

# Lighthouse Trails Research Project



## “From the Lighthouse” Newsletter

[LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS RESEARCH PROJECT](#)    March 4, 2026    [LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS RESOURCES](#)

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**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.

If you like this e-newsletter that you are reading, you might also like the **Lighthouse Trails Research Journal:** Our low-cost subscription-based [print journal](#) is mailed out to homes, churches, and offices 4 times a year. The 40-44-page journal contains the most important stories from our e-newsletter from the previous period and also other features. You may wish to receive that *in addition* to this free e-newsletter. You can sign up any time during the year for the print journal. You can also buy individual or past issues [here](#). For common questions about the journal, [click here](#). See a [sample issue here](#).

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"Mosque 30 Miles From White House Calls Iran's Khamenei 'Our Leader'"

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

**By Daniel Greenfield**

*Front Page Magazine*

Is having large Islamic communities who support terrorism within the D.C. bedroom community area a good idea?

Luke Rosiak of the Daily Wire [reported that the](#) Manassas Mosque in Virginia, which is around 30 miles away from the White House, had posted a eulogy calling Iran's Supreme Leader, now dead, "our leader", and described his death as a "martyrdom".

The mosque, which according to Rosiak, is funded by [a front group for the Iranian regime](#), had praised Hamas, and the daughter-in-law of the mosque's imam, claimed that "they just canonized Khamenei [sic]. And they really have no idea what they've unleashed upon themselves. It is exactly in moments like this that resistance fighter are born." [Click here](#) to continue reading.

By Olivier Melnick  
Shalom in Messiah Ministries

Is the Synagogue of Satan a real place? Do all Jews belong to it by virtue of being Jewish? Are all Jews demon-possessed?

In Jackson, Mississippi, during the night of January 10-11, 2026, a man broke a synagogue window and got inside the building, doused the rooms with gasoline, set it on fire and left. No casualties were reported, but two Torah scrolls were destroyed along with most of the synagogue's library and administrative records. Incidentally, that synagogue—the only one in Jackson—was bombed in 1967 by a member of the Klu Klux Klan because the Jewish community was supporting Martin Luther King Jr.

This time, it was almost burned to the ground, and, yet, within hours, the arsonist was identified. He admitted that he had targeted the building because of its "Jewish ties." He also claimed that he did it because it was a "Synagogue of Satan" and in the same breath, he proclaimed "Jesus is Lord!" This was not just physical fire inside a real building, but it was also oil thrown on the fire of Christian antisemitism, at a time when Jews are increasingly feeling unsafe anywhere they turn. Does the Bible really speak of the Synagogue of Satan? [Click here](#) to continue reading.



JEW WORSHIPPING WITH THE HEAD COVERED.

**Related Articles:**

[Letter to the Editor: Dennis Prager Confronts Candace Owens About Her Antisemitic Views and the Lies Too Many Believe](#)

[Letter to the Editor: "False Teachings of Dustin Nemos Have Deceived My Husband"](#)

(1800s illustration of ancient Jewish man praying in public domain; taken from Wikipedia)

**Exposing the Great Shapeshifter**

*"Antisemitism is Satan's direct assault on God's credibility."*

By Chris Katulka

I have often heard evangelicals insist that antisemitism is more than prejudice—that it is spiritual warfare, a satanic assault on God's Chosen People. I agree. But to confront the rising tide of Jew-hatred—which now spreads far beyond progressive leftist politics, infecting conservative spaces and even Christian communities—we must determine what Satan is trying to accomplish.



Antisemitism is fundamentally a theological grievance disguised as critique. It is an ancient lie retold in new vocabulary. Jew-hatred historically has shapeshifted, taking three dominant forms. [Click here](#) to continue reading.

**Related articles:**

[Who Really Belongs to the Synagogue of Satan?](#) by Olivier Melnick

["Is Tucker Carlson Normalizing Antisemitism on the Right?"](#) by Jewish News Syndicate

[Letter to the Editor: Dennis Prager Confronts Candace Owens About Her Antisemitic Views and the Lies Too Many Believe](#)

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Categories of Our Resources**“Those Who Cause Divisions”**By **David Dombrowski**

Scripture tells us to beware of those who cause divisions. But what exactly does this mean? And how is this admonition often misunderstood and even used out of context? The truth is that there indeed are a lot of divisions happening within the church, but oftentimes, those who are trying to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 1:3) are the ones being pointed at as causing division and breaking unity within the church.

Many times, the “beware” admonition is given by Christian pastors and teachers to silence or ignore those who have any criticisms or even just questions of what is happening in the church at large. Many pastors today say, “There is no need for so-called discernment ministries or church discernment watchdogs because that is the job of pastors and teachers.” Anything outside of that, they say, is causing division. The idea is that local church leadership is doing such a good job that they do not need any outside interference. But, where in Scripture do we find this concept?

Jesus Himself was (and is) a proponent of unity within the church. He prayed to the Father, “That they all may be one” (John 17:21). Yet, at another time, Jesus said, “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division” (Luke 12:51). Is Jesus contradicting Himself?

When I was a new believer and beginning to study the Bible, I made one determination that I have never regretted, and that was to take the Bible as God’s inerrant Word. When I saw what appeared to be contradictions, I concluded that I was lacking in information that would give me a fuller and truer understanding. So, I would pray for more understanding and wait on God to provide it as Scripture instructs in James 1:5:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

Since those early years, God has been true to His Word and has given me understanding in many different areas; but I realize, too, that as Paul said, “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face” (1 Corinthians 13:12), we will never understand a lot of things fully in this life. However, with the rudimentary and essential things—like the Gospel itself—God makes these things plain enough for fools to understand—that is, if we are willing to listen. And the worst ear-stopper I can think of is pride—because pride immunizes one from the truth.

Now, returning to what Jesus said above about unity and division, let me just say that this is a prime example of putting a puzzle together without having all the pieces; it is the missing pieces that allow the puzzle to come together. And that is where we take an isolated verse and compare it with its immediate context and then compare it with the context of all Scripture. (Already, we know we have a problem in that two verses from two places appear to contradict each other thereby beckoning us to search further.)

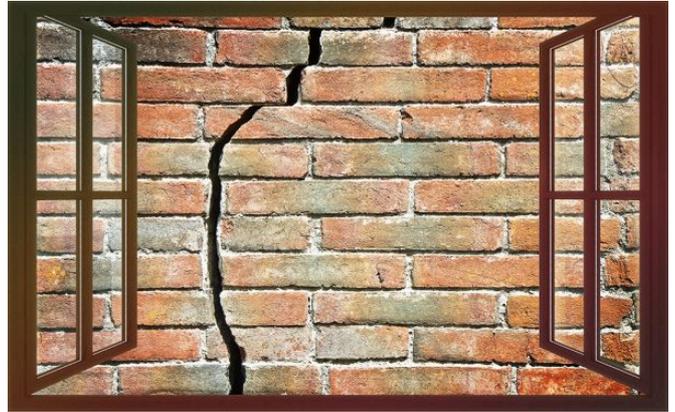
In chapter 17 of John where Jesus prays for the unity of the church in verse 21, notice that a preceding verse, v. 17, says, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” Truth is an essential ingredient to unity; in other words, where there is no truth, there cannot be unity. Have you ever tried to be in unity with someone who does not trust you, while you in turn know that person is lying to you? At best, you can attempt to be peaceable with that person, but there is no true unity or love. Usually, the stress of that kind of relationship is what drives people apart, and hence, in a church setting, we have church splits.

