



II Timothy 2:9

The Gospel Catholic

The sole purpose of this publication is to promote God's message of salvation through faith alone in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Additional free literature is available upon request.

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Tracts in Colombia!



After nearly 10 months, the 470,000 tracts we shipped to Colombia have arrived! Above you can see the 5 steps of the project: 1. Shipping from TN to VA. 2. Preparing in VA for shipment with 10,000 Bibles. 3. Finalizing the container in July. 4. The tracts and Bibles leaving customs in Colombia and 5. Unloaded in Rio Negro, Colombia for distribution!!! Despite many delays, they are there and we can say "To God be the Glory!" Pray for the many dear souls who read them to be saved! Thank you for praying thus far and giving to make this project possible!- MTR

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Social Media: Follow us on Facebook!

If you have a Facebook account, follow “The Conversion Center”! You will see the above picture for our profile and you can “like” the page. I try to update it by posting a live video weekly and sharing a brief update on the ministry with project and travel updates, prayer requests and end with the “verse of the day”. We used to have a Twitter account and have let it go dormant but may be resurrecting it in the near future! Stay tuned! I look forward to keeping in touch with you through Facebook!



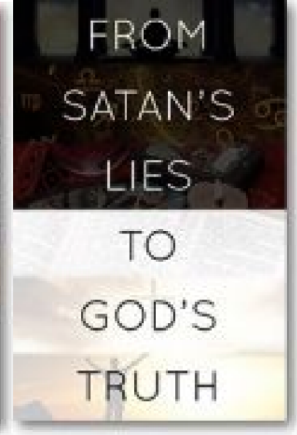
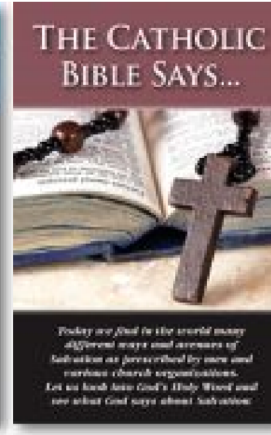
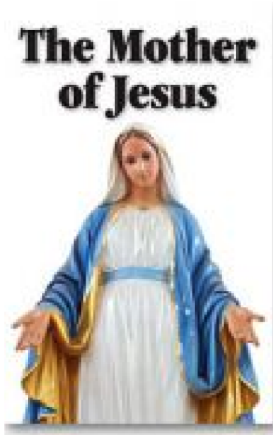
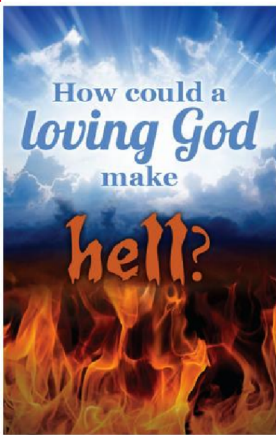
End of Year Giving

For your donation to receive a receipt under the year 2022, it needs to be postmarked by December 31st. We will wait until all 2022 donations are received before we send out your donation forms. Many thanks and God bless!-MTR

Current Tract Project

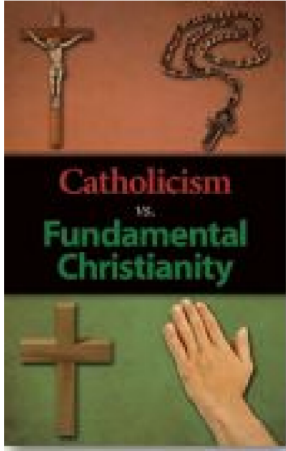
At the time of this printing, Beacon of Truth will be working (Lord willing) to ship our newest order of 600,000 tracts. There have been supply chain issues both on the paper supply and the shipment of the tracts, but the Lord is good.

I am asking you to fervently pray for the safe passage of these tracts to their destinations, for the safe distribution of them, and for many souls to be saved as a result!



These are the tracts that are printed and will be sent. Lord willing, we will send 100,000 to Peru in a shipping container for Bro. Don Rich in the new year. There are 400,000 planned to go to Honduras and Guatemala when the printer is able to print the Bibles to go with the tracts. The remaining 100,000 may get to Venezuela. There is a possibility that some of the materials in Colombia may be able to be imported by Venezuelans into their home country. We are thankful to be able to have an impact on that beautiful country in spite of the many problems they are experiencing right now!

Please pray as I want to raise funds (\$30,000) to print one million tracts in 2023 for various locations including a container to Mexico! If you want to give toward this, please mark your gift to go to "Spanish Tract Project".



Roman Catholicism Vs. Fundamental Christianity (Praying for the Dead)

Editor's note: In preparation for writing this article, I came across an article on Foxnews.com on why Roman Catholics pray for the dead. I read it and wanted to post the article to help our reader understand what is meant by "Praying for the Dead". The article that follows is titled, ***"All Souls Day: Here's why priests advise praying for the dead"***. I will then show what the Bible says.

November 2 each year marks All Souls Day in the Catholic Church, dedicated to remembering those who have died.

It comes one day after All Saints Day, which commemorates all saints, known and unknown.

The practice of Christian prayer for their dead dates back to at least the second century, according to the Vatican's website, although the customs have changed over time.

