

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND HER FALSE CLAIM THAT GOD GRANTED HER AUTHORITY TO FORGIVE SIN EXAMINED

Little wonder is it that when a church considers itself and its leaders so honored by Almighty God to have the power and authority to forgive sins, (a privilege/position only owned by God Himself) that it assumes absolute spiritual authority over every person on earth! That the Roman Church claims the infallibility of the Pope is no new revelation. Wikipedia tells us: *Papal infallibility Papal infallibility is a dogma of the Roman Catholic Church which states that, in virtue of the promise of Jesus to Peter, the pope when appealing to his highest authority is preserved from the possibility of error on doctrine "initially given to the apostolic Church and handed down in Scripture and tradition"*. (Wikipedia)

Thus when over the many centuries the Popes commanded 'Death to the Protestant Heretics' in Europe etc., and millions of poor souls were slaughtered by sword, inquisition, hanging, poison etc, while the Roman church (fully participating) considered the Popes blameless at that savage butchery. Also that false assumption seems to give the Papacy the right to destroy all Protestants, non Catholics etc., who refuse to join her ranks. Certainly when ever/where ever in past centuries she comes into absolute control of the government, she suddenly will not peacefully co-exist with those of other faiths. Those poor souls suddenly find themselves persecuted, hounded, attacked, put to the fire/guillotine, noose or sword! Thankfully, America was founded by non-Catholic Protestant type settlers, who were willing to give religious freedom to all people of any religion. That is what our wonderful constitution demands. Therefore today, Roman Catholics are forced to dwell in peace and security, and are free to worship at they please.

DOES THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH HAVE POWER THROUGH HER PRIESTS TO FORGIVE SINS?

For centuries the Roman Church has claimed the power to forgive sins through her priests. She proudly goes to the scriptures to point out John 20:25 as her (supposed) proof text. As well she goes to Matthew 16:13-19 in attempt to show that our Lord Jesus built his church and commissioned it upon the Apostle Peter (whom they claim was the first Pope). Scholars point out that there was/is no historical evidence that the Apostle Peter was ever in Rome. We should add if our memory serves us, that in Rome there certainly was a pagan follower/leader in a certain Babylonian cult in the time of Christ named Peter, but certainly not the Apostle Peter.

Historian Alexander Hislop, who authored 'The Two Babylons' proves that same cult which had confession, the priest craft, worship of Semarimas the supposed virgin goddess/god and her supposedly virgin born son Nimrod etc, eventually morphed into a so called 'Christian religion adopting some of the beliefs of the early Christian church. The true early Christian church because of her popularity surrounding our Lord caused that Babylonian cult to fear its own demise. So, it quickly adopted the main tenants of the true Christian church. Of course her plan of salvation was/is based on the works system of merit and eventually became what the Catholic Church is today, a false system of worship with Mariolatry at its heart. The simple fact that the roots of the Roman Catholic Church can be traced to the Babylonian system of worship instituted and founded by Nimrod and his mother Semaramis, which could possibly endorse their claim of being the oldest religion in the world. (I.e. 'religion' created and instituted by man, which true Christianity is not.)

Revelation 17-18 clearly describes that Babylonian religious system, which is built upon seven mountains, and as well reveals her destruction close to the return of Christ. Rome is the only city in the world built on seven mountains which today is the headquarters for the Church of Rome.)

MATTHEW 16:13-19

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi He asked His disciples saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist, some Elias, and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou Simon Barjona for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven. Then charged He his disciples that they should tell no man that He was Jesus the Christ.

First it must be said that to make such a claim, (that our Lord gave the Apostles the power to forgive sin in these verses) is truly a great stretch away from the truth. The Apostle Peter was a sinful man, who later betrayed our Lord Jesus and left his side denying Him. That the 'church' is the 'ekklesia' or the 'called out assembly of what and who? Certainly not Peter, since even his name (and later character failure) contradicts the idea the church would be 'built' on him since his name 'Peter' in Greek is 'pebble or small stone.' Our Lord plainly said 'Upon this *rock*...' actually referring to the explanatory explanation that it was the declaration 'Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God. Yes, Yeshua/Jesus is/was the Rock the church would be built on, and not the apostle Peter.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-3 & 4

"...how our fathers were under the cloud...and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them and that Rock was Christ."