In chapter 12 of Luke, we have the case of where Jesus says He came not to bring peace but rather division (v. 51). Much of the first three-quarters of the chapter is a favorite to many in that it gives multiple illustrations on how to conduct our lives as Christians by putting God first as summarized in Jesus’ statement, “But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you” (v. 31). Thus, we can see that first and foremost is our devotion (seeking) to God. What follows is Jesus’ statement about division, but in this case, it is not about division in the church but in families – strife between family members (including in-laws). Here again, we see that truth takes precedence over unity, but it is the rebellious or unbelieving family members causing the division. You see, Jesus already knew that devotion to Him would divide families subject to the wrath of unbelieving or rebellious family members often motivated by envy and jealousy.

Oddly, what immediately follows is Jesus’ discourse on how to tell the weather, which I believe to be a very powerful indictment against our very present generation. Let me explain: In verse 56, Jesus says, “Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it that ye do not discern this time?” “This time” is now, even as it was ready to happen then. Remember that in Jesus’ discourse where he describes the happenings of the end times (found in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21), He speaks of family strife, divisions, and betrayal, which are already happening in our day. You might ask, there have always been tensions within family circles, so what’s so special with what Jesus is talking about? Well, it’s because it will be happening on a pandemic scale, and people won’t be discerning that it is even happening. As tensions within the world will increase, tensions within family frameworks will increase as well, and the faith of Christians will be tested.

The fact is that Jesus unites when the truth is upheld because Jesus is Himself, the Truth. But truth has the power to unite or divide depending on the situation. When Paul speaks of the armor of God, he begins with, “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with *truth*” (Ephesians 6:14; emphasis added), and later he closes his description of God’s armor with, “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (v. 17). The author of Hebrews (presumably Paul) says, “the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

What we have, then, is both Jesus and Paul slashing away at all falsehood and hypocrisy using the sword of the Word of God to bring forth truth. Notice that the word “discerner” is used in Hebrews 4, which is the “no” word in today’s Christian vernacular. Also, notice the expression “take the helmet of salvation” used in Ephesians 6. What is that? It can be nothing less than the Gospel itself (i.e., Jesus’ penal substitutionary atonement on the Cross validated to *all* who believe on Christ and His finished work that paid for our sins).



Let's return now to my introductory comment stating to many Christian pastors often like to warn their congregations to "beware of those who cause divisions." Since they are quoting Scripture, we should look at it within the context of where it appears:

Now I beseech you, brethren, *mark* them which cause *divisions* and *offences* contrary to the *doctrine* which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by *good words* and *fair speeches* deceive the hearts of the *simple*. (Romans 16:17-18; emphasis added)

With this before us, it becomes very apparent whom Paul is talking about. It is clear that he views those who teach *false doctrine* as those who are *divisive*, causing divisions and confusion in the local churches and the Christian church as a whole. We have heard so many stories from our readers who have gone respectfully and unconfessionally beseeching their local elders or pastors on a doctrinal point only to receive an angry or negative response or to be told they lack the maturity and spiritual insight to offer any criticisms. And in many situations, the concerned congregant is told that he or she is causing division and breaking unity by questioning or challenging. Even to question a pastor on any point may be treated as blasphemous in some circles. So, realistically, who is it that is causing division in the church? It's true that there are evil men and seducers who creep into churches and worm their way through the congregation leaving a residue of confusion, suspicion, and strife in their wake (see 2 Timothy 3:13). But that is not what Paul is referring to here in this passage from Romans. The immediate context found in verse 18 tells us this man is making a profit apparently speaking from a public platform embellished with "good words" and "fair speeches." In other words, Paul is referring here to pastors and teachers espousing false doctrine; and this is what is really causing division.

Today, we are witnessing unprecedented apostasy in the church around the world, but I never imagined it would go so far as a departure from the very fundamentals of the faith – more specifically people removing the helmet of salvation (i.e., the Gospel) and tossing it aside.

Let us remind ourselves of an encounter Jesus had with Thomas:

I [will] go and prepare a place for you . . . And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:3-6)

In this scenario, it was not just Thomas but the other disciples as well who were confused. They did not know that Jesus was on the brink of going to the Cross.

And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe. Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence. (John 14:29-31)

They did not understand why Jesus needed to correct Thomas, who was seeking the way to go, by telling him that He is "the way." But when they realized later that Jesus had died for the sins of the whole world, it all made sense, and they believed on His name and told others to do likewise.

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David Dombrowski is the co-founder and chief editor of Lighthouse Trails Publishing. For twenty-four years, he has authored, co-authored, and edited hundreds of articles, reviews, and reports, and written numerous booklets and one book for the ministry.

#### Related Articles:

[Spiritual Discernment What It Is and How to Get It](#) by Dr. Shelton Smith

[BOOKLET: Watchful and Discerning Through It All](#) by Warren B. Smith

#### A Cautionary Word From Greg Reid: "Things as They Are"

**LTRP Note:** Greg Reid is a Lighthouse Trails author who has spent decades warning about occult activities and the physical and sexual abuses that accompany them. Last year, he released his new book, *The Real "Satanic Panic" Story*, that addresses occultic crimes and satanic ritual abuse; the book also exposes the efforts made to convince people that these things don't really happen. Lighthouse Trails (whose editors helped Greg prepare the book for press) was surprised to see a renewal of the term "Satanic Panic" in 2024 and 2025 (once again trying to convince people that these things don't really happen), including an 8-part series done by *Christianity Today* (2024-2025). Contrary to what the CT series and others have said, occultic crimes and satanic ritual abuse are very real and in fact, in existence today perhaps more than ever. The following is an excerpt from Greg's New Year update on *things as they are*. You may also wish to watch [a recent interview on YouTube](#) that former New Age leader, Doreen Virtue, did with Greg. Ironically, YouTube places a "warning" notice on any video (such as this one) that substantiates the reality of satanic crimes and ritual abuse.



#### By [Greg Reid](#)

It's interesting to me that after all these years, things we were discovering, uncovering, and exposing in the 1990s, while we were being ridiculed for spreading "conspiracy theories," are now coming to light. For example, MK Ultra, a government mind-control project we knew as the "Monarch project," is now all over the Internet. And in the 1990s, we discovered government involvement in occult experimentation, including the highly experimental "earth battalion" New Age program known as "The Delta Project." We also discovered experiments in sound weapons. And just weeks ago in Venezuela, the "Delta Force" went in with "sound weapons" which caused the people to bleed from their mouth and nostrils and completely incapacitated them. I'm thankful for the validation of things we were exposing so many years ago.

