

Discerning  
*Truth* in the midst of *Error*

Part Two: **Exposing Error #1**

**Catholicism – Intro & Source(s) of Truth**

**Exposing Error is Vital**

- Imagine being raised in an environment where God is said to not exist.
- Or where your religious influences treat God's word as fictional or optional.
- Where sin is redefined as relative choices because there is no absolute truth.
- To have the error of those paths exposed is vital if that person is to be saved.
- To have the light of the Word of God shine in that dark place and give hope.
- If doctrinal error isn't explicitly exposed by comparing it to the biblical truth the result is syncretism.
- We must hold up the light of truth and closely examine everything else by that light.
- Why? **2Cor.11:1-4, 13-15**
- Satan does not come at us with an open frontal attack. He is a master deceiver.
- He will even disguise himself as a biblical-looking religion...and deceive many.

**Jesus warned people to flee False Religion that leads to Hell.**

- **Luke 12:1-9**, Jesus spoke to a huge crowd...and he warned them about Hell.
- The leaven of the Pharisees was an infectious permeating false religion.
- It was made up of a mixture of Scripture and man-made oral traditions.
- All false religion is deceptive and a damning road that leads straight to hell.
- All who reach heaven will be followers of the only true religion, Christ alone.
- Most people in hell will be followers of false and perverted religion, Man-made.
- Most people agree with a hell for Hitler, Stalin, and the most heinous of sinners.
- But hell for me? Hell for you? We don't want to believe that.
- All hypocrites, even religious ones, end up in hell. Hypocrisy = acting, pretending.
- Man-made religion deceives sinners into believing they righteous but they are not.
- **12:2-3** God will unmask hypocrisy. All false religion & forms of godliness (**2Tim.3:5**)
- **12:4-5** God will send hypocrites to hell. Fear God who condemns eternally.
- **12:6-7** God knows who they are. This is not a comfort like in Matt.10.
- **12:8-9** How do we escape? Open public confession of God before Men.
- Salvation is not to be kept private. But public, declared openly, spoken out freely.
- To live by and to talk unashamedly about our new life in Christ.
- True faith that is evidenced by transforming speech and action over time.
- Like Jesus, we are to clearly warn people to flee False Religion b/c it leads to Hell.

**The Purpose for Exposing Error**

- The purpose is NOT to express arrogance or exclusive possession of truth.
- And certainly not to bash people who are deceived by these false religions.
- But to expose error by the truth of God's Word for our benefit and theirs.
- So that we are not fooled by false religion that uses biblical sounding terminology.
- And so that we can identify who still needs the biblical gospel of Christ alone.
- **I do not hate Catholics, Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, or Muslims.**
- But these false religions have deceived trillions of poor souls over the centuries.
- The most loving thing we can do is to expose error by speaking clear biblical truth.

- **Phil 2:3-4** Love for others more than love for ourselves is what motivates us.
- The closer religion gets to truth, but misses truth, the more deceptive & dangerous.
- Biblical sounding false teaching has the same effect. It spiritually tricks and kills.
- We will compare False Religious Dogma with the 8 areas of Essential Biblical Truth.
- What is the source of truth? Who is God? Who is Satan? What is the spiritual condition of mankind? What is the spiritual solution? Who is Jesus? How is someone saved? What happens to the saved & unsaved?

### Why Start with Catholicism?

- I believe it is the most spiritually dangerous false religion around us. (numerically)
- It uses biblical terminology turned to lies through man-made traditions
- It is my intention to expose Catholicism for the doctrinal error that it is.
- I am NOT questioning the sincerity of Catholics. If sincerity could save I'd shut up.
- **Sincere faith is not saving faith if the object(s) of our faith cannot sincerely save.**
- Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Not in religion.
- My hope is that none of us will remain fooled by Catholicism.
- And that we will see the need to urge our Catholic friends to flee that false system.
- So they will embrace Christ alone...the biblical gospel, **for it is the power of God unto salvation...**and be rescued from a religious system that leads to hell.
- **Be brave and pray fervently for we are treading on the sacred spiritual territory of God's enemy. The god of this world won't like it. He may even kick and scream a bit. But God's truth will prevail.**

