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DO CHRISTIANS HAVE A LICENSE TO SIN?

Gary Marmillion



Should we pray for our sins to be covered or for forgiveness?

"Perhaps the most frequent, subtle and devastating attack that Satan makes upon a believer is to cause that Christian to doubt or disbelieve his salvation."

This is a quote from a Minister who preaches that we are saved by our faith alone. He says also that this is one of the main issues that have divided Christians and their beliefs.

One of his assertions is that those who are 'truly saved' will do good works because God will give them the grace to do so. However, he also says that some will be saved that have no good works and that some will not be saved who have many good works. *(This is both partially correct and misleading)* This same Minister says further, that works have nothing to do with salvation. *(This is totally wrong, as we shall see)*

If all good works are from the Lord (Ephesians 2:10 & James 1:17) in whose name are we to do good works if not God? And how can this doctrine be reconciled with:

(1 John 3:14-18 "We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.")

Sola fide also invites questions: Who is truly saved? And when are they saved, since according to this doctrine, works are no proof of our salvation? Is our salvation merely a matter of personal interpretation or do we have hard and fast rules to determine how and when we are saved?

"But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" that is, the word of faith that we preach, for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. For the scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.'" Romans 10:8-11.

Scripture also shows that the only place you will find the phrase 'faith alone' in the bible is not in Romans 3:28, where Martin Luther wanted it to be, but in a place where it means something entirely different.

(James 2:24 "See how a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.")

(KJV James 2:24 "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.")

(1 John 3:10 "In this way, the children of God and the children of the devil are made plain; no one who fails to act in righteousness belongs to God, nor anyone who does not love his brother.")

The preceding verse from Romans 10 is used by many evangelical Protestants to confirm their 'Faith Alone' doctrine. It says that if we state that Jesus is the risen Savior and believe it then we will be saved. By this they mean that such a person has a guaranteed place in heaven (paradise) with God. But is it that simple? What a person does after accepting Christ doesn't matter? It must be if works, deeds or actions of any kind have absolutely nothing to do with our salvation as they claim. Martin Luther asserted this five hundred years ago, and in addition he further claimed that we could go on sinning after accepting Christ and it would have no bearing on our eventual salvation.

Additionally, we read in Romans 8:1 that, "now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Note that Romans 8:1 reads '**now**', **not 'from now on'**. Clearly, if one is in Jesus there is no condemnation. But scripture clearly shows that if one sins grievously against the laws of God (the ten commandments), he cannot still be 'in Jesus' unless and until he repents of those sins. Scripture also clearly shows that we will be judged for all of our works, deeds, and actions during our life, not only for what we believe. The only sins God will ignore or cover are the ones for which we have repented (confessed to God and asked for mercy) during our life here on earth.

Further we read...

(Hebrews 10:14-17 "For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated. The holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying: "This is the covenant I will establish with them after those days, says the Lord: 'I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them upon their minds,'" he also says: "Their sins and their evildoing I will remember no more.")

However, later we read...

(Hebrews 10:26f "If we sin deliberately after receiving knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains sacrifice for sins, but a fearful prospect of judgment and a flaming fire that is going to consume the adversaries.")

This apparent contradiction is easily resolved when we realize that Hebrews 10:17 refers to sins previously committed (before one repents and is baptized, and accepts Jesus) and not to any sins one might commit in the future.

Just because we accept Jesus does not give us a blank check to commit future sins with impunity. An answer to the title: No, we DO NOT have a license from God to commit sins without consequences.

1 John 1:8f "If we say, 'We are without sin,' we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing."

James 5:16 "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed."

Did John and James make these statements for no reason? Were they actively trying to disagree with Paul?

2 Corinthians 5:20 "We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

If we are already saved, why must we be reconciled to God?

(Matthew 7:20-23 "So by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.'")

It appears that Jesus is saying that the things we do make quite a difference to our salvation.

1 John 5:13 tells us that we may have confident expectation of salvation if we believe in Jesus (verse 1) and we know that we love God's children when we love God and keep his commandments (verse 2). And we must also possess the Son, meaning we must have the grace of the lord in us (verse 12).

Just as John sets the initial conditions for salvation, our Savior, Jesus Christ sets the final condition, that we must persevere or endure to the end (our death) in a state of grace. (Matthew 10:22, 24:13; Mark 13:13)

(Romans 8:24f "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees?")

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Different Doctrines

"We are saved by faith alone." (Sola Fide) This is the so-called iron-clad doctrine of Jesus Christ according to the leaders of the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther was one of the main leaders of the Reformation and the acknowledged author of this doctrine. This same Doctrine was condemned by the Catholic Church at the Council of Trent (1545-63). Well before that, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Catholic Church in the year 1521 for his false claims. If his doctrine is correct, why would the only organized Christian church of that time oppose it so vigorously?

(1 John 2:4 "Whoever says, 'I know him,' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.")

(1 John 3:10 "In this way, the children of God and the children of the devil are made plain; no one who fails to act in righteousness belongs to God, nor anyone who does not love his brother.")

Is John lying to us here or is it possible that Luther misread or misinterpreted the scriptures?

At least three versions of Sola Fide?

Actually, when you look closely into Protestant claims and teaching on salvation you can now find at least three different versions of 'Sola Fide' depending on the denomination you choose. The similarity is how they say you are saved:

First you hear the Gospel of the Lord preached and respond positively to it by affirming that you believe. You then accept Jesus Christ as your personal savior. *(You may or may not be baptized or it's possible you may even be re-baptized, even if you were baptized earlier in your life. This depends on the beliefs and requirements of that denomination.)*

The first version Sola Fide is the traditional one that Martin Luther first proclaimed during the Protestant Reformation: You are saved by faith alone; you are assured that you have the guarantee of salvation no matter what you do later on in life. After you are saved, if you sin grievously, it does not matter, no matter how many times you sin, since your sins will be either ignored or covered by God. There is no mention of the need for repentance for these sins. And as for judgment

after death, we are also assured that we will only be judged on our beliefs and faith in God.

The second version of Sola Fide is similar in the beginning: you are saved by faith alone; you are assured that you have the guarantee of salvation, but with the exception that if you become a 'backslider'- if you accept Christ and then later turn away from Him by committing a deadly (mortal) sin (violation of one of the ten commandments) - you will not be saved. They say if you sin grievously, you lose this faith and you are saved no longer. *(There is little or no mention about whether a backslider can return to God. But sincere repentance should always be possible.)*

The third version of Sola Fide is also similar in the beginning. You are saved by faith alone, you are assured that you have the guarantee of salvation, but in this case you have the assurance you will sin no more since no one who believes in God will be put to shame.

However, there is a catch to this version also, which is, if you do happen to sin grievously after you are saved then you are saved no longer since it has become apparent that either you did not believe strongly enough or you were not sincere enough when you made your commitment to God, therefore you were never a Christian in the first place. *In this way, by denying that you ever became a Christian, the proponents are still able to say that a Christian cannot lose his salvation. But it is unclear whether this is for your benefit or theirs since they do not make clear whether or not you can try again to be a Christian and for salvation at a later date. (Even though it should always be possible for a person to repent of their sins and come to Christ.)*

Now, as we have seen and will see even more, Martin Luther's original version of Sola Fide has always been unscriptural, first because it was both boastful and presumptuous and second because Luther falsely assured sinners that God would ignore their sins simply because they professed a belief in Jesus Christ. Luther ignored, downplayed, or tried to remove from the bible any scriptures that disagreed with his assertions. In this he was singularly unsuccessful. (See the Bible quotes below.)

(1 Corinthians 10:12 "Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall.")

(1 Corinthians 6:9f "Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor boy prostitutes nor sodomites nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.")

(**Revelation 21:27** "but nothing unclean will enter it, nor any[one] who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.")

(**1 Corinthians 15:50** "This I declare, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruption.")

(**Romans 11:21-23** "For if God did not spare the natural branches, [perhaps] he will not spare you either. See, then, the kindness and severity of God: severity toward those who fell, but God's kindness to you, provided you remain in his kindness; otherwise, you too will be cut off. And they also, if they do not remain in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.")

Ever since the Reformation Protestants have been trying to salvage this unsalvageable *sola fide* doctrine by saddling it with exceptions, restrictions, conditions or additional scriptural verses. They are continually striving to make this ugly doctrine pretty by dressing it up. But once unscriptural, always unscriptural.

In the first version of Sola Fide, it is claimed that our sins after Baptism or initial repentance are 'covered' or ignored by God and that we will be judged only by our faith in Him.

However, Scripture states clearly that we will be judged by Jesus Christ for ALL of the things we do and/or fail to do (our works), not only for what we believe.

(**John 5:28f** "Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation."),

(**Romans 2:6** "who will repay everyone according to his works:"),

(**Romans 2:16** "on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge people's hidden works through Christ Jesus.")