#### Occult Shift

I have noticed a changing of the guard in the occult world in the last year. I became aware that just as my book was going to press last year, there was a reemergence of the "Satanic Panic" narrative showing up on television, radio, and on social media platforms. I found myself asking, "Why now? They wiped us out with this lie twenty years ago. Why is this being pushed again?" Shortly after, I learned that one of the top occult leaders, Lt. Col. Michael Aquino of the Temple of Set, had died (in 2019)—allegedly by suicide. That would explain some of the uptick—there appears to be a changing of the guard—or as they say, "When one head is cut off, another will succeed it." It also appears that the old guard is dying off, and what I see now is a new wave of RECRUITMENT taking place. The Masonic order is going on various platforms such as Tik Tok to try and promote Masonry as a great family-oriented organization.

In addition, there are new satanic/occult entities emerging here in El Paso. We have one swank bar that is replete with statues of Baphomet, Santa Muerte, mini-Ouija boards at every table, and live tarot card readings. I believe they are probably working in conjunction with a new "curio" shop called Tooth and Veil, which, in addition to cute little oddities like dead animals in liquid filled jars, now actively promote live rituals in the park on occult holidays like Halloween and the Solstices and Equinoxes. And why not? What is restraining them? The church has never been as ignorant as it now is on the dangers of the occult, so there is really no reason for them not to go all-out in recruiting a new generation of witches and warlocks and devil worshippers.

## New Antisemitism

I have been shocked by the turn to antisemitism taken on by media leaders Candace Owens and Tucker Carlson. Tucker seemed to take on that stance after a very real demonic attack he endured, which he spoke of graphically on a Meghan Kelly interview, in which he recalled waking up choking the day after he left Fox, and knew it was a demon. He then went to the restroom to find claw marks and blood on his chest. Yes, that was real; I have to wonder if that was not when this anti-Jewish spirit got hold of him. Either way, we must reject replacement theology out of hand. I hear these leaders reworking and promoting the old “Protocols of the Elders of Zion” lies, the very lies Hitler used to justify the slaughter of nearly the entire Jewish population. Trust me, Jesus is not returning to rule from Washington when He returns.

There has never been a time when believers need to proceed more cautiously, wisely and Spirit-led than now. Mark my words—when the elections turn once again, the fury against “maga” people (and if you are a Christian conservative, you are going to be tagged with that, whether you are or not), and there is a coming backlash of antichristian moves and persecution that we have not yet seen in our country. It is a good time to reprioritize our callings and our church agendas and start preparing believers to stand strong for the Lord Jesus in the coming wave of darkness approaching our land. Believe me—electing a Muslim Mayor at the gate of entrance to our country is a warning and a first indication of the plan to make America a Caliphate.

## Repentance

The only answer is repentance. I have many times heard my conservative friends talk about making America great again; looking at our last fifty years of abortion murder, legalizing gay marriage, and castrating our children, as well as letting satanism and the occult into the highest places in our government, I ask, “Why should God spare us? What has the church done to plow the ground for a ‘revival’ or a ‘new reformation’? Practically nothing—and we have missed the most essential element needed for true revival—REPENTANCE.” Without it, there will be a false revival instead of the real thing. I pray it is not too late.

In a time when I hear so many people in the media saying, “I believe in Jesus,” I hear the Lord saying, “Why do you call me Lord, Lord and don’t do what I say?” It is time for believers to rise up and DO what He says instead of just talk about it. The church needs to stop ingesting media lies and flaccid Christian material like “Practicing the Way of Jesus” and other emergent-reworked deceptions. In some pulpits, it has gotten so convoluted that I recently heard a preacher using his sermon to defend satanism! How badly deceived do we have to get for repentance to happen?

## Related Articles:

[The “Regeneration of the Churches” – An Occult Dream Come True](#) by Ray Yungen

[The New Age, Occultism, and Our Children in Public Schools](#) by Berit Kjos

[Overlapping Narrative for a False Christ \(The Deceptive New Age Terms That Have Entered the Church\)](#) by Warren B. Smith

## Philip Zodhiates—Battle Continues for Former U.S. Religious Prisoner

photo:

Philip Zodhiates and his wife, Kathie

**LTRP Note:** Lighthouse Trails has been covering the story of Philip Zodhiates for many years. Philip spent nearly three years in a U.S. federal prison (2018-2021) for legally helping protect a mother (who became a believer in Christ and left a lesbian relationship) and her daughter who was being sexually abused. Philip chronicles the story and his prison years in his book, [Innocent: The Price One Man Paid for Doing What Is Right](#) (distributed by Lighthouse Trails).

## By Philip Zodhiates

I’m so sorry I’ve not updated the Lighthouse Trails readers sooner on recent developments. It’s been nearly a year since my last update!

The devil continues his attacks to discourage Kathie, me, and our entire family. He apparently sees us as an impediment to his despicable desire to legally gain [sexual access to all children](#), regardless of age.

Yet we are not surprised by such evil, let alone the trials and tribulations he throws at us (1 Peter 4:12-14). Instead, we are to rejoice in them, for they are for our own spiritual growth and benefit (James 1:2-4)!

And for this reason, we’ve been incredibly grateful for your prayers, and any financial help you have sent our way to assist with the tremendous legal costs we’re forced to pay. You have been such a blessing and encouragement to us!

God continues to sustain us no matter what we go through. He provides peace in the very midst of all the difficult things we face (Romans 8:6). He never fails to meet our every need just in the nick of time! And we are blessed to be found counted worthy of the Lord to be such a target of Satan (Matthew 5:10-12).

Let me explain. Last spring we were shocked and blindsided by Federal Judge William Sessions’ summary judgment against me, denying my right to a trial in defending the civil suit. A case filed by Janet Jenkins [Lisa Miller’s former lesbian partner] and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) for supposedly denying Janet Jenkins her imagined parental rights.

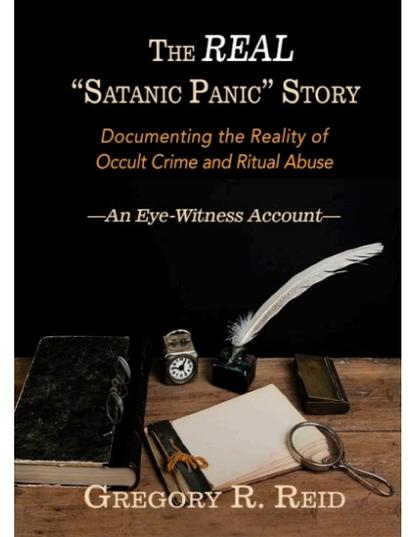
In other words, the judge finds the case against me compelling enough to order the forgoing of a trial, meaning a jury merely needs to assign the supposed monetary damages they claim I owe Janet Jenkins, of which SPLC takes a sizable proportion.

This is merely a way to assure we do not present in trial the evidence of Janet Jenkin’s sexual abuse of Isabella Miller, paving the way toward the normalization of adult-child sex.

If you recall, I was also denied the ability to bring up Janet Jenkin’s alleged sexual abuse of Isabella in my criminal trial, which resulted in a three-year prison sentence for “aiding and abetting an international parental kidnapping.”

This was even though the statute gave Lisa Miller, Isabella’s birth mother, the right to remove her child from the country if she merely believed Isabella was being abused.

I was arrested and convicted because I gave a now born-again [Lisa Miller](#), and her home-schooled child, Isabella, a ride to Buffalo International Airport from Virginia. It was from there the two left the United States by taxi, after a family court judge in Vermont refused to take away unsupervised visitation rights from Janet Jenkins, despite her abuse of Isabella.