I.e. The church was/is to be built on the Lord Jesus who was God come in the flesh and not Peter. Next we need to look carefully at John 20:23

JOHN 20:21-23

"THEN SAID JESUS TO THEM AGAIN, PEACE TO YOU, AS MY FATHER HATH SENT ME, EVEN SO I SEND YOU. AND WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE BREATHED ON THEM AND SAID UNTO THEM, RECEIVE YE THE HOLY GHOST. WHOSOEVER SINS YE REMIT THEY ARE REMITTED TO THEM, AND WHOSOEVER SINS YE RETAIN THEY ARE RETAINED."

These verses have been so misapplied, and so misinterpreted over the centuries that much damage has been done to the cause of Christ, and the furtherance of the Gospel message. For the fundamentalist evangelical, these verses are merely our Lord commissioning the disciples to understand that the gospel message they would be preaching would result in the forgiveness of sins in their listeners. Of course we cannot disagree with that application of these verses in generality. We do know when the gospel is preached and people respond to the invitation in true repentance and faith, that they become born again believers, and note, they become born again,

born into the family of God by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit, is Spirit...” and “The wind bloweth where it listeth and thou hearest the sound there of but canst not tell whence it cometh or where it goeth, so is every one that is born of the Spirit. John 3:6-8. KJV. First, in order to clearly understand the John 20 verse, one Biblical absolute doctrine which no one should dispute is that...

GOD AND ONLY GOD ALONE CAN FORGIVE OUR SINS!

Mark 2:7, “Why doth this man (Yeshua/Jesus) thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only?”(Reader note: Yes Yeshua was God come in the flesh despite what the Pharisees believed about Him).

Isaiah 43:25, “I, even I am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for my own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”

Upon a casual reading of the above verse (23), no doubt the average reader seems to be led to believe that Yeshua/Jesus is giving his disciples the power to forgive (remit or retain) sin. For this reason the Church of Rome has stalwartly maintained that she bestows upon her priests, the power to forgive men’s sins in the confessional booth, through apostolic succession. In reality though, that is further from the truth as can be. Unfortunately for this misunderstanding, the confessional booth has been used over centuries by unscrupulous clergy for controlling the masses, especially political figures and leaders, by what is commonly called blackmail. So the question looms, “Well just what then are these verses teaching?” In answering that, we must first again, emphasize that only God and God alone can forgive sin! That in itself is the key to unlock the true meaning of these verses. Before giving what can only be the true teaching of this verse it must be remembered that our God, is a triune God, one God in three persons, three distinct and separate personalities, three in one or one in three, the Trinity. Now the scriptures are clear that the Godhead is in close collusion with each other. In Genesis chapter one, God said, “Let us make man in our image.” Clear collusion (some may say ‘consultation’) among members of the God head. Then later Genesis 11:6-7 we find God saying, “Let us go down...and there confound their language etc.” Again clear collusion/consultation between members of the Triune Godhead. Now to explain the real truth found in the John 20 verses. What is clear in these verses is not our Lord Yeshua/Jesus giving the apostles the right to forgive sin in the stead of God, but rather *a monumental breath taking revelation of huge importance to Bible scholars everywhere!*

Our Savior (in anticipation of the coming of the Spirit of God on the day of Pentecost was COMMISSIONING the Holy Spirit to cancel sin under the preaching of the gospel by these same apostles and disciples of Christ whom he was also commissioning to carry the word of reconciliation! I.e. First, our lord was supplying his sacrificial death as an offering for the sins of the world, secondly He was commissioning the disciples to carry that message to the unsaved world, and thirdly was commissioning the Spirit of God to wash the sins of the repentant away and by the power of the Holy Spirit birth them into the family of God.