The New Testament indicates clearly that both faith and salvation are things we can indeed put in jeopardy or lose by sinning against God! And even two versions of Sola Fide allow the loss of salvation!

(**2 Corinthians 13:5** "Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith.

Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless, of course, you fail the test.")

(2 Peter 2:20f "For if they, having escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of [our] Lord and savior Jesus Christ, again become entangled and overcome by them, their last condition is worse than their first. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment handed down to them.")

(1 Timothy 1:18f "Through them may you fight a good fight by having faith and a good conscience. Some, by rejecting conscience, have made a shipwreck of their faith"

(Hebrews 10:26f "If we sin deliberately after receiving knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains sacrifice for sins but a fearful prospect of judgment and a flaming fire that is going to consume the adversaries.")

(Hebrews 10:38 "But my just one shall live by faith, and if he draws back I take no pleasure in him.")

Whose doctrine is correct?

Most Christians, even the most devout Lutherans, know in their hearts that it is an offense against God to commit a grievous (deadly) sin, especially without feeling sorry for it and repenting of it. However, the pronouncements of Martin Luther may cause them to not be concerned, thinking that their sins are covered. But, if they are true Christians they cannot help but to have doubts, if for no other reason, than because of the overwhelming scriptural evidence to the contrary.

Either we are saved by faith alone or we are not. Either Martin Luther's doctrine is correct or it is wrong. If it is wrong then the consequences could be devastating for many of those who have depended on it.

Our eternal salvation should never depend solely on the faulty teaching of troubled and imperfect man, Martin Luther, but on the words and promises of our God and savior Jesus Christ,.

Finally, we have the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC 1990-1995.

The Catholic Church teaches that we are all sinners in need of a savior (Rom 5:12-21). That Jesus Christ is that Savior (Acts 4:12)

That, we must have faith that Jesus Christ's sacrifice redeemed all of us from sin and that He is the one mediator between God the Father and mankind, (1 Tim 2:5-6).

That, after Baptism, we must always be repentant (Matt. 4:17) for any sins we may commit; (James 5:16)

That we must confess in 'good faith' with a contrite heart because God knows whether we are truly repentant or not; our faith demands that we not be unrepentant (harden our hearts) and offend Him.

(1 John 2:4 "Whoever says, 'I know him,' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.)

(Romans 2:5-8 "By your stubbornness and impenitent heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself for the day of wrath and revelation of the just judgment of God, who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality **through perseverance in good works** but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness.")

That we must always remain fit to meet our maker, because if we die in an unrepentant state we may not inherit eternal life,

(Matthew 10:22 That "we must persevere (endure) to the end.")

(Matthew 24:42 "Since we know neither the day nor the hour our Lord will come.")

(1Thessalonians 5:2 "He will come like a thief in the night.")

Finally and primarily, the Church teaches that no person can do any of this without help from God, but only with the assistance of God's grace. CCC 2008-2011

Many Protestants accuse the Catholic Church of teaching 'works righteousness', or the need to perform works to be saved. However, the reality is that the Catholic Church has always taught that **we are saved only by God's freely given grace.**

"Salvation through works' is an all-too-common caricature of Catholic teaching, which clearly insists that we are saved by the grace of God. Salvation is a free gift.

At the same time, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, 'God's free initiative demands man's free response, for God created man in his image by conferring on him...the power to know him and love him.' And so, we are called to repent of sin, trust in Christ, take up our cross and follow him in the

obedience of faith.

And why isn't this 'works salvation'? Because the ability to persevere in faithful obedience is itself the result of God's grace working in us." (The Coming Home Network International)

(Ezekiel 36:26f "I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you so that you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances, and keep them.")

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Who is Saved?

Being saved is not a one-time act, just as initial Justification does not come with a lifetime guarantee.

Just because a person accepts Jesus as their savior at some point in their life does not guarantee the certainty of their eventual salvation (going to heaven). The New Testament says we are all sinners and have fallen short of the glory of God (or are deprived of the glory of God). (**Romans 3:23-25**) But when we repent and accept Jesus our past sins are forgiven.

(1 Corinthians 15:1f "Now I am reminding you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.")

Simply because we are being saved, while trying to hold fast to the word, as Saint Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 15:2; does not mean that our former sinful nature has been eliminated. We are still sinners and we must still repent of any serious sin we may commit if we wish to continue along the path to salvation. But since we cannot do this on our own without help, we must always pray to God for that help. God's grace will lead us to repentance and to salvation if we continue to cooperate with it and Him. This may sound complicated and hard to do. It is not meant to be easy. It is simply meant to be possible.

Since we are not perfect like our Father in heaven, we will inevitably make mistakes and commit sin at times throughout our lives. God will never cease to be our Father because we commit sin nor will we cease to be His children unless we

were to completely reject Him. But our love of God should always urge us to acknowledge our faults and humbly ask for forgiveness.

(**Psalms 32:10** "Many are the sorrows of the wicked one, but mercy surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.")

It is not possible to love God without also loving our fellow human beings (our neighbor).

Loving our creator who is the God of Love may be seen as rather simple and easy compared to loving our obstreperous neighbors, which is neither easy nor simple, but is necessary if we wish to live forever in paradise with God our Father and all who have been obedient to Him, including His son Christ Jesus, Mary the mother of Jesus, and the Elect, who are identified as Saints. So, if we do not love our neighbor our love for God is not complete.

Jesus tells us to

(**Matthew 7:13f** "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.")

The apostle James tells us

(**James 4:7f** "So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds.")

“Salvation through works” is a caricature of Catholic teaching because: **“Salvation is a process that begins when a person first becomes a Christian, continues through the rest of his life, and is completed when he stands before God (Jesus Christ) in judgment.”** (Jimmy Akin, 'The Salvation Controversy', and also, The 'Drama of Salvation')

Since our salvation is a process, it can be seen as analogous to a journey (Jesus calls it “the road that leads to life” (**Matthew 7:14**).

Our salvation process has a beginning and an end, just as any journey has a place of origin and a destination. Our salvation process begins when we are born. Our mother’s womb is our place of origin, the journey is our life in Christ, from birth and baptism to our eventual death.

Our final destination will be either heaven or hell depending upon how we have lived our life because our Lord will judge what we have done during our life

(**Romans 2:5-7**) based on our desires (**Matthew 6:21 & Luke 12:21**) and as a result of what we have believed,

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."

John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him."

Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct."

Romans 2:16 "on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge people's hidden works through Christ Jesus."

Romans 2:5-8 "By your stubbornness and impenitent heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself for the day of wrath and revelation of the just judgment of God, who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. "

Therefore, our salvation is not dependent upon how much we believe in God, and His son Jesus Christ, but upon how much we love God and His son Jesus Christ, and also upon how much we love and respect our fellow human beings.

No one is saved by faith alone or because they are 'good' and deserve salvation. We are saved only by the Faith that works through love (Galatians 5:6) and since no one is good except God alone (Mark 10:18), no one can do anything on his own to deserve eternal salvation.

The grace of God comes first, before even faith, hope, or love.

We are saved by God's freely given grace alone, which bestows upon us a living faith that works, not simply in faith (belief) and hope, but primarily in love and will continue to do so until our death, if we repent of any grievous sins we may commit before we die. Catholics are encouraged to pray to God for help to persevere until the end (our death), since it is only because of God's grace that anyone will be able to do so.

"Indeed, a man who has been justified, that is, who from impious has been made pious, since he had no antecedent good merit, receives a gift, by which gift he may also acquire merit. Thus, what was begun in him by Christ's grace can also be augmented by the industry of his free choice, but never in the absence of God's help, without which no one is able either to progress or to continue in doing good" Responses on Behalf of Augustine 6 c.431 Sechnall of Ireland & Matthew 19:26 "...for God all things are possible."

(**John 8:31f** "Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.")

(**Matthew 10:22** "You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved.")

(**Matthew 24:13** "But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved.")

(**Jude 21-23** "Keep yourselves in the love of God and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. On those who waver, have mercy; save others by snatching them out of the fire; on others have mercy with fear, abhorring even the outer garment stained by the flesh.")

If one truly loves God without reservation and loves and respects his fellow man as he loves himself then he is really well along the path to his eternal salvation.

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Irresistible Grace?

Some proponents of the 'Faith Alone' doctrine claim that when God gives a person grace to come to salvation that this grace is irresistible, what they call intrinsically efficacious, so it always produces salvation. They also subscribe to the belief that God works through the Holy Spirit to bring about the salvation of an individual through spiritual regeneration, regardless of the individual's cooperation.

However, Catholics or anyone who believes in the free will of man cannot

agree with this restrictive doctrine. God is not a dictator, nor is He a tyrant or a communist, and his freely given grace does not force us either to believe in Him or to love Him.

Catholics believe that individual salvation is achieved through a combination of human will and divine grace.