### Is All Catholicism Universally Identical?

- There are many variations of Catholicism around the country and around the world.
- Many Catholics are unaware of the dogmas of their religion...casual Catholics.
- Catholicism is also evolving. New traditions, New saints, New inspired truth is added.
- Example: The Sunday of Divine Mercy – Added by Pope John Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2000.
- All forms of Catholicism are branches connected to the vine of Roman Catholicism.
- There are universal doctrinal dogmas that permeate all of Catholicism.
- I want to expose the eternally damning errors taught by Catholicism universally.

### Question #1: What is Catholicism's Sources of Truth? (C. = Catholicism)

- Right from the start we have to change the question to **Sources...**plural.
- C. recognizes the Scriptures with additions AND church tradition as sacred truth.

### What about the Apocryphal books & letters?

- C. recognizes the O.T. & N.T. books and letters AND adds 12 apocryphal writings.  
*The Council of Trent in 1546 declared these writings to be inspired by God. 1200 yrs after the original canon was sealed.*  
*Tobit, Judith, 1&2 Maccabees, Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), Baruch, and five passages: The Letter of Jeremiah - which became Baruch chapter 6, A 107 verse expansion of the Book of Esther, The Prayer of Azariah - which became Daniel 3:24-90, Susanna - which became Daniel 13, Bel and the Dragon - which became Daniel 14. (reachingcatholics.org/rcbible.html)*
- These writings had been rejected from the completed Canon b/c they did not meet the strict measuring stick of being **authoritative, prophetic, authentic, dynamic**, and being **received** & used by the early church.
- The Apocryphal books can provide historical information but are not inspired.  
*Roman Catholicism's claim that these writings are inspired must be rejected for the following reasons: The Apocrypha does not present itself as inspired. The author of 2 Maccabees says that his book is the abridgement of another man's work (2 Maccabees 2:23). He concludes the book, saying, "If it is well written and to the point, that is what I wanted; if it is poorly done and mediocre, that is the best I could do" (2 Maccabees 15:38). Mediocre is a good description of the Apocrypha. Despite its historical value, it promotes questionable ethics, fanciful legends, and doctrine that contradicts Scripture.  
The Jews of Palestine never accepted the Apocrypha as part of sacred Scripture. Neither was there a Jewish prophet living during the time in which the Apocrypha was written (300-30 B.C.).*

Jesus and the New Testament writers did not treat the Apocrypha as inspired. Though the New Testament quotes virtually every book of the Old Testament, there is not a single quotation from the Apocrypha. The early church as a whole never accepted the Apocrypha as inspired. Moreover, many Christian leaders spoke against the Apocrypha, including: Jerome, Origen, Athanasius, and Cyril of Jerusalem. The purpose of the Council of Trent was to counteract the Protestant Reformation. Protestants had rejected the Apocrypha. Rome reacted by dogmatically declaring most of the Apocrypha to be inspired. The Apocrypha also included teachings that could help Rome defend its doctrine against growing Protestant criticism. For instance, Martin Luther had forcefully argued against Rome's practice of selling pardons from purgatory. Tobit 12:9 supports the practice, stating, "...almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin." Even some Catholic writers acknowledge that Trent's decision to accept the Apocrypha as inspired is problematic. (reachingcatholics.org/rcbible.html)

- While the Apocrypha has caused some serious Catholic doctrinal errors, many more errors come from wrongful interpretation of the common Scriptures.