## THE REAL “SATANIC PANIC” STORY

Documenting the Reality of  
Occult Crime and Ritual Abuse

—An Eye-Witness Account—



GREGORY R. REID

You see, the evidence of abuse against Janet Jenkins is extensive and convincing. And had there not been evil intentions to subvert the laws opposing same-sex marriage and gaining sexual access to children, Janet Jenkins' illusory parental rights as a same-sex civil union partner would have been waived when she began sexually abusing Isabella Miller.

However, I plan to appeal the judge's recent rogue ruling [the summary judgment] if I am financially able to continue this fight.

On the same day as Judge Sessions' summary judgment against me, denying me the right to a trial regarding the present civil suit and thereby finding me liable, he released Lisa Miller's pro-bono legal firm and attorney as defendants, which SPLC subsequently appealed.

This delays the upcoming trial of the two defendants left that must stand trial, our daughter Victoria and my own company—both frivolous defendants. It also puts on hold my appeal of the summary judgment and the liability hearing should we lose that appeal. Once again, over thirteen years after Janet Jenkins and the SPLC sued me, everything is on hold!

Meanwhile, the Deputy Chief of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division contacted me asking to see if there was a way they could be of influence in this civil matter. Yet after learning of the judge's summary judgment, he said there was nothing they could do.

But he encouraged me to file an official presidential pardon request of my criminal conviction with the U.S. Department of Justice, even though my request had already been sent directly to the White House. This I did, but to date a presidential pardon has yet to happen.

So, after exhausting our legal options for now, we merely go about our daily lives, praising God; we have Him to cast our burdens upon (Psalms 55:22; 1 Peter 5:7). When we do that, it alleviates the stress and worry that could so easily overwhelm us.

For the Lord never promised to keep us from trials, tribulation, and persecution (2 Timothy 3:1,11-12; Philippians 1:29-30)—but He has promised to see us through them (1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalms 23:4; Isaiah 43:2)! This we are constantly seeing happen through these trying times.

Satan's attacks continue full force in other ways too. While I am not at liberty to share details at this time, I will just say that because of the ongoing battle and attacks against us that we have endured for so many years, certain relationships among some of our friends and family members have suffered and been hurt and have caused Kathie and I great anguish.

We have also been attacked financially in other ways: A sewer line broke in two and needed to be replaced, old underground galvanized water lines began crumbling in various places and needed replacement, and baffling electrical problems appeared which have yet to be resolved.

What was the most significant shock to us came in November 2025, when we discovered two of Kathie's heart valves have significant issues. Having had bad experiences with local hospitals, Kathie decided to contact Cleveland Clinic, from whom she learned the surgery would have to be open heart surgery. We are supposed to travel there in the next few weeks for further testing to see if there are any less invasive surgical options. Please pray for God's complete healing of Kathie's heart!

Most recently, I discovered Amazon took my book *Innocent\** off their website, claiming my account was "terminated due to violations of our terms and conditions." This is another way to say I have been de-platformed. I suspect it is merely another way SPLC, which has always been in cahoots with Jeff Bezo and Amazon to attack and deplatform Christians, seeks to silence us and bring us down. [LTRP Note: On January 31st, 2026, Lighthouse Trails was able to restore Philip's book to Amazon through different means.]

It is so very clear we're amid intense spiritual warfare as well as a spiritual battle for children everywhere. We so desperately need you to uphold us through the power of prayer. No, we are not fearful of what any man may do to us or say about us. We serve an all-powerful God (Romans 8:31). Nothing Satan throws at us will cause us to bend to his evil agenda. God is on our side.

Yet it is so very clear: Southern Poverty Law Center's motivation for bringing this lawsuit against us is to further their agenda of normalizing sex between adults and children. Simply put, their agenda is to legitimize sexual access to children. And the federal judge in this case just took a huge step towards doing that!

His decision more-or-less affirms the belief that sexual advances against children are normal and should be accepted as such. And his ruling conveniently coincided with a conference pushing the idea that sexual attraction to minors is not a psychiatric disorder to be managed, but an identity to be affirmed. Leading the effort and sponsoring the meeting was B4U-ACT, a Maryland-non-profit begun to support pedophiles and their rights, or as they call them, "Minor-Attracted Persons" (MAPs).

It was there mental-health providers were being trained in "affirmative MAP therapy," which seeks to help those who can't help their sexual attraction to children to accept their "age of attraction" as an intrinsic and valid part of their identity.

Mark my word, as bizarre as it now sounds, pedophilia will become a right in the near future unless enough people take a stand now. Just as the very absurd notion of same-sex marriage seemed twenty years ago.

We still know God is in control no matter what happens, and what happens to us. And we continue to plead and beg for your prayers not just for us and our family, but for all children and grandchildren.

### **In His service, Philip Zodhiates**

**LTRP Note:** The website 419fund.com is no longer active. So to make an online donation toward Philip's legal expenses, go to <https://www.givesendgo.com/PhilipZodhiates>. However, your online gift is not tax-deductible. To make your gift tax-deductible, send it postal mail to 419Fund, 1338 Jefferson Way, Forest, VA 24551. You may write directly to Philip at:

Philip Zodhiates  
P.O. Box 1842  
Waynesboro, VA 22980  
pzodhiates@voiceforthechildren.com

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### **Ironside: Broken Vessels for Christ**

By **[Harry A. Ironside](#)**

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. (2 Corinthians 4:10,11)

This fourth chapter of 2 Corinthians is the apostle Paul's statement of power for ministry. He shows us in these stirring verses that God is not looking for brilliant men, is not depending upon eloquent men, is not shut up to the use of talented men in sending His Gospel out in the world.

God is looking for broken men, for men who have judged themselves in the light of the Cross of Christ. When He wants anything done, He takes up men who have come to an end of themselves, and whose trust and confidence is not in themselves but in God.

There were those who were calling in to question the apostleship of Paul himself, for he did not seem to them to be what an apostle, according to their estimation of the office, ought to be. There was not the pomp nor the dignity they would expect; he did not come to them with great swelling words, there was no making anything of what he was after the flesh, no drawing attention to his natural ability or education; and in this the method of the apostle Paul was in very vivid contrast to the method pursued by many today who pose as servants of our Lord Jesus Christ. This man went through the world a broken man, a lowly man, a man seeking only the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and the blessing of souls, a man who might have occupied a very high place among the great and distinguished of earth. But he was a man who for Jesus' sake had turned his back upon all that and could say:



God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. (Galatians 6:14)

That Cross spoke of the deepest shame and ignominy, and Paul gloried in it because through the work that took place upon it, his soul had been saved, and he had learned that the preaching of the Cross, while it is "to them that perish foolishness," is "unto us which are saved . . . the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18). And so he went forth, content to be broken in order that the light of the grace of God might shine out. You will notice in verse 6 that

. . . God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. (2 Corinthians 4:6,7)

It is easy to see what he has in mind. He is thinking undoubtedly of that very striking incident of which we read in Judges, when Gideon and his three hundred men took their lives in their hands, were delivered unto death, as it were, and went forth against the vast armies of the Midianites. Surely, no other army was accoutered [equipped] as this one. They carried in one hand a trumpet and in the other a pitcher, and in this pitcher was a lamp. The light of the lamp was not seen though it was already lit. It was not seen as long as it was in the earthen jar. They surrounded the army of the Midianites in the middle of the night, and suddenly at the command of their leader, the jars were crashed to earth, and the light shone out, and the Midianites sprang up startled. They heard the crash and saw the light, and thought they were surrounded by a tremendous army, and they turned their swords upon one another. It was God through Gideon that led the army to victory. A broken pitcher in order that light might shine out! The apostle says, as it were, "That is it! If you want to be a light for God in a world like this, be content to be broken, to have your hopes, your ambitions, all dashed to pieces, and then God can take you up and use you in order to carry the light of Christ to darkened hearts."