First of all, a person has to really want to be in union with God. The desire has to be there.

(**Matthew 6:21** "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.")

It is true that God wants us all to be saved but he does not try to forcefully change our mind if we really do not want to be with Him. We display our desires every day by the things we do. If we are confirmed sinners and always desire the things of the world, wealth, power, possessions, or sex, we have already made our choice, a choice that does not include God.

God (though His grace) may influence us to walk into a Christian church and hear the message of salvation. He may also influence us to truly believe it until we walk out of the doors of that church and see all of the material things we will lose (be deprived of) if we choose to remain with God. This revelation may not come all at once, but over time. So, if our desire for material or earthly rewards becomes greater than our desire for spiritual rewards, we will gradually lose our love for God and our faith in Him. We, in effect, will have rejected Him.

(**Galatians 5:13** "For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love.")

Just because a person is given grace to come to God at some point does not mean that a person will always stay with God. God's love for us is unconditional and His free gift of grace is never coercive. We believe that God never interferes with the free will of man.

If we truly wish to live in paradise forever with God, He will give us His grace to help us and we will accept it. But, if we were to decide that we care more for the things of the world (wealth, power, sex, possessions, etc.) than the things of God (eternal life with Him in paradise), He would turn His face away from us and withdraw His grace from us. If we put God first in our life and always do our best to obey His commandments He will respond with His love and grace, but if we turn away from Him, He will turn away from us.

Jesus instructs us.

(**Matthew 22:37-39** "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.")

Love cannot be true love if it is forced!

(**Ephesians 4:7** "But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.")

God gives grace sufficient for salvation to all who hear, believe, and, live in His word. Even though God's grace may urge us strongly toward Him it never forces us toward Him.

The saints in Heaven are not programmed robots who are there because they had no other choice. No one is ever dragged, kicking and screaming, into heaven. We always have a choice. **God wants people in heaven who love Him and actually want to be there** so He never denies us the option to accept or reject His freely given grace, depending on our own desires.

Since God knows beforehand exactly what we will do it is not necessary for Him to coerce us or to force us to do anything.

John Calvin, who was a principal figure in the Protestant reformation, was also the proponent of a doctrine of predestination in which he avowed that that it would have been better for most people if they had never been born since they are predestined for damnation. But in the Catholic Church there is no such restriction, there is hope as well as faith and love. Salvation is open to every person willing to take it. (John 3:16 & 6:35)

Calvin evidently either did not read or did not believe (1 Timothy 2:4), or (2 Peter 3:9), or even (John 6:40).

"When skeptics complain that the evidence for God is not clear or that a God who allows suffering and evil is Himself sadistic and evil, the Catholic responds, 'Our God has made us free men. True freedom always comes with costs and challenges. You see, ours is not a religion of make-believe where actions have no consequences. Ours is a religion of life as it really is. And life as it really is, is a life of original sin. Catholicism is a religion of pilgrimage, freely accepted, to grow in Christ, to overcome sin.' " (H. W. Crocker III, Ten Great Things About Catholicism)

Sin Boldly

Whose doctrine will we believe? If our belief alone will save us then it matters little what we do after we are baptized and 'proclaim our faith'. If we sin, no matter how great a sin or how many times we sin, then we are still saved because our sins are covered or ignored by God since He will not 'put us to shame.'

This Sola Fide doctrine attempts to give Christians a license to sin just as Martin Luther claimed when he wrote a letter to his friend Philip Melanchthon. In that letter he said, "Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong." At another time Luther also advised that we should "sin boldly" and even though he also advocated a strong faith nothing he said afterward could possibly justify using such language. Protestant theologians have been trying to ignore and forget or to apologize and/or rationalize for these wild utterances ever since the reformation.

When we decide that Luther's original doctrine of sola fide was faulty and unscriptural we also have to reject any later doctrine(s) that are based upon it.

"We know that no one begotten by God sins; but the one begotten by God he protects, and the evil one cannot touch him." (1 John 5:18) Does John speak of 'the elect' in this verse? And does this verse mean that all who are saved sin no more? Or does it mean that if you commit sin you are not saved (not of the elect)? Perhaps it simply means that if you fail to act in righteousness, you cannot be begotten by God. (1 John 3:10)

It is impossible to love God and have faith in him yet continue to be an unrepentant sinner. You cannot have it both ways. You are either for God or you are against Him. There is no middle ground.

Sin is the demon lurking at the door. (Gen 4:7) By sinning we become slaves of sin. (John 8:34) Our sins link us to Satan! (1 John 3:8)

If anyone who sins is a slave of sin and therefore belongs to the devil, then anyone who commits grievous sin without being repentant (humbly asking for forgiveness) will not be saved.

It would be well for us to heed the words and warning of John the Baptist. (Matthew 3:8-10 "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you,

God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.")

And John was not alone.

(1 Corinthians 15:33f "Do not be led astray: Bad company corrupts good morals." Become sober as you ought and stop sinning. For some have no knowledge of God; I say this to your shame.")

In Galatians the Apostle Paul presents a list of sins that can and will prevent us from being saved.

(Galatians 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.")

(Luke 13:3 & 5 "By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!")

(James 4:7f "So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds.")

(Proverbs 28:13 "Those who conceal their sins do not prosper, but those who confess and forsake them obtain mercy.")

The only unforgivable sin is not unbelief or apostasy as some have suggested. It is despair.

We must take Jesus at His word, that with God all things are possible **(Matthew 19:26)**.

That it *is* possible to follow in the footsteps of Christ **(1 Peter 2:21)**.

That we *can* observe the Commandments **(Matthew 19:17)** successfully with God's help.

Because if we have fallen so deeply into despair that we believe not even God's grace can help us we are truly doomed.

Faith vs. Works

We cannot work our way into Heaven since works (actions) do not, in themselves, have redemptive value. Only the presence of God's freely given grace within us (in our souls) has redemptive value. **However, the lack of good works which are expected of us by God can condemn us.** This can easily be seen by God as a refusal to cooperate with His grace.

(Matthew 7:20-23 "So by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.'")

Jesus lays it out again in the 25th chapter of Matthew's gospel.

(Matthew 25:31-46 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the

eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.")

The apostle Saint Paul agrees and urges us to perform good works in, (**Ephesians 2:10** "For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.") and also in,

(**Acts 26:20** "On the contrary, first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem and throughout the whole country of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached the need to repent and turn to God, and to do works giving evidence of repentance.")

The reading is exactly the same in a Protestant bible.

(**NAS Acts 26:20**) "but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance."

James agrees

(**James 1:17** "all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change.")

Take heed of the words of a great Christian elder. "**Take care of your body as if you were going to live forever; and take care of your soul as if you were going to die tomorrow.**" (Saint Augustine)

Carl Olsen says in his article, 'Why Believe': "**According to James and John, while faith is distinct from good works, it is never separate from them, for they display the reality of faith.**"

(**James 2:18** "Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my (good) works will show you my faith."),

and

(**1 John 3:23** 'this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.')

Indeed, if we refuse or fail to perform any good works our Lord has placed before us it can easily be seen as a rejection of God and His grace.

(**Matthew 25:45** "whatever you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.")

(**1 John 3:17** "If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, **how can the love of God remain in him?**")

Jesus makes a similar point in the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus in: (**Luke 16:19-31** "He said, 'Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.' But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'")

(**2 Corinthians 5:10** "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.")

(**Revelation 20:12** "I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls.")

If the preceding is true then 'Faith Alone' cannot be true. 'Sola fide' attempts to give Christians a license to sin. It says our sins do not matter; it is only our faith that matters. But **God does not cover or forget about that which He hates** (**Psalms 45:7, Hebrews 1:9**) As we have seen, God will punish unrepentant sinners by sending them to hell! It is certainly clear that the apostle, St. Paul does not believe we can go on sinning and still be saved, from what he said ...

(**Romans 6:1-6** "What then shall we say? Shall we persist in sin that grace may abound? Of course not! How can we who died to sin yet live in it?")

Which agrees with what Jesus said in John 3:36 ...
(John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him.")

Jesus also asks us a very pertinent question which was recorded by Luke.
Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I command?"

These clear and unambiguous statements of Jesus Christ, our savior completely disagree with both the spirit and the meaning of Sola Fide.

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Will God ignore any of our sins?

Contrary to what has been claimed, **the Apostle Paul never said that any future sins would be covered by God because of Faith. What Paul actually said was that past sins (sins already committed) would be forgiven by *grace* through faith.**

(Romans 3:24f "They are justified freely by his grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as an expiation, through faith, by his blood, to prove his righteousness because of the forgiveness of sins previously committed,")

(Romans 3:24f KJV "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;")

Any Christian who believes that one's future sins are always covered because of faith in God and that one does not need to repent of any and all grievous sins committed is making a dangerous assumption.

Christians live by faith, hope and love, not by wishful thinking.

