnifies even above His own name as the psalmist describes, "I will worship toward Thy holy temple, and praise Thy name for Thy lovingkindness and for Thy truth: for Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name" (Psalm 138:2). Why would God do this? Well, for God to be high above all that exists and to be fully worthy of all esteem, He must be completely faithful to all His Word and all His promises. Properly understood, this means that if you read John 3:16 and believe it, you have complete assurance in your salvation because God is completely faithful to His Word.

The Spirit of Antichrist

The history of Christianity has been marred by errant teachings. Paul predicted this would happen when he said:

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. (Acts 20:29-30)

The apostle John adds further illumination on the subject describing how the spirit of antichrist present in his day would be infused in human history before the coming of the Antichrist:

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. (1 John 2:18)

Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. (1 John 4:3)

It is valuable to know and to recognize that the spirit of antichrist has been working over the centuries. Too often, we don't see the spirit of antichrist working because we expect to see something sensational, but the antichrist spirit is not always expressed as vehement rage and anger over Jesus Christ. The Greek prefix *ante* can indicate hatred and opposition, but it can also signify a substitute; and this is where the enemy can sneak in through the back door. Antichrist can be a person or a teaching that is in place of or a substitute for Christ—a false imitation Christ. Ultimately, Satan's scheme is to take as many people to Hell as he can, so his target has always been to corrupt the Gospel and discredit Jesus Christ for who He is and His redeeming sacrifice at Calvary. This is why we have witnessed so much distortion of the simple Gospel that Jesus really does save, and He does it very well, especially in that Jesus sealed the new covenant with His own blood two thousand years ago as an irrevocable covenant. The Old Covenant required daily and yearly sacrifices pointing to the one-time perfect and complete sacrifice to come later. All this proves that our salvation is very secure when we place our hope and trust in Christ.

Blessed Assurance

My mother, who passed away on July 4th, 1996, was a great witness and strength to me in the years I knew her after my return from the Army as a born-again Christian. As a young believer, it took me several years to sort out the problems with Catholicism, and I was thus not able to share much with her on its doctrinal problems before she began to develop Alzheimer's disease. But we would talk, and she agreed that salvation is something we can only secure in an abiding relationship with Christ; she believed Jesus' words that one must be born again to enter the Kingdom of God, and even as her Alzheimer's progressed, she remembered doing that when she invited Jesus into her heart in Poland at a young age.

During the last years of her life, she was the most powerful witness to me of God's saving grace. Her mind was affected, but her spirit remained strong. She reached a point where she could not tell me my name nor even that I was her son. But she knew I was special to her, and she never wavered in her faith.

As the youngest in the family, I took the role of taking Mom to church. However, as I came to a greater understanding of the serious errors of Roman Catholicism, I felt increasingly more uncomfortable about taking her to a Roman Catholic church which I had come to realize was an apostate church. Having friends and family members who were Catholic, I knew if I took her to a "non-Catholic church," they would see it as manipulating her in her weakened mental faculties. But having found a good Gospel-preaching church, I carefully explained to my mother my plan, and twice she told me she would rather go to the new

church than the Catholic church. I must confess I was a bit nervous on that day when she sat, for the first time, in a Gospel-centered church. As the worship songs began, I wondered if she would be OK with it or want to leave. Then as the singing progressed, and some people were raising their hands in worship, I took a peek from the corner of my eye to see how she was doing; I then saw that her eyes were bright as she bore a smile on her face—and her hands were lifted up too!

In her final days, I truly witnessed the grace of God in her life. Having lost so much of her cognitive skills, she was totally dependent on the Lord for His saving power. Spiritually speaking, there was practically nothing she could do other than be dependent on the Lord. Yet, at the same time, she was happy and unafraid as if the Lord had taken full responsibility for the safety of her soul—and, indeed, that is exactly what He did.

Seeing what the Lord was doing in her life created for me a sharp contrast to a lot of what I was witnessing happening in the church. Christian authors were pumping out new books providing *newly discovered* anecdotes on how to live a successful Christian life—everywhere there was a new formula for success. My mother, who could participate in none of these “secrets,” was secure in the love of God. I’m not saying that everything written during this time was theologically wrong, but what I am saying is that, over the years, much of the church has lost its first love, and instead of being grounded in the simplicity of the Gospel and our Savior’s love, it has been looking to the latest formula or gimmick.

In all his writings from the Gospel of John to his epistles to the Book of Revelation, the apostle John expresses the assurance we have in Christ. He, like Paul and the other apostles, saw the power of the Gospel to eternally save those who put their faith in Christ. If this were not so, then John could not have penned words with such resolve as this:

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you *that believe* on the name of the Son of God; *that ye may know* that ye have eternal life, and *that ye may believe* on the name of the Son of God. (1 John 5:9-13; emphasis added)

God’s testimony is much stronger than that of mere men. What’s more, God has taken His own testimony and made it into a testament, a legally binding contract, sealed in His own blood, and upheld by His holy Word that He magnifies above His own name. Unfortunately, over the last two thousand years, there have been too many wolves in sheep’s clothing who have tried to defuse the power of the Gospel by saying it is insufficient or needs help (as with Catholicism in its daily

“unbloody sacrifice” of the Eucharist) or superseded (as with Calvinism in its own philosophical version of fatalism). But for those who reach out to God, He is always there, for Christ has forever settled the destiny of those who place their trust in Him.

God’s grace is readily available to the humble heart as I saw in my mother’s life. I witnessed not only God’s saving power in her life but also His *keeping* power. May we realize that power and that blessed assurance today, for it is the power of the Gospel.

*Blessed Assurance,
Jesus is mine
Oh what a foretaste,
Of glory divine.*

To order copies of *Calvinism, Catholicism, or Blessed Assurance* in booklet format—Which One Will It Be? [click here](#).

Endnotes:

1. *My Journey Out of Catholicism* is David’s testimonial booklet. You may read it online at: <https://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=10964>.
2. Bob Kirkland, *Calvinism: None Dare Call It Heresy* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2018).
3. Harry Ironside, *Should Christians Expose Error?* (<https://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=18549>).
4. Read Mike Oppenheimer’s booklet, *Understanding Paul’s Appeal at Mars Hill* (<https://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=13357>).
5. Norman F. Douty, *The Death of Christ* (Irving, TX: Williams & Watrous Pub. Co., Revised and Enlarged Edition, 1978), p. 176, citing John Calvin from F. F. Bruce’s “Answers and Questions,” Question 1331, in *The Harvester* (Exeter) January 1966.
6. Ray Yungen, “The Desert Fathers—Borrowing From the East” (<https://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=30353>).
7. A.W. Pink, *The Sovereignty of God* (This theme that no one can resist God’s will is throughout Pink’s book.)
8. R.C. Sproul, “Assurance of salvation” (*Tabletalk*, Ligonier Ministries, Inc., 1989), p.20; cited from Dave Hunt’s book, *What Love is This?* (Bend, OR: The Berean Call, 2013, 4th edition), from chapter 29, endnote #25.

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