How are we broken? By affliction, by trouble, by the discipline of the Lord, sometimes by sickness, by pain, and anguish. All these are the divine methods for breaking God's pitchers in order that the light may shine out to His praise and glory. Men may misjudge us, misrepresent us, persecute us bitterly; we may not have enough food to eat or water to drink; we may be cast down; we may suffer all kinds of sorrows; but it is all right if it breaks us in order that God may be able the better to use us. And so he says, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8,9); for in all these experiences, we are simply "bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in our body." He "came from Godhead's fullest glory down to Calvary's depth of woe."

We sometimes sing a little hymn that always stirs the heart. I remember hearing Dr. Torrey say he believed of all the hymns that were used in his meetings around the world, it was the one that seemed to be most blessed of God to the people. It is:

I surrender all,  
I surrender all,  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.

But that hymn never had the appeal it ought to have for my own heart until one day I found myself changing that chorus. I was thinking of Him who though He was

. . . in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)

He surrendered all,  
He surrendered all,  
All for me, my blessed Savior,  
He surrendered all.

And then my heart said, "O Lord, it will be easy to sing it the other way now, for what have I to give up, to surrender, in comparison with what Thou didst give up in order to redeem my guilty soul from going down to the pit?" It is as you and I realize from day to day what it all meant to Him that we can bear about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus. Dying day by day to our own hopes and ambitions, dying to the good opinion of people, dying to human praise and adulation, to everything that the natural heart grasps, dying in the death of Jesus to it all, because He died for us in order that "the life of Jesus may be made manifest in our body."

You will notice that in 2 Corinthians 4, verses 10 and 11 are very much alike, and yet the great difference is this: verse 10 suggests something that we do deliberately, consciously, whereas verse 11 is something that God does for us. What is it we are called upon to do? "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus"—reminding ourselves every day that Jesus died for us, "bearing about in the body" and because He died for us, we are gladly to put ourselves in the place of death for Him.

Looking back to the Cross, the apostle Paul could say:

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

But this has to be put into practice daily by putting my tastes and ambitions in the place of death. That is my part. But here is God's part:

We which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. (2 Corinthians 4:11)

You tell God you are willing to take the place of Christ, and He will see that it is made good; you tell God you are going to trust Him, and He will test your faith and show you what it means to trust Him; you tell Him that you are ready to surrender everything to Him, and He will put you in the place where you will begin to find out what full surrender really means. I do not know of anything that it seems should have such an appeal to the Christian heart along this line as the frequent remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ in His death, and I think it is because He realized it is so easy for us to forget that He said to His disciples when He gave them this memorial feast,

This do in remembrance of me. (Luke 22:19)

And the Holy Spirit said:

As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

Every time we are called upon thus to remember the Lord, it is a new challenge to ask ourselves, "Am I simply remembering Him in a cold, formal, intellectual way because it is customary, or am I truly in my heart remembering the One who went down beneath the dark waters of death for me, and am I truly ready now to always bear about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus?"

What a poor thing it is to come together in assemblies to participate in the communion of the Lord's Supper and then go out from the building and forget what it all really means, forget that our Savior died, that we are linked up with the One who died, and that He has left us an example that we should follow His steps—that is, we should always bear about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus. This seems to me to be linked very intimately with several Old Testament references to which our attention is drawn in Hebrews 11. We read:

By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. (Hebrews 11:22)

Did you ever stop and ask why the Holy Spirit selected that particular incident to dwell upon? He has instanced something that you and I would probably have passed over altogether. What did Joseph do? "Gave commandment concerning his bones." In Genesis 50:25, we read where Joseph, talking to the children of Israel, says:

God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence. So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

That is the close of Genesis. What an odd way to close the book! But God wants us to think about the bones of Joseph. They are there in a coffin in Egypt, but they are to be carried to Canaan.

In Exodus 13, we find that the children of Israel who have been sheltered by the blood of the Passover lamb are starting out for Canaan, and we read:

Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you. (Exodus 13:19)

Who was Joseph? He was the savior of Israel. If it had not been for him, they had all been destroyed in the famine, but he was their savior, and now he says, "When you leave Egypt to go to Canaan, you carry my bones with you." When they left, they were very careful to do as they were told, and all the way across the sands of the desert wherever that great caravan went, they were always bearing about in the body the dying of Joseph.

I think I see that great procession winding its way up over the hills; and the Amalekites and the Midianites looking at them in wonder say, "What is that strange dark casket?"

Presently, they call an Israelite and ask him, and he says, "We were once in greatest distress; if God had not had mercy upon us we would have been left to die, but He raised up a savior for us, one of our own people; his name was Joseph and he delivered us; Joseph saved us. But our savior died, and we are marching on to the land that our God has given us, and until we get there, we carry with us the memorial of death, the bones of Joseph. We can never forget him; he died, but we have the memorials still." And by-and-by when they reached the land, when they arrived at the place that God Himself had selected for them, we are told that after everything else was properly attended to,

The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph. (Joshua 24:32)

There was no need to carry the bones of Joseph through the wilderness any more, for they were at home now. And, beloved, you and I are passing on through the wilderness of this world, we will soon be at Home, but until we reach there, we are called upon to bear about in the body the dying of Jesus, and as we remember Him in the breaking of bread and the drinking of the cup, we should challenge our own hearts: Are we simply looking objectively toward that Cross and saying, "There our Savior died," or are we seeking day by day to practically make it manifest that His death means more to us than all that this world glories in?

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This article is also available in [booklet format](#).

(Photos from bigstockphoto.com; used with permission; design by Lighthouse Trails; taken from the cover of *Broken Vessels for Christ*.)

## Repost: An Overlooked Reason For "I Kissed Dating Goodbye" Author Josh Harris' Departure From the Christian Faith

A repost from a 2019 article, still relevant today.

"I have undergone a massive shift in regard to my faith in Jesus. The popular phrase for this is 'deconstruction,' the biblical phrase is 'falling away.' By all the measurements that I have for defining a Christian, I am not a Christian. . . . to the LGBTQ+ community, I want to say that I am sorry for the views that I taught in my books and as a pastor regarding sexuality. I regret standing against marriage equality, for not affirming you and your place in the church."—**Josh Harris** ([Instagram](#))

This month, the Christian world was rocked when Josh Harris, the author of the highly popular book on sexual purity, *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, announced he was separating from his wife, recanting his Christian faith, and apologizing to the LGBT community for his former conservative views on sexuality.