An unrepentant sinner defies God just as Satan did

(2 Peter 2:4 "For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but condemned them to the chains of Tartarus and handed them over to be kept for judgment")

Works-based Salvation?

It must be noted that Protestants always criticize Catholics saying they have an

unscriptural works-based salvation doctrine since Catholics must perform acts (do things) to be saved. These include: Repentance for sins, the performance of good works, participation in the Sacraments, and church attendance. All of these as well as belief in Jesus Christ can easily be considered 'acts of Faith'. But there seems to be little difference here since the Protestants also require their converts to do things to be saved (works). The first is an initial commitment to, and belief in, Jesus Christ, which Jesus says is a work.

(John 6:28f "So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God? Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.")

Protestants also conveniently forget that Baptism, prayer, and church attendance are also works. In addition, following the logic of John 6:28 each of the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love are 'acts of Faith' or works. These are expected of each and every Christian.

"All our good merits are wrought through grace, so that God, in crowning our merits, is crowning nothing but His gifts." (Saint Augustine)

"For grace is given not because we have done good works; but in order that we may be able to do them." (Saint Augustine)

(James 4:17 "So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is a sin.")

(KJV James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth how to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin.")

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Faith vs. Law

From the above it is easy to understand how someone could come to the conclusion that the Christian faith is quite simple but not that justification and salvation is easily accomplished. Jesus did not come down to earth and die a horrible death for us so that we could have a quick and easy or a convenient and simple path (shortcut) to heaven. Christ did not change the salvation process that radically. Putting faith and trust in God was always necessary for anyone to gain eternal life. He didn't change that and He surely didn't abolish the laws of God, He came to fulfill them!

(Matthew 5:17-19 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”)

Jesus says further,

(Matthew 19:17 "If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.") that we must obey the Commandments to be saved. (In Matthew 19:18 &19) Jesus names each one he is talking about. In John 14:15&21 He repeats this requirement, and in 1 Corinthians 7:19, excluding circumcision, St. Paul agrees. Also, in 1 Peter 2:21 St. Peter says we should follow in Christ's footsteps, knowing that the footsteps of a sinless Christ are not easy to follow.

(1 Corinthians 7:19 "Circumcision means nothing, and uncircumcision means nothing; what matters is keeping God's commandments."),

(1 John 2:4 "Whoever says, 'I know him,' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.")

(Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.")

(Romans 3:31 "Are we then annulling the law by this faith? Of course not! On the contrary, we are supporting the law.")

The Apostle St. Paul never stated that moral laws like the ten commandments did not apply to Christians any longer.

As quoted above in 1 Corinthians he said the exact opposite. However, he did make it perfectly clear that customs and traditions in the Mosaic Law (Jewish Torah) such as circumcision, dietary restrictions, and observing the Jewish feast days would not be required and in some cases may even be fatal for Gentile Christians.

(Galatians 5:4-6 "You are separated from Christ, you who are trying to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we await the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.")

When a rich man asked Jesus how he could gain eternal life Jesus told him to keep the Commandments.

(**Matthew 19:17** "If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.")

The man replied that he had observed all of the Commandments and wanted to know what he lacked. Jesus told him if he wished to be perfect he should sell his belongings give them to the poor and follow Him. The man went away sad because he did not want to part with his possessions.

Jesus then said,

(**Matthew 19:24** "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.")

In Matthew 19:25 Jesus' disciples inquired.

"When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?"

Then in Matthew 19:26 Jesus answers them

"Jesus looked at them and said, "**For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.**"

Does this sound like a simple and easy-to-follow doctrine? Of course not!

And if God wanted unrepentant sinners in Heaven, why did He throw Satan out?

(**Revelation 12:9** "The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it.")

(**Romans 8:5f** "Only the spiritual things will save us, the earthly things of the flesh will condemn us.")

(**1Peter 4:18** "And if the righteous one is barely saved, where will the godless and the sinner appear?")

Jesus appears to relent a bit from His hard line when He gives us the golden rule,

(**Matthew 7:12** "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets.")

But then He reverts to the harder line immediately afterward by saying,

(**Matthew 7:13f** "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.")

The Apostle Paul says that,

(**1 Corinthians 6:9** "adulterers, fornicators, practicing homosexuals, thieves or the greedy will not inherit the kingdom of God.")
(echoed by Revelation 21:8)

(**Romans 2:13** "For it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; rather, those who observe the law will be justified.")

Our consciences should be our guides, but if we do not educate our consciences we may not know if we have offended our Lord and jeopardized our inheritance of eternal life?

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What should we do (or believe)?

We should make it our business to discover what is pleasing to God and what is not because it is possible that ignorance of His laws may condemn us.

Ephesians 5:10 "Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord."

If we say to Jesus on Judgment Day, "I'm sorry Lord, I didn't know that offended you, they assured me that all I needed to do was trust in you and believe you were up here," what will He say to us?

We can all hope that Christ does not repeat what He has already said in:
(**Matthew 15:8** "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.")

Do we really want to take that chance with our salvation in the balance? Perhaps Paul should have added ignorance and gullibility to his list of sins considering what James said.

(**James 2:19f** "You believe that God is one. You do well. **Even the demons believe that and tremble.** Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that faith without works is useless?")

Jesus is very specific about one thing He will say to the ignorant and why we should be certain we know what is required of us in,

(Matthew 25:31-46 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.")

But we still have a problem, since we are all sinners...

(1 John 1:8 "If we say, 'We are without sin,' we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.")

...no one will be saved since we are all slaves to sin, how can we be sinners and yet still have the chance to be begotten by God?

If we believe that God will forgive us - if we are truly repentant and confess our sins to Him - then, and only then, will God forgive us our sins.

(**1John 1:9**" If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing.")

(**James 5:16** "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.")

(**2 Corinthians 5:20** "We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.")
If we did not need to be reconciled to God why would St. Paul ask us to do so? If our faith alone will save us why does St. Paul speak of a ministry of reconciliation?
(**2 Corinthians 5:18** "And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation")

Evidently faith does not end with the assent that Jesus is the Redeemer. Much more is required of us. Repentance is also very important. This was one of the first things Jesus said to us in Matthew's Gospel.

(**Matthew 4:17** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.")

and Simon Peter said to the Jews

(**Acts 3:19** "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away.")

Just as we know God's grace will lead us to salvation; we should also know it also will lead us to repentance.

(**Romans 2:4** "Or do you hold his priceless kindness, forbearance, and patience in low esteem, unaware that the kindness of God would lead you to repentance?")

It is only because of God's freely given grace that bestows faith and trust in Him that we can do this. Salvation without faith is all but impossible, but faith is not all that is necessary.

(**James 2:17** "So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.")

Not works of the law but works that are born of Christian love, made possible by His freely given grace. The Apostle James says a man without works is,

(**James 1:22-24** "like a man who looks at his own face in a mirror. He sees himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like.")

Do we sometimes 'forget' our faith just as we sometimes forget what we look like? Jesus knows that we can never have enough faith. His words ring down

through the centuries upon us, "O, you of little faith." (Matthew 6:30, Matthew 8:26, Matthew 14:31, Matthew 16:8, & Luke 12:28)

(Matthew 17:20 "He said to them, "Because of your little faith. Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.")

What does God require of us as Christians? What should we do? Basically, we should act as we believe. If we truly love God and our fellow man it should be instantly evident to anyone who meets us. We should not attempt to hide our light under a basket since we have nothing to be ashamed of and much for us to be thankful.

While it is not incumbent upon us to actively search out ways to be of service to others, we, on the other hand, should never ignore an opportunity to perform a good work if such an opportunity presents itself.

God expects us to always cooperate with His grace.

(2 Corinthians 6:1 "Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.")

God will provide any necessary miracles!

We can never go wrong by repenting of our sins, praying for God's grace, and asking for His help to overcome evil.

Scripture assures us that God values repentance very highly.

(Luke 15:7 "I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.")

And,

(Luke 15:10 "In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents.")

At the end of the 15th chapter of Luke, in verses 31 & 32 we are assured that the faithful righteous will never be forgotten, but also that the sinner who was spiritually dead and lost has been found and has regained spiritual life because of his repentance. These verses also emphasize God's love for the repentant sinner.

What must we do to be saved?

To be saved, you must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31). However, that's not all. Sacred Scripture clearly shows other things you must also do to be saved:

- **You must be baptized with water. (cf. Mark 16:16; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:20-21; Acts 2:38)**
- **You must keep the Commandments of God. (cf. Matthew 5:19-20, 7:21)**
- **You must confess your sins after baptism. (Repent) (cf. James 5:16; 1 John 1:9)**
- **You must endure to the end (to death in a state of grace). (cf. Matthew 10:22, 24:13; Mark 13:13)**

"When the Day of Judgment comes, we shall not be asked what we have read or believed, but what we have done; not how well we have spoken, but how well we have lived."

(Catholic Apologetics Guide - Godwin Delali Adadzie)

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What is most important?