### What is Apostolic Succession?

- The following comes from (catholic.com/library/Apostolic\_Succession.asp).  
*The first Christians had no doubts about how to determine which was the true Church and which doctrines the true teachings of Christ. The test was simple: Just trace the apostolic succession of the claimants. Apostolic succession is the line of bishops stretching back to the apostles. All over the world, all Catholic bishops are part of a lineage that goes back to the time of the apostles, something that is impossible in Protestant denominations (most of which do not even claim to have bishops). The role of apostolic succession in preserving true doctrine is illustrated in the Bible. To make sure that the apostles' teachings would be passed down after the deaths of the apostles, Paul told Timothy, "[W]hat you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). In this passage he refers to the first three generations of apostolic succession—his own generation, Timothy's generation, and the generation Timothy will teach. The Church Fathers, who were links in that chain of succession, regularly appealed to apostolic succession as a test for whether Catholics or heretics had correct doctrine. This was necessary because heretics simply put their own interpretations, even bizarre ones, on Scripture. Clearly, something other than Scripture had to be used as an ultimate test of doctrine in these cases. For the early Fathers, "the identity of the oral tradition with the original revelation is guaranteed by the unbroken succession of bishops in the great sees going back lineally to the apostles. . . . [A]n additional safeguard is supplied by the Holy Spirit, for the message committed was to the Church, and the Church is the home of the Spirit. Indeed, the Church's bishops are . . . Spirit-endowed men who have been vouchsafed 'an infallible charism of truth'" (ibid.). Thus on the basis of experience the Fathers could be "profoundly convinced of the futility of arguing with heretics merely on the basis of Scripture. The skill and success with which they twisted its plain meaning made it impossible to reach any decisive conclusion in that field" (ibid., 41).*
- Three scriptures are used to try to justify apostolic succession: **Mt.16, Ac.20, 2Tim.2**
- **Matt.16:18** Peter, Petros, small stone. You can't build anything on a small stone.
- Petra, foundation, **Matt.7:24**, a foundation you can build a house upon.
- The church could never be built upon imperfect man! **Matt.16:22**
- Peter & John b/4 the Jewish council for healing the lame man... **Ac.4:7-12**
- Christ is the building stone and became the supreme, chief, cornerstone.
- Peter knew and testified that Christ was the foundation of the church!
- Christ alone is His full deity and being the Messiah is the foundation of the church.
- **Ac.20:28** Paul was not giving these elders universal and hierarchical authority.
- **2Tim.2:2** C. has taken teaching on discipleship and turned it into a divine right of doctrinal authority reserved for Catholic bishops and popes alone.
- Papal succession was created by the system to support the system, not by Christ.
- As to not arguing **merely on the basis of Scripture**...that is the only clear basis upon which to stand! If you take that away from the mix...anything is justifiable.

- When defending dogma opposed to Scripture a contrived source of authority is used.
- Assumed authority improperly elevated above the God-breathed written Scripture.

### **The Doctrine of *Sola Scriptura*.**

- **2Tim.3:16, All Scripture...**all **graphe**, written Scripture, not verbal traditions.
- *Sola Scriptura* is 1 of the 5 key doctrines of the Reformation started in 1517.
- *Sola Scriptura* – by Scripture alone, *Sola fide* – by faith alone, *Sola gratia* – by grace alone, *Solus Christus* – by Christ alone, and *Soli Deo Gloria* – glory to God alone.
- *Sola Scriptura* teaches the Bible as everything we need for salvation & holiness.
- That all church authority, traditions, and convictions be subordinate to Scripture.
- Teaching not subordinate to scripture should be held as opinion only, not dogma.
- **The foundation of truth is the Word of God. The foundation of Error is adding to, subtracting from, repackaging, superseding the Word of God, or eliminating it.**
- Catholicism completely rejects the doctrine of *Sola Scriptura*.
- How does Catholicism keep the masses from defecting from this view? Anathema.
- They threaten eternal damnation on all who do not hold to their view.
- The council of Trent convened from 1545 to 1563 in response to the Reformation

*Trent has this to say about Sola Scriptura: This [Gospel], of old promised through the Prophets in the Holy Scriptures, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, promulgated first with His own mouth, and then commanded it to be preached by His Apostles to every creature as the source at once of all saving truth and rules of conduct. It also clearly perceives that these truths and rules are contained in the written books and in the unwritten traditions, which, received by the Apostles from the mouth of Christ Himself, or from the Apostles themselves, the Holy Ghost dictating, have come down to us, transmitted as it were from hand to hand.*