The story has hit the headlines of both religious and secular news sources (e.g., *Christianity Today*, *Newsweek*, *CNN*, *Washington Post*, *Charisma*). While many Christians are scratching their heads trying to figure out how this could have happened with Harris (who became a husband, father, and pastor) amid offering possible reasons for this demise of faith, there is one reason we have not heard mentioned—Josh Harris' Calvinism.

## Background

When Josh Harris was 21, his book, *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, was published by Multnomah Books. The book hit the charts and has sold nearly a million copies. There are few evangelical Christians who haven't heard of the book; and, in particular, it was read and embraced widely by Christian homeschooling families.

As Josh Harris describes in his 2010 book *Dug Down Deep: Building Your Life on Truths That Last* (also published by Multnomah), in his search for spiritual depth, he went from a seeker-friendly Willow Creek-associated church to a charismatic church, but neither of these gave him what he was looking for. Finally, he ended up under the mentorship of Calvinist pastor, C.J. Mahaney who planned to raise up Harris to eventually take his place as senior pastor of a large Calvinist reformed church (Covenant Life in Maryland). As Harris describes in his book *Dug Down Deep*, he plunged into extensive reading of numerous heavy-duty Calvinist reformed teachers, ones he thought would give him *truths that would last*.

At the age of 30, Harris did become the senior pastor of Mahaney's reformed church. Harris remained pastor of Covenant Life until 2015 at which time he stepped down from being pastor telling his congregation he planned to attend college (Regent College in Vancouver, BC).<sup>1</sup> His announcement that he was stepping down and going to college came amid a scandal at Covenant Life wherein Harris and other Covenant Life pastors and leaders admitted to covering up a number of sexual abuses that had occurred in their church.<sup>2</sup>

### A Devastating Combination

Based on the information that Joshua Harris has given in his recent announcements and information he has provided in his books, we cannot know for sure how his recantation of his marriage and his faith came about. But one thing is for sure, Josh Harris was a Calvinist who attended an emergent college—and with regard to his Christian faith, it proved to be a devastating combination.

During Harris' efforts to find spiritual meaning in his life, he landed in Calvinism, a belief system that does not present the picture of a God of love who loved the whole world so much that He sent His only Son to die for all. Rather, it presents a God who wants most people to go to Hell and who predestined a relatively small number of people to be the "elect" who would be saved; and as Calvinist figure A.W. Pink stated in his book, *The Sovereignty of God*, in describing Calvinism, *no one* can resist God's will (meaning even Hitler must have done God's will), which creates a God who *wants* evil things to happen, giving followers a fatalistic view of life and death. In short, God is portrayed as the author of sin, who predestinates most people to live sinful lives (of which they have no choice), and then punishes them eternally in Hell for His "good pleasure."

Calvinism is growing in popularity by huge measures today. Many young people come into Calvinism because they see what appears to be a highly scholarly belief system and a supposed security for their salvation. And whether they admit it or not, it offers the *elite elect* something more than the rest of the world can ever have (let's face it, it makes them feel special). However, once these young Calvinists discover the dark dismal truth about this Calvinistic "God" (thinking this is the God of the Bible), disillusionment and depression set in which results in a spiritual crisis. When this happens, they often choose (as we are witnessing today) one of two paths: some of them head into the Calvinist emergent camp (or as Calvinists call it, neo-Calvinism), and some of them walk away from the church altogether. Eventually, both groups end up in the same place—departed from the faith. Does such a tragedy happen to those in other unbiblical camps (such as a legalistic holiness system)? Absolutely. Extreme unbiblical doctrines lead followers *away* from truth, not to it.

Being Calvinist is dangerous enough, but when Josh Harris decided to attend Regent College, he picked one of the most emergent Christian schools out there. There, students become indoctrinated with the [social-justice "Gospel," contemplative spirituality](#) (i.e., [spiritual formation](#)), and [emergent ideology](#). If Joshua Harris had not already gone in this direction, attending Regent would accomplish this easily, and as we have learned at Lighthouse Trails from 17 years of research and study, the "fruit" of these unbiblical teachings is departure from biblical faith to believing in the god of this world and what he has to offer.

We realize that Josh Harris' stepping down from the Christian faith is most likely multi-faceted, both in the personal and spiritual realms, but his Calvinist (and probably emergent) indoctrination left him defenseless in standing firm in biblical truth.

No doubt, there will be many commentaries over the next several months (and even years) discussing the departing of the faith by Joshua Harris. Let us pray that he and others like him will someday find the *true* simple Gospel that Jesus Christ offers. Christ died for the sins of the world, and whosoever believeth on Him will not perish but have everlasting life. It's a free gift, offered to all who put their trust in Him. He will not turn away anyone who comes to Him: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

### Related Articles and Resources:

**\*\*[Click here](#) to read over 70 responses to this article.**

**["I Am Not a Christian": Former 'Pastor,' Author Joshua Harris Kisses Christianity Goodbye](#)** (Christian News Network)

**[Purity Expert Josh Harris Announces 'I am Not a Christian,' Apologizes to LGBT Community](#)** (Newsweek)

**[LT Resources on Understanding Calvinism/Reformed Theology](#)**

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### New Booklet: *Mary, Mother of the Faithful People?*

Lighthouse Trails is pleased to release our latest topical booklet, *Mary, Mother of the Faithful People?* by Rob Yardley. Mr. Yardley is the president and executive director of The Berean Call ministry. The booklet is 12 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 *Mary, Mother of the Faithful People?*, [click here](#).**

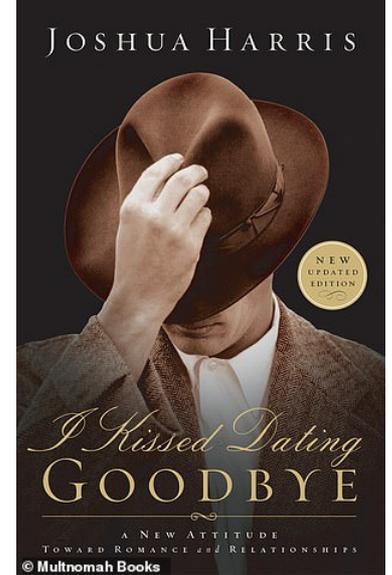
### Mary, Mother of the Faithful People?

By Rob Yardley

[O]ur Lord Jesus Christ . . . is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:14-16)

On November 4, 2025, the Roman Catholic Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a document titled "Mater Populi Fidelis" (MPF, Latin for "Mother of the Faithful People").<sup>1</sup> Signed by Pope Leo XIV, its primary purpose is indicated in Paragraph 22: Roman Catholics are no longer to refer to Mary as the Co-Redemptrix.<sup>2</sup>

While this is one step in the right direction, the title "Mother of the Faithful" alone indicates that this document is not biblical. The Bible only knows one mother of all believers: ". . . Jerusalem which is above . . . is the mother of us all" (Galatians 4:26). Additionally, MPF favorably cites dozens of documents



from the Magisterium that allege dozens of unbiblical doctrines regarding Mary. The meaning of MPF is also still a matter of debate within the Catholic Church. On December 28, 2025, The *Catholic News Agency* reported:

Monsignor Maurizio Gronchi, an expert consultant for the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican, clarified that the measure established last month regarding the use of the titles “Co-Redemptrix” and “Mediatrix” for the Virgin Mary is “not an absolute prohibition” and that these titles can still be used in popular piety, provided their meaning is understood.