Even the paltry bit of faith we can muster will insure our eternal salvation if we recognize that God demands more of us than 'lip service'.

(Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.")
&

(1 John 3:18 "Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.")

God does not demand that we move mountains to please Him. He only demands that we move our heart closer to His. It is our faith, which is bolstered by love, that will save us.

(John 13:34f "Love one another... This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.")

(**Romans 13:10** "Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.")

The reformers along with those who persist in promoting the false doctrine of sola fide would have you believe that faith is preeminent, the most important virtue a Christian can possess.

However we know that this is not necessarily the truth. When we read the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians, especially verse 13, we realize that the Catholic Church was right all along.

The Council of Trent was quite correct to condemn the faulty teachings of these later day false apostles. When we read the simple words of the scripture all becomes clear - "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." - **and we realize that the teaching of the Gospel is primarily about love, (love God and love your neighbor)** not primarily faith, and secondarily hope, as those dangerously deluded and intolerant reformers would have us believe.

(**1 Corinthians 13** "If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; **if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.** If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. **So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**")

If the reformers were consistent in anything it was in misinterpreting the

words of St. Paul in his epistles from which they took their false doctrine of sola fide.

They studiously ignored the warning of St. Peter in:
(**2 Peter 3:15-17** "And consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, also wrote to you, speaking of these things as he does in all his letters. In them there are some things hard to understand that the ignorant and unstable distort to their own destruction, just as they do the other scriptures.")

And they also ignored St. Paul's own words in:
(**Acts 26:20** "On the contrary, first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem and throughout the whole country of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached the need to **repent and turn to God, and to do works giving evidence of repentance.**")

These, along with many other statements of the Apostles and of our Savior, Jesus Christ, which are recorded in the books of the New Testament were either ignored or overlooked. (See the bible quotes below)

A Christian is defined by his or her faith in God, however the most important attribute a Christian must possess is Love.

Matthew 22:34-40

John 13:34f

Romans 13:8-10

1 Corinthians Chapter 13

1 John 3:10

1 John 3:14-18

1 John 4:7f

1 John 4:17-21

The Apostle Paul puts even more emphasis on love when he informs us in his first letter to the Corinthians that all who do not love the lord are cursed! (**1 Corinthians 16:22**)

What does a father of the church say? "**For when the heathen hear from our mouth the oracles of God, they wonder at their beauty and greatness; afterwards, when they find out that our deeds are unworthy of the words which we speak, they turn from their wonder to blasphemy, saying that it is a myth and delusion. For when they (the godless) hear from us that God says: 'It is no credit to you, if you love them that love you, but it is a credit to you, if**

you love your enemies, and those that hate you'; -- when they hear this they wonder at this extraordinary goodness; but when they see that we not only do not love those that hate us, but not even those who love us, they laugh us to scorn, and the name is (of God) blasphemed." (Clement of Alexandria about AD190)

John, Paul, and Peter all remind us that God wants everyone to be saved. (John 4:42 , 1 Timothy 2:3f) and

(2 Peter 3-9 ("The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard 'delay,' but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."))

This is why Jesus ordered that the **Good News** (Repentance and Love) be preached to all nations.

The Catholic Church teaches (has always taught) that our salvation is made possible by God's grace, which we receive gratuitously, through no merit of our own. Initially this grace is known as Sanctifying or Habitual Grace which infuses our soul and transforms us into children of God. Assuming we commit no willful grievous (mortal) sin, we will, at times, receive another type of grace called Actual Grace, which will enable us to perform acts pleasing to God. Actual grace includes, but is not limited to, the grace we receive from sacraments, which are outward signs of inward grace, such as:

*Baptism - (Matthew 28:19, Ephesians 4:5, Mark 16:16, John 3:5)

*Confirmation - (Acts 8:17, 2 Peter 1:10),

*Holy Eucharist - (*Communion*, Matt. 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:15-20, John 6:48-58, 1 Corinthians 10:16f & 11:23-26)

*Penance - (*Confession*, John 20:21-23)

*Holy Matrimony - (*Marriage*, Romans 7:2, Luke 16:18, Ephesians 5:31)

*Anointing of the Sick - (*Last Rites*, James 5:14-15 and Mark 6:13)

*Holy Orders – (*The laying on of hands*, 1 Timothy 4:14 and Luke 10:16)

God's Actual grace will help us to love God and others as we love ourselves, to forgive others as we ask to be forgiven, and to do unto others as we would have them do to us. We may feel we are saved only when God's grace has made His love and good works habitual with us.

Each and every time we repeat the Lord's Prayer (the Our Father) we should be reminded that we pray for this. ("Forgive us our trespasses (debts) as we forgive those who trespass against (who are in debt to) us")

God, our Father, loves us so much that he pours his everlasting grace and love out upon the world's masses, his children. All that remains for us is to accept his love and grace, rather than ignoring or rejecting it. We must also strive to return God's love by keeping his commandments and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves as He has insisted we do.

Our faith demands that we put complete trust in God and strive always to put Him above all else. Therefore, our grace induced faith is not merely intellectual assent, but an act of the whole person, involving the mind, the will, and the affections, resulting in a changed life.

As we have seen, Love is preeminent, more important to God than anything else. As a result, it should be more important to us in our lives also.

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Alms

Even though we cannot work our way into Heaven Jesus places high value on the concept of alms.

(Matthew 6:1-4 "[But] take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.")

(Luke 11:41 "But as to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you.")

&

(Luke 12:33 "Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for

yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy.")

If we help our fellow man unselfishly or if we forgive a wrong someone has done us, these works are considered alms. Why would He want us to give alms if faith was all that was necessary? "St. Paul also instructs us to devote ourselves to good works.

(**Ephesians 2:10** "For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them."),

(**Titus 3:14** "But let our people, too, learn to devote themselves to good works to supply urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive.",

(**2 Timothy 3:17** "so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.")

"Life must be changed for the better, and good works should be offered as propitiation to God for our past sins. But He is not somehow to be bought off, as if we always had a license to commit crimes with impunity. For He has given no man a license to sin. Although, in His mercy, He does blot out sins already committed, if due satisfaction for them is not neglected. (Matthew 6:14f 'If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.') He who is not awakened by such great thundering is not asleep, but dead! And yet such words have power to awaken even the dead!" (St. Augustine, Enchiridion 423 A.D.)

It would be well for us to remember our Savior's admonition to us, (**Luke 12:15** Then he said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions.")

And again:

(**Luke 12:34** "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.")

Why does Jesus warn us about wealth? St. Paul, the apostle, explains:

(**1 Timothy 6:9f** Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and into a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into ruin and destruction.

For the love of money is the root of all evils, and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains.")

How Satan fools us

The opening quote from the Minister states that it is Satan who causes a believer to doubt his salvation. The truth is that no one should be so certain of his salvation so that it makes him think he can do no wrong or that if he commits sins they will be 'covered' simply because he believes in Jesus Christ. Rather, Satan, the deceiver, has convinced many to believe that they are saved when they may not yet be and not to repent of their sins when they should have.

God has reserved no place in Heaven for the boastful, the presumptuous, or for unrepentant sinners.

Satan has also deceived many otherwise upright ministers to falsely claim that God's laws (Commandments) have no meaning for Christians any longer. But even those who do not wish to believe the moral teaching of the Catholic Church will have to admit the scriptures are in agreement.

(**Matthew 19:17** "If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.")

(**Matthew 5:18** "Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place.")

(**Luke 16:17** "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for the smallest part of a letter of the law to become invalid.")

Satan is always attempting to steal Hope and Love from us. It is only when we have both Faith and Love that we can have Hope. If our faith alone saves us why would we bother to hope for salvation?

(**Romans 8:24f** "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees?")

and why would God want us to love?

(**1 John 3:23** "And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us.")

(**1 John 4:21** "This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.")

(**Matthew 22:36–39** "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.")

In this age of moral relativism when many Christians do not educate their consciences properly and when some rationalize that God's laws (commandments) no longer apply to them, they should be told the truth about what it is that God requires of us. If people are offended and reject this preaching then they will have rejected sound doctrine. A good indicator of our faith is whether we will listen to sound moral teaching or not. The 'little flock' (Luke 12:32) of Jesus must know the truth. If we remain in Jesus' word the truth will set us free! (John 8:31f)

Remember, we do not judge ourselves, Jesus Christ will!

(Romans 2:5-11 "By your stubbornness and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself for the day of wrath and revelation of the just judgment of God, who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. Yes, affliction and distress will come upon every human being who does evil, Jew first and then Greek. But there will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, Jew first and then Greek. There is no partiality with God.")

We only 'hope' for eternal life, God does not grant eternal life with Him solely because of what we believe or disbelieve. What living person has seen God's book of life (Revelation 20:12&14), which is a list of the Elect? Our faith will be judged along with our deeds (our actions); everything we have done during our life will be examined and judged. Any sins we have committed during our lives for which we have not sincerely repented (asked forgiveness) will be held against us. God sees all. We cannot hide anything from Him.