*After listing the new canon of inspired scriptures, including the Apocrypha, Trent continues:*

*If anyone does not accept as sacred and canonical the aforesaid books in their entirety and with all their parts, as they have been accustomed to be read in the Catholic Church and as they are contained in the old Latin Vulgate Edition, and knowingly and deliberately rejects the aforesaid traditions, let him be **anathema**.* (helives.blogspot.com/2005/10/lesson-31-council-of-trent-cont.html)

- This is the anti-reformation hard-line view of Trent. What about Vatican 2 (V2)?
- It is widely believed that Vatican 2 was more conciliatory toward non-Catholics.
- Past Council decrees ostracized and anathematized everyone. V2 drew people in.
- But what was V2 drawing people in to? Any substantive changes?

*The decree "On Ecumenism" likewise continued traditional teaching, but adapted it dramatically. The council reaffirmed that "it is through Christ's Catholic Church alone, which is the all-embracing means of salvation, that the fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained." Yet for the first time Protestants and Anglicans are explicitly regarded as Christians ("separated brethren"), and Eastern Orthodox are treated as directly descendant from the apostles. Most significantly, the Catholic Church, for the first time, did not claim that the solution to these divisions lies in a "return" of these churches to Rome, but in an open future in which all may be "tending toward that fullness with which our Lord wants His body to be endowed in the course of time." Pope Paul made the point concrete by creating a permanent Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, and by issuing (Dec. 1965) with Patriarch Athenagoras, head of Eastern Orthodoxy, a declaration committing the mutual excommunications of A.D. 1054 to oblivion and hoping for restoration of full communion of faith and sacramental life.*

- Did V2 make any real changes to Trent's dogmas on Scripture/tradition?

*This second dogmatic constitution continued the work of Vatican I, but profoundly modified it. As continuation, it stressed the necessity of the magisterium of the church functioning within the ongoing sacred tradition "which comes from the apostles [and] develops in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit." The profound modification was the new de facto primacy given to sacred Scripture. Four of the six chapters define the Scriptures of the OT and the NT as the sacred communication by God, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, of "those things which he wanted." While use of critical methods is appropriate, "serious attention must be given to the content and unity of the whole of Scripture." Sacred*

*Scripture is properly interpreted within the context of the sacred tradition and of the magisterium of the church; all three together and each differently are due to the action of the same Holy Spirit. The biblical emphasis is made explicit here and in other decrees by the centrality given to Scripture in the revised liturgy, in the education of clergy, in the exposition of the council's teachings, and in the insistence that all persons be given full and easy access to Scripture. The results were immediately experienced most dramatically in the transformation of parish worship into the vernacular languages throughout the world. (mb-soft.com/believe/txs/secondvc.htm)*

- Anything but *Sola Scriptura* allows man's words/traditions to be elevated above God's written word.

### How does Catholicism justify the elevation of Tradition?

- The following are paragraphs from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC)

**75** *"Christ the Lord, in whom the entire Revelation of the most high God is summed up, commanded the apostles to preach the Gospel, which had been promised beforehand by the prophets, and which he fulfilled in his own person and promulgated with his own lips. In preaching the Gospel, they were to communicate the gifts of God to all men. This Gospel was to be the source of all saving truth and moral discipline."*

- Sounds good so far, right? But the next paragraph plants the seed of deception.

**76** *In keeping with the Lord's command, the Gospel was handed on in two ways: - **orally** "by the apostles who handed on, by the spoken word of their preaching, by the example they gave, by the institutions they established, what they themselves had received - whether from the lips of Christ, from his way of life and his works, or whether they had learned it at the prompting of the Holy Spirit";<sup>33</sup> - **in writing** "by those apostles and other men associated with the apostles who, under the inspiration of the same Holy Spirit, committed the message of salvation to writing".*

- This two-fold transmission of truth continues to set the stage for the deception.