“It’s not an absolute prohibition, but it will no longer be used in official documents or in the liturgy. But if used in popular devotion, understanding its meaning, no one will be reprimanded for it.”<sup>3</sup>

The opening paragraphs of *Mater Populi Fidelis* highlight the Church’s expressed concern:

[T]here are some Marian reflection groups, publications, new devotions, and even requests for Marian dogmas that do not share the same characteristics as popular devotion. Rather, they ultimately propose a particular dogmatic development and express themselves intensely through social media, often sowing confusion among ordinary members of the faithful.<sup>4</sup>

The stated issue is that some are “sowing confusion among ordinary members of the faithful.” There may be “confusion,” but the sowers come from the highest authorities in the Roman Catholic Church:

- Pope John Paul II (now Saint John Paul II) referred to Mary as “Co-Redemptrix” on at least seven occasions while serving as Pope.<sup>5</sup>
- MPF says that the confusion is often sown by those on social media. One example not cited in MPF is a widely read Tweet posted in 2021 that said, “Mary is not only the bridge joining us to God; she is more. She is the road that God travelled to reach us, and *the road that we must travel in order to reach him.*”<sup>6</sup> (emphasis added).

If Mary is the road that we must travel to reach God, then those of us who do not come to God via Mary are without hope, and she is necessary for salvation. This Tweet wasn’t from a fanatical shrine devotee: it was posted by Pope Francis.

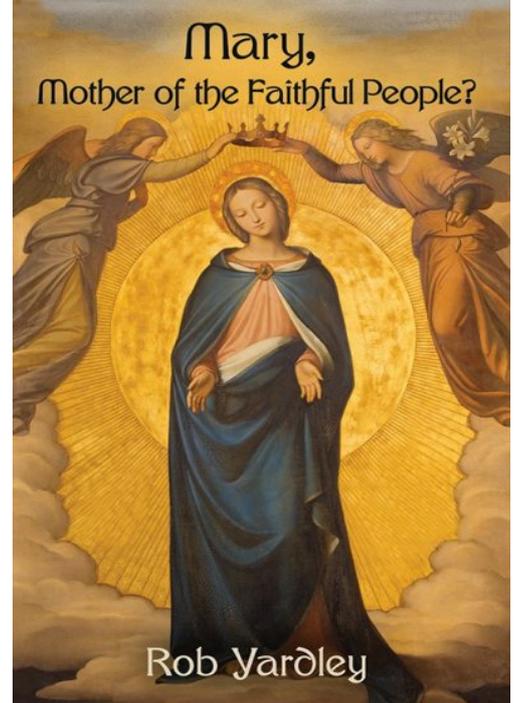
Even if the Roman Catholic Church could backstep Mary’s redeeming role, *their* “Mary” is not the Mary found in the Bible. MPF says, “The cooperation of the Mother with her Son in the work of Salvation has been taught by the Magisterium of the Church.”<sup>7</sup> The first Magisterial teaching cited is *Ineffabilis Deus* (ID). Prior to convening the First Vatican Council (a council which damns with an anathema anyone who denies that the Pope is infallible when he “defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole Church”<sup>8</sup>), Pope Pius IX issued the aforementioned ID, which confirms as official Catholic doctrine the Immaculate Conception of Mary—a title often misunderstood as referring to Jesus while it actually refers to a proposed sinless condition of Mary.

Let . . . [all the children of the Catholic Church] continue to venerate, *invoke* and *pray* to the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, *conceived without original sin*. Let them fly with utter confidence to this most sweet Mother of mercy and grace in all dangers, difficulties, needs, doubts and fears. Under her guidance, under her patronage, under her kindness and protection, nothing is to be feared; nothing is hopeless. Because, while bearing toward us a truly motherly affection and *having in her care the work of our salvation*, she is solicitous about the whole human race. And since *she has been appointed by God to be the Queen of heaven and earth*, and . . . even *stands at the right hand of her only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord*, she presents our petitions in a most efficacious manner. *What she asks, she obtains*. Her pleas can never be unheard.”<sup>9</sup> (emphasis added)

### Eight Attributes Ascribed to the Catholic Mary

In ID, “Mary” is ascribed at least eight attributes that would horrify the real Mary of the Bible. Most of these attributes are still official Catholic doctrine, as cited in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (updated under Pope Francis in 2018). The eight are as follows:

- 1. Roman Catholics are told to “invoke and pray” to Mary.** (Invocation is the act of calling upon a deity, spirit, or supernatural force to seek guidance, assistance, or presence.) The Catechism similarly says, “[T]he Blessed Virgin is invoked in the church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix.”<sup>10</sup> The Bible says that Mary was a most blessed woman, but the blessing was being the mother of Jesus. The details surrounding Mary’s passing, like most deaths in the Bible, are not recorded. Any attempt to contact her is strictly forbidden by Deuteronomy 18:10-12: “There shall not be found among you . . . a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord.” Even if Mary could be contacted, why would a Christian invoke Mary instead of the “one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5)? There are millions of prayers offered by Catholics to Mary daily around the world: Mary would have to be God to hear and answer them all.
- 2. Mary in Roman Catholicism is called “The Blessed Virgin Mary.”** Catholic doctrine teaches that Mary remained a virgin throughout her married life; the Catechism states, “[T]he liturgy of the Church celebrates Mary as . . . the ‘Ever-Virgin.’”<sup>11</sup> The Bible prophesied that a virgin would give birth to the Messiah (Isaiah 7:14), and that “Joseph . . . knew her not till she had brought forth . . . *Jesus*” (Matthew 1:24-25, emphasis added), indicating that Jesus was virgin-born but that Joseph and Mary had a normal marital relationship after the birth of Jesus. The Bible also speaks of Mary’s other children (e.g., Matthew 13:55-56; Mark 3:31-35; Mark 6:3; 1 Corinthians 9:5; Galatians 1:19). Mary’s character is in no way besmirched by having additional children with Joseph; and the Lord Jesus Christ would not receive greater glory from the unbiblical doctrine of Mary’s perpetual virginity. Also, the church has been blessed by the epistles of two sons, James and Jude.
- 3. The Roman Catholic Mary is called the “Mother of God.”** The Catechism says that the Church’s prayer is “a communion of intercession with the all-holy Mother of God.”<sup>12</sup> Mary was blessed to be the earthly mother of the baby Jesus, but Jesus Christ is our Creator and Redeemer: He has existed from eternity past and created the universe millennia before Mary was born (e.g., John 1:1-3; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:8-10). God has no mother, and much of the confusion surrounding Mary in the Catholic Church is based on this title.
- 4. Mary of the Roman Catholic Church is said to be “conceived without original sin.”** The Catechism confirms that the Catholic Mary is “preserved immune from all stain of original sin,”<sup>13</sup> that “By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long,”<sup>14</sup> and “Mary benefited first of all and uniquely from Christ’s victory over sin: she was preserved from all stain of original sin and by a special grace of God committed no sin of any kind during her whole earthly life.”<sup>15</sup> If the concept is that she had to be sinless to give birth to the Holy Child Jesus, then Mary’s parents would need to be sinless to give birth to her, all the way back through a genealogy of sinless progenitors. And we know this cannot be so because the Bible says, “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23); Mary was a sinner who needed a Savior. She confessed as much, beginning her Magnificat, “My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God *my Saviour*” (Luke 1:46-47, emphasis added): a sinless person does not need a Savior.
- 5. The Roman Catholic Mary is said to have “in her care the work of our salvation” and is “solicitous about [i.e., showing great concern for] the whole human race.”** The Catechism says, “Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation.”<sup>16</sup> Mary has no “gifts of eternal salvation”; Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life



through Jesus Christ our Lord.” As in point one above, Mary would have to be God to steward the work of mankind’s salvation, as well as to show great attention to the whole human race. It is blasphemous to ascribe God’s unique attributes to a mere human being.