(2 Peter 2:4&9f "For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but condemned them to the chains of Tartarus and handed them over to be kept for judgment; ---- then the Lord knows how to rescue the devout from trial and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who follow the flesh with its depraved desire and show contempt for lordship.")

We also will not be the one who will decide if we are saved or not. Jesus Christ will judge us and make that decision. He says,
(**Revelation 3:5** "The victor will thus be dressed in white, and I will never erase his name from the book of life...)

The intimation here is that it is possible for our name to be erased! God has appointed Jesus Christ to be our judge.

(**Matthew 10:28** "And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.")

(**Acts 10:42** "he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.")

(**Romans 2:16** "--on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge people's hidden works through Christ Jesus.")

(**Hebrews 10:30f** "We know the one who said: 'Vengeance is mine; I will repay,' and again: 'The Lord will judge his people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.")

(**Revelation 14:13** "But, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.")

Speaking of the Gospel, St. Paul says this:

(**1 Corinthians 15:2** "Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.")

And

(**2 Corinthians 6:1** "Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.")

Love or Fear God?

What does this mean? It means that even for those who have faith, it is possible to believe in vain and die estranged from the grace of the Lord. Love is the key factor here because it is much easier to do God's will out of love rather than the fear of the loss of heaven or the terror of eternal punishment in hell.

(**1 John 4:18** "There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love.")

Divine love working in us gives us the promise of everlasting life and eternal reward with God our Father. When God's grace is present in us we are truly God's children who are destined for salvation. However if we knowingly reject that grace by sinning willfully our share of eternal salvation is in jeopardy.

(**1 John 3:14f** "We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his

brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him.")

The instructions St. Paul gave to Timothy are just as valid today as they always were. After saying that the scriptures were useful for training in righteousness, he said this about religious doctrine.

(2 Timothy 4:1-4 "I charge you ... proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths.")

We must have faith in Jesus to be saved and we should perform works of love which display our faith. God requires more of us than our belief in him. St. Paul says that our faith should be examined and tested. And we should realize that it is possible to fail the test of faith and that we can lose our salvation and be cut off from God.

(2 Corinthians 13:5 "Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, of course, you fail the test.")

(2 Corinthians 13:11 "Finally, brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.")

Always remember God's promise to us as transmitted by the Apostle Paul.
(Romans 11:22f "See, then, the kindness and severity of God: severity toward those who fell, but God's kindness to you, provided you remain in his kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off. And they also, if they do not remain in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.")

If we are saved by anything alone it is by the grace of God alone which imparts into us the divine virtues of faith, hope and love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

(1 Corinthians 13:2 "if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.")

"What merits of his own has the saved to boast of when, if he were dealt with according to his merits, he would be nothing if not damned? Have the just then no merits at all? Of course they do, for they are the just. But they had no merits by which they were made just" (c.412 St. Augustine)

"The mere notion of a Christian 'taking his chances on Judgment Day' frankly makes me tremble. When after death a soul is called to judgment (Hebrews 9:27), the soul is not being invited to negotiate. There will be no 'explaining' to God why one has preferred one sin over another. We are called to repentance, not to dickering. We are called to holiness (Romans 1:7), not to shopping among sins. 'Your holiness forbids this' " (Ephesians 5:13 "everything exposed by the light becomes visible"). (Father Mateo, CIN)

Matthew 23:12 "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

(1 Corinthians 10:12 "Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall.")

So, to the preacher who made the opening statement I say, please do not be self-conceited, so sure of your eternal salvation that you consider it a 'done' deal. **Consider that you are not yet saved, but in the process of being saved.** Continue to pray to God for the grace of final perseverance and continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. And always sincerely repent of any sin you may commit.

Scripture tells us that the only way we can be assured of our salvation is if we keep God's commandments (Ten Commandments).

(1 John 3:21-23 "Beloved, if [our] hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us.")

(Philippians 2:12 "Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now even more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.")

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The Reformers new ideas examined

The Protestant's slogan began with a simple truth, but then fell abruptly into the depths of deceit and unscriptural falsehood when they proclaimed Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Bible Alone!

It is extremely probable that the insidious doctrine of sola fide along with all of the other challenges made to the doctrines of the Catholic Church have been responsible for the loss of many souls to eternal damnation. The faulty new doctrines of Martin Luther and the other Johnny-come-lately reformers should be condemned just as vigorously now as they were 500 years ago when, in 1521 Luther was excommunicated from the Church. And later, at the Council of Trent, which ran from 1545 to 1563 the protestant's novel doctrines were condemned as heresies and the council clarified and reaffirmed many Church doctrines which had been contested by the Protestants.

That the early sixteenth-century Catholic Church was in need of reform is open to debate. So too is the assumption that many of its leaders were worldly and corrupt and that too many of the faithful were living in laxity or ignorance.

Martin Luther became incensed by the manner in which the Church was raising money by soliciting donations for alms and granting indulgences at that time, since he thought it had the appearance of a poor practice.

*The so-called selling indulgences positively did not involve any "selling", it involved the granting of the spiritual favor of an indulgence (which is the remission of the debt of temporal punishment for already-forgiven sins) in return for the giving of alms to the Church for the building of Christendom's greatest house of prayer, St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. One must understand with regard to indulgences that there are always two acts to be fulfilled by the one gaining the indulgence: 1) doing the deed (e.g., alms giving) and 2) saying of some prescribed prayers with proper spiritual dispositions. In the case in point, the first act for gaining the indulgence was "giving alms." If the almsgivers thereafter failed to say the requisite prayers, he would not receive the indulgence because he had failed to fulfill both required acts. The indulgences therefore were not "sold"; the very giving of money was itself the first of two requisite acts for gaining the indulgence in question. **"The Catholic Church Has the Answer"** (Paul Whitcomb)*

Luther then overreacted and overreached grievously and would not recant when he attempted to overturn and nullify Apostolic Tradition, Church Doctrine and change Holy Scripture, all of which had remained unchanged for over one thousand five hundred years as our Savior promised it would. It was a tragedy that

Luther's acts of protest eventually brought revolution and division to Christendom rather than reform and unity that men of good will desired.

Jesus promised that we would always be able to depend on His Church's doctrine,

(Matthew 16:18 "... and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.") But He did not promise that His Church members or even its leaders would be sinless.

The Catholic Church never claimed to be a hotel for saints (as the common criticism goes), **but instead is a hospital for sinners.** (Attributed to Saint Augustine)

When Jesus heard that the Pharisees criticized Him for associating and eating with sinners and tax collectors he replied: He heard this and said, **(Matthew 9:12f "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.")**

Remember the promise of Jesus Christ, (Mathew 10:22 & 24:13 "the one who endures (or perseveres) to the end will be saved.")

And the Greatest Commandment: "Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:30f)

Why do Catholics refuse to concede that their church became doctrinally corrupt in the Middle Ages, necessitating the Protestant Reformation?

Catholics refuse to concede such a thing out of faith in Jesus Christ. Christ solemnly pledged that the gates of Hell would never prevail against His Church (Matt. 16:18), and He solemnly promised that after His ascension into Heaven He would send His Church "another Paraclete...the spirit of truth," to dwell with it forever (John 14:16-17), and He inspired the Apostle Paul to describe His Church as "the pillar and ground of the truth." (1 Tim. 3:15).

If the Catholic Church (which Protestants admit was the true Church of Jesus Christ before Luther's revolt) became doctrinally corrupt as alleged, it would mean that the gates of Hell had prevailed against it, it would mean that Christ had deceived His followers. Believing Christ to be the very essence of truth and integrity, Catholics cannot see how the division of Christianity into hundreds of rival camps and doctrinal variations can be called a "reformation" of the Christian Church. In the Catholic mind, hundreds of conflicting interpretations of Christ's

teachings do not add up to a true interpretation of Christ's teachings. "**The Catholic Church Has the Answer**" (Paul Whitcomb)

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Martin Luther's German Bible

Martin Luther displayed his arrogance by making additions, deletions, and changes when he translated the bible from the original Greek into German. **No other translators have been so reckless as to change the wording of the bible or the number and order of books to suit their theology as did Martin Luther.**

Luther added the word 'alone' (allein in German) to Romans 3:28 controversially so that it read: "So now we hold, that man is justified without the help of the works of the law, alone through faith." He and his followers tried to justify this addition by making numerous spurious claims throughout the years.

Initially Luther had a low view of the Old Testament book of Esther and other books of the bible included in the Catholic canon of Scripture. Luther also had a low view of some of the New Testament books such as Hebrews, James, Jude, and the Revelation of John. He called the Letter of James 'an epistle of straw,' saying that he found little in it that pointed to Christ and His saving work. He also had harsh words for the Revelation of John, saying that he could "in no way detect that the Holy Spirit produced it."