Certainly it is argued by the Church of Rome, that , “Well our Lord was speaking *to the disciples* when He made this declaration, so then it has to be *to them* that the power to forgive sins must have been given, so God does give our clergy/men of God the power to forgive sins.’ Our answer to this objection is found in Matthew 16:23 when our Lord Yeshua rebuked Satan by directing the rebuke to Peter. Peter was not the one guilty of originating the demeaning insult to Jesus when he said as follows:

MATTHEW 16:22

Then Peter took him and began to rebuke him saying, Be it far from thee Lord this shall not be unto thee.

Clearly 'Satan' was the one who instigated and influenced the thinking of Peter, so though our Lord aimed His rebuke at Peter it was clearly intended for Satan, by "Get thee behind me Satan, thou art an offence unto me, for thou savors not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

As far as this author knows, this (Jn.20) 'commissioning of the Spirit of God' to forgive/regenerate/save the repentant soul, is one of the few places recorded in the pages in God's word, that one member of the Trinity can be found addressing another member to an action beneficial to man's eternal salvation.

If the Roman Catholic Church were correct in its interpretation of verse 23 then salvation to be obtained by any person would necessarily have to come directly from one of the proclamations/edicts/or blessings from her priests or clergy. Meaning simply that no one could find eternal salvation outside of that church. (In the Church of Rome the 1500 Council of Trent still stands proclaiming that there is absolutely no salvation outside of her folds, thus (supposedly) damning all non Catholics to eternal damnation.)

Of course we are aware that in recent years there has been attempts by the Church of Rome to somewhat modify this position for the 'heathen.') This author myself, experienced the new birth and regeneration in the living room of a Bible study group, without the presence of 'clergy.' Some have found Christ kneeling by their bedside at night, I have led souls to Christ over the telephone, some have been saved/born again driving on the highway, kneeling in a corn field, etc and etc.

So here in these verses, in anticipation of the Day of Pentecost and the descent of the Holy Spirit into the world our Lord was giving His plan of action for the Holy Spirit. I.e. the commissioning of the coming work of the Spirit of God. Remember that the Holy Spirit was coming to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and would come to indwell all believers, yea to 'birth' souls into the family of God and as well to make their bodies vessels or yea temples of the Spirit of God! One very essential Biblical fact must be considered and that is...

PROTECTING THE PURITY OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

One very important issue that comes to mind in dealing with the subject of the preaching of the gospel is that most Christians have but little idea about the implications of denominational doctrinal differences in the gospel message. It is very plain that the gospel message between different denominations more often than not is very contradictory to each other. The Baptists, Church of Christ, Mormons, Watchtower, Roman Catholic (don't forget the Calvinists etc.) all preach a different gospel message. To the Baptists salvation is strictly by grace thru faith, plus nothing minus nothing. To the Church of Christ water baptism is essential to regeneration and salvation, i.e. 1. Hear the Gospel. 2. Believe the Gospel. 3. Repent. 4. Confess. 5. Be baptized (by their minister.) To the Mormons salvation is found only in and through joining and being faithful to that organization. Works are an essential element in that group to obtain and keep salvation. To the Watchtower again salvation is obtained by joining their group, and being faithful to their doctrine till death. To the Roman Catholic no one can say they are 'saved' until

after death, and that baptism into the church, being faithful to the sacraments of the church, mass, confession etc will ultimately bring one into heaven after death (of course after a stint in purgatory to purge venial or small sins away). No one according to them can say they are 'saved' or 'born again' until after death. Then lastly the Calvinists who deny the gospel is for everyone except the 'frozen chosen' and teach the heresy of forced salvation of a few, and forced merciless eternal/endless torture in the Lake of Fire for eternity for the majority. According to the Calvinists, God, supposedly in His majestic sovereignty, (with no mercy), simply refused to elect/force the majority to be saved. Calvinists claim this idiocy glorifies God! So just how important is the gospel message, and what is the 'purity element' we are mentioning. The apostle Paul made it very clear just how important the gospel is and exactly what it consists of.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4

“...I declare unto you the gospel...by which ye are saved...for I delivered unto you ...that Christ died for our sins...that he was buried...and that he rose again the third day...”