**77** *"In order that the full and living Gospel might always be preserved in the Church the apostles left bishops as their successors. They gave them their own position of teaching authority." Indeed, "the apostolic preaching, which is expressed in a special way in the inspired books, was to be preserved in a continuous line of succession until the end of time."*

**78** *This living transmission, accomplished in the Holy Spirit, is called Tradition, since it is distinct from Sacred Scripture, though closely connected to it. Through Tradition, "the Church, in her doctrine, life and worship, perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes." "The sayings of the holy Fathers are a witness to the life-giving presence of this Tradition, showing how its riches are poured out in the practice and life of the Church, in her belief and her prayer."*

- Just like that Catholicism has elevated oral tradition to the level of Sacred Scripture.
- **2Tim.3:16** – tells us that **all** written **Scripture is inspired by God**...not oral tradition.
- Traditions and creeds can be good if they are kept subordinate to the Word of God.
- But that is not what Catholicism has done with oral tradition.

**79** *The Father's self-communication made through his Word in the Holy Spirit, remains present and active in the Church: "God, who spoke in the past, continues to converse with the Spouse of his beloved Son. And the Holy Spirit, through whom the living voice of the Gospel rings out in the Church - and through her in the world - leads believers to the full truth, and makes the Word of Christ dwell in them in all its richness."*

- Catholicism claims that the only way to know the full truth is in through them.
- No one can know the truth by the word of God alone. All must come to them.
- And the systematic elevation of tradition continues in the next few paragraphs.

**80** *"Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, then, are bound closely together, and communicate one with the other. For both of them, flowing out from the same divine well-spring, come together in some fashion to form one thing, and move towards the same goal..."*

**81** *"Sacred Scripture is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit." "And [Holy] Tradition transmits in its entirety the Word of God which has been entrusted to the apostles by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit. It transmits it to the successors of the apostles so that, enlightened by the Spirit of truth, they may faithfully preserve, expound and spread it abroad by their preaching."*

**82** *As a result the Church, to whom the transmission and interpretation of Revelation is entrusted, "does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence."*

**84** *The apostles entrusted the "Sacred deposit" of the faith (the depositum fidei), contained in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, to the whole of the Church...*

- They try to use Acts 2:42 to establish and elevate the authority of oral tradition.
- **Acts 2:42**, believers ...**were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**
- Of course, oral teaching was important prior to the N.T. being written.
- The Holy Spirit reminded the Apostles of what Jesus taught them but also gave understanding of O.T. truth.  
**Ac. 2:16, 3:18-26 Peter at Pentecost and in Temple yard, 7 Stephen to his murderers, 8:28 Philip to Ethiopian, 10:43 Peter to Gentiles, 13:13-51 Paul preaches from O.T., 15:15 Paul & Barnabas b/4 Apostles in Jerusalem, 24:14, 26:22-27, 28:23**
- All the way through the N.T. writings, O.T. scripture was expounded on.
- The Apostles taught from the written word of God & from the instructions of Christ.
- When John, the last Apostle alive, wrote the final Revelation of Jesus Christ the inspired, God-breathed, written Word of God was complete.
- Catholicism vehemently opposes the idea that church tradition is NOT inspired.
- C. claims to have **Magisterium**, exclusive authority to teach & interpret divine truth.

**85** *"The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ." This means that the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome.*

- Only the Popes and Bishops can say what Scripture really means...they claim.
- Two-fold divine revelation of scripture & tradition can only be established by them.
- This is how victims of Catholicism are deceived & hemmed in w/ no escape hatches.
- The next Catechism w/o the background we just covered would sound pretty good.