Luther had a failing for condemning those scriptural writers whose words contradicted his novel ideas. Ideas that really weren't all his own but copied from earlier heretics such as John Wycliffe in England and John (Jan) Hus in Bohemia, both of whose ideas and teachings were condemned by the Church in 1415 at the Council of Constance.

In his translation of the New Testament, Luther moved Hebrews and James out of the usual order, to join Jude and the Revelation at the end, and differentiated these from the other books which he considered 'the true and certain' chief books of the New Testament. "The four which follow have from ancient times had a different reputation."

Even though Luther's views on some of these books changed in later years, and became more positive this did not eliminate the problems he caused. Indeed, if Luther was wrong about these things as History has borne out, about what other things was he wrong?

Luther also took it upon himself to place, what he chose to call, the biblical apocrypha between the Old and New Testaments. These books and addenda to Biblical canon of the Old Testament are found in the ancient Greek Septuagint which was in wide use during the time of Jesus and the Apostles, but not in the Hebrew Masoretic text, (*which may have been proposed during the time of the early Catholic Church but was not fully compiled until the 10th century AD*).

These books were not listed in the table of contents of Luther's 1532 Old Testament, and in the 1534 Bible. Instead, Luther, on his own authority, gave them the title that became well-known in Protestant circles: 'Apocrypha: These Books Are Not Held Equal to the Scriptures, but Are Useful and Good to Read.'

These books were not held equal by whom? By Martin Luther alone, at the time. Luther especially wanted to remove 1 and 2 Maccabees because these books tended to affirm the Catholic belief in Purgatory to which Luther was opposed. He found the easiest way to do that was to simply use the Hebrew (Jewish) Masoretic text for his Protestant Old Testament.

Holy Scripture warns against such practices.

(Galations 1:8 "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach [to you] a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed!")

(Deuteronomy 4:2 "you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it.")

(Proverbs 30:6 "Add nothing to his words")

(Revelation 22:18-19 "if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues...and if anyone takes away...God will take away his share in the tree of life")

It is strange indeed that Luther chose to accept the word of the Jews, who rejected Jesus and have never accepted his divinity, concerning which books should be included in the Christian Old Testament. He could have simply accepted the books that had already been chosen over a thousand years earlier by the Catholic Church at the Council of Rome in AD 382, but his new theology would not allow that.

The Catholic Church is the same Church that guarded and preserved the bible he likely had in his possession at the same time he was attempting to make changes to it. **Luther took it upon himself to make these momentous unilateral**

decisions without any other authority even while admitting that he and his followers received the scriptures from the Catholic Church. Indeed, it was this same Martin Luther, who certainly cannot be accused of Catholic favoritism, who stated in his Commentary of St. John: “We are compelled to concede to the Papists that they have the Word of God, that we received it from them, and that without them we should have no knowledge of it at all.”

The Bible alone is inadequate! The ‘Bible only’ approach as a rule of faith is nowhere to be found in the Bible. In fact, the ‘Chosen People’ of the Old Testament lived without the Hebrew Scriptures for centuries. The ‘Bible only’ approach was an invention primarily of the 14th century heretic John Wycliffe,—a prototype of Protestantism—and the sixteenth century theologian Martin Luther, the first Protestant. It was an invention that was radically contrary to the history and nature of Christianity and Judaism. (Fr. John J. Pasquini, *Ecce Fides - Pillar of Truth*)

The Original Christian Bible

In the fifteenth century the Catholic Latin Vulgate, the late-4th-century Latin translation of the Bible was the only Christian bible in existence. The much-repeated lie that the Catholic Church added books to the bible can easily be disproven if one cares to view the [Gutenberg Bible](#) and its 73 book Latin text (from the University of Texas at Austin) and/or [compare two copies](#) (from the British Library in London). The Latin Vulgate bible, in use since Jerome translated it into common Latin from Greek and Hebrew in the late 4th century AD, was one of the first products of Gutenberg’s printing press about 1455, well before Luther’s birth. Thus, it becomes quite clear that Luther and the Protestants removed books from the bible since their versions, even now, contain only 66 books.

It is quite possible Luther allowed his hatred for the Catholic Church to blind him and influence him about the canon of the Old Testament as it had about so many other things (Sola Scriptura, rejection of Sacred Tradition, and Sola Fide, rejection of the process of Salvation)

"In summary, the doctrine of sola fide is an anti-Scriptural invention of one man, Martin Luther, who threw out the teachings of the Apostles and the Catholic Church that Jesus Christ founded because of his personal confusion – his personal demons. This man went so far as to preach ‘sin boldly’ to his followers, assuring them that none of their sins mattered – a teaching so grotesque and at odds with Scripture it is almost impossible to find greater madness or greater evil." (from A Catholic Thinker)

(Galatians 1:8f "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach [to you] a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, and now I say again, if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than the one that you received, let that one be accursed!")

Criticisms aside, even though Luther's bible translation was not the first translation into a common language it was beneficial in that it prompted others to translate the bible into other languages. The Bible ceased to be a foreign book in a foreign tongue, and became naturalized, and hence far more clear and dear to the common people. Primarily because of the invention of the printing press Luther's version was followed by Protestant versions in other languages, especially the French, Dutch, English, as were many Roman Catholic translations.

Many people overlook the fact that the very first version of the bible printed on Gutenberg's press in the year 1455 was the Latin Vulgate, the original Roman Catholic version of the bible.

The Catholic Church, created by Jesus Christ, is not the church of the book but the bible can certainly be seen as the book of the Church, each of its individual books having been recognized by the Church as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Consequently, this collection of sacred writings we call the bible, was decreed the authoritative Canon of Scripture by the Catholic Church at the Council of Rome in the year 382 AD, well over 1600 years ago!

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Quotes from the [New American Bible](#)

In the Bible there are no throw-away verses.

If Faith Alone is correct most of these quotes from the bible are either meaningless or beside the point. But we know that is not the case since all Scripture in the Bible is true, inspired by God, and contains no contradictions when interpreted correctly.

It is quite apparent that Martin Luther and the other reformers either did not read, ignored and/or passed over all of the following scriptures.

1 Peter 1:16 "for it is written, "Be holy because I [am] holy."

1 Corinthians 15:33f "Do not be led astray: Bad company corrupts good morals." Become sober as you ought and stop sinning. For some have no knowledge of God; I say this to your shame."

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."

Jude 21-23 "Keep yourselves in the love of God and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. On those who waver, have mercy; save others by snatching them out of the fire; on others have mercy with fear, abhorring even the outer garment stained by the flesh."

Matthew 5:48 "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Luke 6:36 "Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful."

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them."

James 1:17 "all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change."

1 John 3:14-18 "We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I command?"

1 John 2:4 "Whoever says, "I know him," but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."

John 5:28f "Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation."

Romans 2:5-8 "By your stubbornness and impenitent heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself for the day of wrath and revelation of the just judgment of God, who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. "

Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct."

Romans 2:13 "For it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; rather, those who observe the law will be justified."

Romans 2:16 "on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge people's hidden works through Christ Jesus."

2 Peter 2:20f "For if they, having escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of [our] Lord and savior Jesus Christ, again become entangled and overcome by them, their last condition is worse than their first."

2 Corinthians 13:5 "Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless, of course, you fail the test."

2 Corinthians 13:11 "Finally, brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you."

1 Timothy 1:18f "I entrust this charge to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance

with the prophetic words once spoken about you. Through them may you fight a good fight by having faith and a good conscience. Some, by rejecting conscience, have made a shipwreck of their faith"

Hebrews 10:26 "If we sin deliberately after receiving knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains sacrifice for sins"

James 5:16 "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful."

(1 John 2:1) "My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

Matthew 10:22 "You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved."

Matthew 24:13 "But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved."

Matthew 24:42 "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

1 Thessalonians 5:2 "For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night."

Mark 10:18 "No one is good but God alone."

Galatians 5:13 "For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love."

1 John 3:10 "In this way, the children of God and the children of the devil are made plain; no one who fails to act in righteousness belongs to God, nor anyone who does not love his brother."

Luke 13:3 & 5 "By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!"

James 4:7f "So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds."

Matthew 25:31-46 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

James 1:17 "all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change."

Matthew 25:45 "whatever you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me."

Hebrews 1:9 "You loved justice and hated wickedness"

Psalms 45:7 "You love justice and hate wrongdoing"

Romans 6:1f "What then shall we say? Shall we persist in sin that grace may abound? Of course not! How can we who died to sin yet live in it?"

John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him."

Matthew 19:17 "If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments."

Matthew 19:18f "He asked him, 'Which ones?' And Jesus replied, " 'You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother'; and 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

1 Corinthians 7:19 "Circumcision means nothing, and uncircumcision means nothing; what matters is keeping God's commandments."