Clearly the gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, but how important is that message in its purity?

ROMANS 1:16

“...For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth (salvation by faith in Christ or Eph. 2:8-9) to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Clearly we can see that the gospel and what man does with it, makes the difference whether he is saved and goes to heaven, or is damned to judgment in Hell and later the Lake of Fire! So the gospel message and faith (to everyone that *believeth*) in the risen Savior brings the lost to instant/present salvation. Paul made it crystal clear that baptism was not part of the gospel or the gospel message bringing salvation.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:14-17

“I thank God that I baptized none of you but Crispus and Gaius...for Christ sent me not to baptize but to preach the gospel...”

At this point we must ask, “How can the gospel message become impure/tainted or corrupted? To which the answer is simple, ‘By adding to or taking away from it.’ Simply speaking, if a minister etc. adds one single thing to the gospel, such as ‘works/baptism/church membership/penance/indulgence/enduring to the end’ or any other thing telling someone that’s what is essential for him to do to be saved, then he effectively shuts the door of heaven up to that lost soul by corrupting the gospel. Once a person comes to believe that to be saved is Jesus plus works, or Jesus plus baptism, etc. then his faith is corrupted and God cannot honor corrupted faith, i.e. faith that is fully persuaded that what God has promised He is also able to perform. God cannot and will not honor the preaching of a perverted gospel, nor will He ‘birth’ into His family that seeking sinner seeing that his faith is not fully persuaded that salvation is by the Lord Jesus Christ, plus nothing minus nothing!

ROMANS 4:3-5 & 20-25

“For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness...but to him that worketh not but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly his faith is counted for righteousness...He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief but was strong in faith giving glory to God: and Being fully persuaded that what he had promised he was able also to perform and therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but for us also to whom it shall be imputed if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered for our offences and was raised again for our justification.

Sadly preachers/teachers of perverted gospels, gospels that are added to or taken away from, thereby corrupt the faith of lost souls and prevent them from coming to Jesus not being ‘fully persuaded’ and send them to judgment in Hell and later the Lake of Fire! That is the reason that Paul warned the early church that anyone who preaches a false gospel is cursed by God.

GALATIANS 1:6-9

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him ...to another gospel...which is not another...but some would pervert the gospel of Christ..if any preach any other gospel than I preached to you let him be cursed...If any man preach any other gospel unto you ...let him be accursed.”

Lastly to show our Saviors displeasure toward those who would dare pervert the way of salvation by adding to or taking away from the pure gospel message we only need to quote...

MATTHEW 23:13

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.”

So...whenever someone corrupts/distorts/changes/adds to/takes away from the simple gospel message which is the power of God unto salvation, he necessarily is stumbling parishioners/seeking souls toward being totally disqualified (if you will) to receive the Holy Spirit and forgiveness of sins and the new birth into the family of God! Again, just what is the gospel which is the power of God unto salvation? It is exercising simple faith and repentance in the finished work of Christ, in His death burial and resurrection receiving Him as God and Savior to become born again, plus nothing, and minus nothing. Truly “The just shall live by faith.” End.

Please go to our web site universalchristiancurba.com to find our new books on theology including: “The Death of Endless Damnation” which proves eventual universal salvation of all souls, “Abraham the Trinity and Lot Exonerated” proving Genesis 18 clearly presents the Triune God appearing to Abraham, and then two of the Trinity appear to Lot. As well the Bible in these chapters fully exonerates Lot, “The Infamous Rapture Conflict Settled” which proves the post-trib pre-wrath rapture of the church, and “Calvinism the Trojan Horse Within” which exposes Calvinists as (apostates) those we must break fellowship with.