**86** *"Yet this Magisterium is not superior to the Word of God, but is its servant. It teaches only what has been handed on to it. At the divine command and with the help of the Holy Spirit, it listens to this devotedly, guards it with dedication and expounds it faithfully. All that it proposes for belief as being divinely revealed is drawn from this single deposit of faith." (the depositum fidei – both sacred scripture and sacred tradition)*

**87** *Mindful of Christ's words to his apostles: "He who hears you, hears me" [Lk.10:16], the faithful receive with docility the teachings and directives that their pastors give them in different forms.*

- They hemmed in on all sides and are also expected not to question anything.
- A good Catholic is expected to take the word of the Pope, the Bishops, the Priests, and the Traditions and treat them as the very words of Christ. No questions asked.
- **But I say you each of you individually...questioning doctrine and traditions in light of God's word is your responsibility! Don't ever stop studying and digging!**
- **1Jn.4:1, Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.**
- Don't think that Catholicism gives their followers freedom to study and evaluate.

**88** *The Church's Magisterium exercises the authority it holds from Christ to the fullest extent when it defines dogmas...obliquing the Christian people to an irrevocable adherence of faith...*

**89** *There is an organic connection between our spiritual life and the dogmas. Dogmas are lights along the path of faith; they illuminate it and make it secure. Conversely, if our life is upright, our intellect and heart will be open to welcome the light shed by the dogmas of faith.*

- What does **Ps.119:105** say? God's **word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path.** Not church tradition!
- C. teaches that the written Scriptures together with the oral Traditions are infallible.
- C. claims to have the only authority to infallibly interpret & establish the One faith.

92 *"The whole body of the faithful. . . cannot err in matters of belief. This characteristic is shown in the supernatural appreciation of faith (sensus fidei) on the part of the whole people, when, from the bishops to the last of the faithful, they manifest a universal consent in matters of faith and morals."*

95 *"It is clear therefore that, in the supremely wise arrangement of God, sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium of the Church are so connected and associated that one of them cannot stand without the others. Working together, each in its own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they all contribute effectively to the salvation of souls."*

- Is God's word dependent upon the tradition & the authority of Catholicism to save?
- Are the Magisterium and Traditions of Catholicism eternal like the Words of Christ?
- **Mt.24:35, Heaven and earth will pass away, by My words will not pass away.**
- Jesus doesn't pray that the disciples & future believers be sanctified in traditions.
- **Jn.17:17, Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.**
- Jesus reprimands Jewish elite for doing the exact same thing. **Mt.15:1-3, Mk.7:8-13.**
- **Rom.1:16, ...the gospel is the power of God unto salvation...**
- What better way to deceive trillions of poor souls than by simply using biblical terms with adulterated meanings. Combining Scripture with religious tradition.
- Broad-road religion marked **Highway to Heaven** but leading to destruction & hell.

100 *The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, to the Pope and to the bishops in communion with him.*

- The purpose of the 21 Councils of Catholicism over the centuries was to lay down infallible dogma that must be accepted w/o discussion or testing for God's truth.
- **JMac – Catholicism uses the scriptures but they don't need the scriptures.**
- Catholicism will use pick and choose scriptures to support the Catholic traditions.
- Assuming that Catholic Tradition is truth. And Scripture is subservient to it.
- 2000 years of evolving oral tradition is the overriding source of truth for Catholicism.

#### Conclusion

- C. teaches that **IT** is the divine embodiment, holder, interpreter, & defender of truth.
- C. claims to be the only magisterium/authority in matters of doctrinal & moral truth.
- C. claims that everything it decrees and does is infallible and carries God's authority.
- C. claims so much divine authority that even God's Word subservient to tradition.
- Scripture interpreted in the light of tradition by their claim of sole Magisterium.
- That is what makes up their *depositum fidei*, deposit of faith, deposit of truth.
- **This is the key.** If the source of truth is wrong there is no assurance that anything else built upon that wrong foundation is right. Nothing to compare it with.
- B/c it rejects Sola Scriptura, Catholicism has compounded its errors for 2000 years.
- The other doctrinal errors of C. we will study are traced back to this huge failure.
- In order to be rescued they must depart from the Magisterium and Traditions of Roman Catholicism. We need to warn people to flee the eternal death trap of Catholicism and encourage them to run to a place where God and His Word are elevated and everything else is subservient to Him and His Word!
- **Long Live Sola Scriptura!**