1 Peter 2:21 "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps."

Galatians 5:6 "For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love."

Matthew 19:24 "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Revelation 12:9 "The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it."

Romans 8:5f "Only the spiritual things will save us, the earthly things of the flesh will condemn us."

1 Peter 4:18 "And if the righteous one is barely saved, where will the godless and the sinner appear?"

Matthew 7:12 "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets."

Matthew 7:13f "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few."

1 Corinthians 6:9 "adulterers, fornicators, practicing homosexuals, thieves or the greedy will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Matthew 15:8 "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

Ephesians 5:10 "Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord."

James 2:19f "You believe that God is one. You do well. Even the demons believe that and tremble. Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that faith without works is useless?"

1 John 1:8f "If we say, 'We are without sin,' we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing."

James 5:16 "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed."

2 Corinthians 5:18 "And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation"

2 Corinthians 5:20 "We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Matthew 3:8-10 "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

Matthew 4:17 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Acts 3:19 "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away."

Romans 2:4 "Or do you hold his priceless kindness, forbearance, and patience in low esteem, unaware that the kindness of God would lead you to repentance?"

James 2:17 "So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

James 1:22-24 "Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at

his own face in a mirror. He sees himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like."

Matthew 17:20 "He said to them, "Because of your little faith. Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."

1 John 3:18 "Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."

John 13:34f "Love one another... This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Romans 13:10 "Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law."

1 Corinthians 13

"If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

2 Peter 3:15-17 "And consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, also wrote to you, speaking of these things as he does in all his letters. In them there are some things

hard to understand that the ignorant and unstable distort to their own destruction, just as they do the other scriptures."

Acts 26:20 "On the contrary, first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem and throughout the whole country of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached the need to repent and turn to God, and to do works giving evidence of repentance."

Matthew 6:1-4 "[But] take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

Luke 11:41 "But as to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you."

Luke 12:33 "Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy."

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them."

Titus 3:14 "But let our people, too, learn to devote themselves to good works to supply urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive."

2 Timothy 3:17 "so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work."

James 2:22 "You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by works,"

Romans 3:24f "They are justified freely by his grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as an expiation, through faith, by his blood, to prove his righteousness because of the forgiveness of sins previously committed,"

Matthew 5:18-20 "Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things

have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Luke 16:17 "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for the smallest part of a letter of the law to become invalid."

Romans 8:24f "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees?"

Acts 10:42 "He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead."

1 Corinthians 15:2 "Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain."

2 Corinthians 6:1 "Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain."

2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil."

Revelation 20:12 "I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls."

Romans 11:22f "See, then, the kindness and severity of God: severity toward those who fell, but God's kindness to you, provided you remain in his kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off. And they also, if they do not remain in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again."

1John 3:18-23 "Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. [Now] this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if [our] hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we

should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us."

1 John 4:21 "This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."

Galatians 1:8f "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach [to you] a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, and now I say again, if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than the one that you received, let that one be accursed!"

2 Thessalonians 2:15 "Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours."

Philippians 2:12 "So then, my beloved, obedient as you have always been, not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent, work out your salvation with fear and trembling."

Ezekiel 36:26, 27 "I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you so that you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances, and keep them."

Proverbs 27:1 "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."

Matthew 23:12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."

1 Corinthians 10:12 "Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall."

Matthew 6:34 "Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil."

1 John 4-7-21 "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as

expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. In this is love brought to perfection among us, that we have confidence on the day of judgment because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."

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The doctrine of St. Paul

The following verses, probably more than any others, show the true doctrine of Paul the Apostle, beloved brother of Peter.

The entire Second Letter of Peter, but especially these two verses:

2 Peter 1-20f "Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God"

2 Peter 3:15-17 "And consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, also wrote to you, speaking of these things as he does in all his letters. In them there are some things

hard to understand that the ignorant and unstable distort to their own destruction, just as they do the other scriptures."

Evangelical protestants assert that St. Paul taught the following: "The Gospel that Paul preached was that we are justified by faith completely and instantly at salvation and without degrees."

However, nowhere in the Holy Scriptures can that teaching be found!
In St. Paul's own words, his teaching is as follows:

Acts 26:20 "On the contrary, first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem and throughout the whole country of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached the need to repent and turn to God, and to do works giving evidence of repentance."

1 Corinthians 13:2 "if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing."

1 Corinthians 13:13 "So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 7:19 "Circumcision means nothing, and uncircumcision means nothing; what matters is keeping God's commandments."

(**Ephesians 2:10** "For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.")

Galatians 5:6 "For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love."

Philippians 2:12-16 "So then, my beloved, obedient as you have always been, not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work.

Do everything without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life, so that my boast for the day of Christ may be that I did not run in vain or labor in vain."

Romans 12:9-21

"Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;

love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.
Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.
Bless those who persecute [you], bless and do not curse them.
Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.
Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.
If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.
Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for the wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'
Rather, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.'
Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good."

In **1 Corinthians 1:18** St. Paul informs us that "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

St. Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 1:31** that we should boast in the Lord, not because we are saved already, but because we are in the process of being saved! "Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain." (**1 Corinthians 15:2**)

None of this agrees with the preaching or new doctrines Martin Luther and the other so-called reformers presented. It is quite clear that St. Paul completely agrees with our savior's statements in Matthew 19:17, Matthew 22:34-40, and in Mark 12:28-34 since Paul's agreement to these can be found in 1 Corinthians 7:19. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not about faith alone, but faith working through love as stated in Galatians 5:6. Look it up, believe it, and live it!

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Baptism linked to salvation

Some non-Catholic Christians deny that Baptism is necessary for salvation, or that it is a sacrament.

Matthew 28:18-20 "Then Jesus approached and said to them, 'All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.'"

Mark 16:16 "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned."

John 3:2-5 "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?' Jesus answered, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.'"

Acts 2:38 "Peter [said] to them, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit.'"

Acts 22:16 "Now, why delay? Get up and have yourself baptized and your sins washed away, calling upon his name."

Romans 6:3-4 "Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life."

Ephesians 4:1-6 especially verse 5, which reads: "one Lord, one faith, one baptism;"

Colossians 2:11f "In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by hand, by stripping off the carnal body, with the circumcision of Christ.

You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead."

1 Peter 3:21 “This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,”

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A glaring example of promoting an untruth

Some people quote Pope Leo X (1513-1521) as saying, “How profitable that fable of Christ has been to us and our company,” in an attempt to show that a medieval pope was the Antichrist because he thought Jesus was a myth created to justify the existence of a power-hungry Church.

But the problem with this quote is that, while it does come from the sixteenth century, **Pope Leo X never said it**. This quote actually comes from the Protestant dissenter John Bale’s satirical book *The Pageant of Popes*, and was an amateur attempt to smear the Roman pontiff’s character.

Another much-overused criticism of the Church is explained and refuted in this tract by Fr. William Saunders entitled: **Why Do We Call Priests 'Father'?** (Also see 1 Corinthians 4:15)

In order to quickly discover what the Catholic Church really teaches go to the source – ask a Catholic priest or read Paul Whitcomb’s tract: **“The Catholic Church Has The Answer”**

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Final Exhortation

I have written this tract not because I wish to recruit Evangelical Protestants to Catholicism (even though that would be ideal) but because I am truly concerned that many professing Christians may end up spending eternity in the wrong place

because they follow the mistaken and unscriptural doctrines of the so-called reformers of the 16th century.

If a person were to concede that initial justification does not have a lifetime guarantee.

If they were to understand that our salvation is not a one-time event but a process, (1 Corinthians 15:2)

If they were to profess sorrow for any sins they might commit and always ask God for forgiveness with a contrite heart, (1 John 1:9)

If they were to concede that the virtue of Love is greater and more important than any other virtues, (1 Corinthians 13:13)

If we truly believe that our actions can have eternal consequences, (John 3:36)

If we would truly try our best to love God and our brothers, our fellow human beings, as much as we love ourselves, (Matthew 22:37-40)

If we were to realize that our main task in this life is not to be good people or to be liked but to do the will of the Lord our God, (Matthew 6:9-15)

Remember, Jesus Christ assured us that even though this world would revile and hate us for following Him, if we follow him to the end of our lives we would be saved, (Matthew 10:22)

If we do these things, it is certain that we will spend our eternity in paradise with God and the saints and angels. Can we really have the same assurance if we follow the Johnny-come-lately and faulty doctrines of Martin Luther and his compatriots?

Proverbs 27:1 "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."

Matthew 23:12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."

1 Corinthians 10:12 "Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall."

May the blessing of Almighty God descend upon us and remain with us always. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

It is not proper to ask a person if he is Saved since only God knows the answer. Rather, ask if he truly loves God and his neighbor.

This work consists primarily of quotes from others, including verses taken from the [New American Bible](#). Otherwise, I have tried to indicate the source, whenever possible. Ed.

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