**6. The Roman Catholic Mary has been “appointed by God to be the Queen of heaven and earth.”** The “queen of heaven” is a biblical term, a demonic entity mentioned five times in the book of Jeremiah (7:18; 44:17-19, 25). The children of Israel invoked this queen of heaven to their shame: why would the Roman Catholic Church choose this of all names? Likewise, the Catechism says that Mary was “exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things.”<sup>17</sup> When did this alleged coronation occur? Mary is never referred to as a queen in any sense in the Bible. The only queen cited in the last book of the Bible, “saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow. . . . Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her” (Revelation 18:7-8).

**7. The Roman Catholic Mary is said to “[stand] at the right hand of her only begotten Son.”** The allusion is clearly to Jesus, who is frequently noted as being seated at the right hand of God (e.g., Matthew 26:64; Mark 16:19; Luke 22:69; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 10:12; 1 Peter 3:22), and standing when receiving the martyred deacon, Stephen (Acts 7:55). Mary is not mentioned in these verses or elsewhere in the Bible as having a special office or position in Heaven, and she is never said to stand at the right hand of Jesus. Likewise, as mentioned in point two above, Jesus is never said to be Mary’s only son in the Bible.

**8. Roman Catholics are told, “What [Mary] asks, she obtains.** Her pleas can never be unheard.” Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, “I cannot depend upon merits of my own . . . I hope that when I go there for judgment that I will hear from Him these words: ‘I heard my mother speak of you.’”<sup>18</sup> The real Mary is not presenting the petitions of Catholics to Jesus with an irresistible plea: it maligns the character of our loving Savior to claim that she is our hope for salvation and forgiveness.

### The Catholic Mary—Celebrated Over 350 Days a Year

Mary is celebrated in various parts<sup>19</sup> of the Catholic Church over 350 days each year.<sup>20</sup> Eighteen of the Marian celebrations are included in the General Roman [Catholic] Calendar:<sup>21</sup>

- January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (a holy day of obligation; requires attending Mass).
- February 11: Our Lady of Lourdes.
- March 25: The Annunciation of the Lord (a holy day of obligation).
- May 13: Our Lady of Fatima (celebrated by Pope Pius XII, Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis).
- May 31: The feast of The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- Monday after Pentecost: Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church.
- Third Saturday after Pentecost (usually in June): The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- July 16: Our Lady of Mount Carmel.
- August 5: The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major (which honors Mary as Mother of God).
- August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a holy day of obligation).
- August 22: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary.<sup>22</sup>
- September 8: The feast of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- September 12: The Most Holy Name of Mary.
- September 15: Our Lady of Sorrows.
- October 7: Our Lady of the Rosary.
- November 21: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- December 8: The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary (a holy day of obligation).
- December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Catechism says, “The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian Prayer, such as the rosary, an ‘epitome of the whole Gospel,’ express devotion to the Virgin Mary.”<sup>23</sup> In the Rosary, a devotee recites the “Hail Mary” 53 times, each time referring to Mary as “Holy Mary, Mother of God,” and ends the Rosary with a “Hail Holy Queen,” which says:

Hail, *Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope.* To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. *Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us,* and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, *O sweet Virgin Mary.*<sup>24</sup> (emphasis added)

Subsequent to the Gospels, twenty-three books of the Bible were written after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:1 through Revelation 22:21), comprising 4,178 verses wherein Mary, the mother of Jesus, is mentioned in only one of these verses—when she joined the Jerusalem prayer meeting with the apostles and other brethren (Acts 1:14). The Bible never tells of anyone praying to her, never refers to her as a perpetual virgin, never speaks of her immaculate conception, never tells of her assumption, never calls her a mother of anyone except her own children and the apostle John (John 19:27), never calls her a queen, never calls her sinless, never assigns to her a unique intercessory role, never gives her a unique “Holy” title, and never says she has a special place in Heaven beyond what any other believer is promised.

The Roman Catholic Church has taken a wonderful woman, blessed by God with a unique role, and from her, created a false god who cannot save. The Bible is all about our wonderful Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and we can each say, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). We are “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13) and are able to “come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

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**Rob Yardley** is the president and executive director of The Berean Call. You may access an extensive collection of decades of research, books, films, lectures, articles, radio archives and more at [www.theberean.org](http://www.theberean.org). Also, every year, The Berean Call presents a discernment conference in Bend, Oregon with outstanding and compelling speakers, addressing the issues that are affecting the church and the world today.

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### Endnotes:

1. [https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_dof\\_doc\\_20251104\\_mater-populi-fidelis\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_dof_doc_20251104_mater-populi-fidelis_en.html).
2. Ibid. #22.
3. [www.bit.ly/4pFrE4n](http://www.bit.ly/4pFrE4n).
4. Mater Populi Fidelis, Presentation Section, November 4, 2025.
5. Mater, Paragraph 18.
6. Pope Francis (@Pontifex), Twitter (now X.com), March 25, 2021.
7. Mater, Paragraph 13.
8. First Vatican Council, Session 4, Chapter 4, Section 9, July 18, 1870.
9. Pope Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus*, last paragraph, December 8, 1854.
10. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Second Edition (Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 1997), Paragraph 969. (Quoting Lumen Gentium [Paragraph 62], promulgated on November 21, 1964, by Pope Paul VI.)
11. *Catechism*, Paragraph 499. (Quoting Lumen Gentium, Paragraph 52.)
12. *Catechism*, Paragraph 2827.

13. *Catechism*, Paragraph 491.
14. *Catechism*, Paragraph 493.
15. *Catechism*, Paragraph 411.
16. *Catechism*, Paragraph 969.
17. *Catechism*, Paragraph 966.
18. [www.bit.ly/3LflJjz](http://www.bit.ly/3LflJjz).
19. See the apostolic exhortation *Marialis Cultus*, Paragraph 9, February 2, 1974.
20. [www.bit.ly/49AxayY](http://www.bit.ly/49AxayY).
21. *Calendarium Romanum Generale, Missale Romanum* [Roman Missal] (Editio typica tertia, reimpressio emendata ed.). Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2008, pp. 105-116.
22. Founded by Pope Pius XII in 1954.
23. *Catechism*, Paragraph 971.
24. <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/hail-holy-queen-salve-regina>.

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