Initially, one would specifically pray for the dead three days after the person's burial, then on the anniversary of that individual's death.

"Remembering the dead on [November 2] became official in the year 998 when Abbot Odilo of Cluny (994-1048) made it obligatory in all the monasteries subject to him," said the Vatican website.

All Souls Day is the "one day every year when Catholics everywhere remember their past," Fr. Thomas Petri, president of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., told Fox News Digital.

"They remember the faithful who have preceded them," he continued — "their loved ones who have gone before them. And, in an act of filial love and piety, we pray for the deceased with the hope they will rest eternally with God in glory."

"In the early 20th century, Pope Benedict XV granted permission allowing all priests to celebrate three Masses on All Souls Day," said the Vatican website.

Typically, priests celebrate one Mass a day, the site notes.

"The liturgy proposes various Masses on this day, all of which are geared toward highlighting the Paschal Mystery, Jesus' victory over sin and death," the same source indicates.

Unlike All Saints Day, which is observed annually on Nov. 1, All Souls Day is not considered to be a holy day of obligation, in which Catholics are required to attend Mass, noted Catholic.org.

Still, the holiday is important to many Catholics.

Fr. Edward Looney, a priest in the diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin, echoed the comments of Fr. Petri.

"All Souls Day is a day when we pray for the dead. Our prayers and sacrifices aid souls in purgatory in the process of purification," he said.

When a person dies, their soul either goes to heaven, hell or purgatory, according to website Catholic Online. ***"Roman Catholicism Vs. Fundamental Christianity"***,

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"The intermediate option is purgatory, which is thought to be where most people, free of mortal sin, but still in a state of lesser (venial) sin, must go," the site notes.

Catholics believe that praying for the dead who are in purgatory helps them become spiritually prepared to enter heaven, the same source says.

"Purgatory is necessary so that souls can be cleansed and perfected before

they enter into heaven. There is scriptural basis for this belief. The primary reference is in 2 Maccabees, 12:26 and 12:32," according to Catholic Online.

Looney noted that "saints and mystics have seen purgatory," and that "we should not stop praying for our dead."

"Even if it's been years, because our prayers add to their accidental glory — according to St. Thomas Aquinas — which means they can better intercede for us," he added. To properly commemorate All Souls Day, Looney advised that people "have Masses said. Pray at cemeteries. Pray the eternal rest prayer."

So, what does the Roman Catholic Catechism teach about this?

III. The Final Purification, or Purgatory

1030 All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

1031 The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned.⁶⁰⁴ The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire:⁶⁰⁵ As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire. He who is truth says that whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age nor in the age to come. From this sentence we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come.⁶⁰⁶

1032 This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture: "Therefore Judas Maccabeus made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin."⁶⁰⁷ From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God.⁶⁰⁸ The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead:

Let us help and commemorate them. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them.⁶⁰⁹

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958 Communion with the dead. "In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in its pilgrim members, from the very earliest days of the Christian religion, has honored with great respect the memory of the dead; and 'because it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins' she offers her suffrages for them."⁴⁹⁸ Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective.

The Christian Position

Hebrews 7:25 “Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Hebrews 9:27 “And it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment.”

2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every man may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

2 Corinthians 5:6 “Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord.”

Mark 7:6-9 “He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. 7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. 9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

1 Peter 1:18,19 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

1 Thessalonians 5:9,10 “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.”

The story of the thief on the cross is found in Luke 20. In verses 42,43, “And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say into thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

Other passages that can be read are: Matthew 1:21, Isaiah 53:10, Acts 4:12, and 2 Corinthians 1:21. Purgatory doesn't exist. You see many references of Jesus and others praying for people in the Bible but always it was live people praying for people who were still alive. You can't help or hurt a person's destination after they have died; pray for them now while they still live!



Dear Reader,

Thank you so much for taking the time out of your busy life to read this edition of *The Gospel Catholic*. We are thankful to be getting this to you before the end of the year. Let me update you on some prayer requests and personal items.

NATION At the time of this, the “Mid Term” elections have just taken place. Regardless of the results, there will always be some areas of change and adjustments. Please remember that our hope is NOT in Washington, DC or your state’s capital but in the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for our leaders to follow biblical wisdom and God’s plan for us. Some of the places we have helped in times past have had elections recently that are troubling, but none of this catches God off guard and He is still on the throne. So, regardless of who controls the Senate or House, Governorships, etc, let’s pray for our nation.

INFLATION Because of inflation and supply chain shortages, printing tracts and timely shipping has become a huge issue. For example, our tracts we use domestically have risen in cost 30% in the last year. If you’ve been following our ministry, you know that the project to Colombia should have been completed in February, but delays in shipping and customs made it go on until October. SO, I am asking you to pray diligently for additional offerings to help cover the costs of printing and specifically for the funds to print 1,000,000 tracts now so we have them on hand and other ministries and missionaries don’t have to wait on us when the opportunity for shipping occurs. We will need \$30,000 for this project. Rising costs affect all of us drastically but I’m asking for prayers for this ministry.

MARY’S TESTIMONY The lady in Brazil who was saved just days before she died of a brain aneurism left a precious testimony that I shared with you last edition. We have since printed this in tract form and have seen great responses to the English version. We have just finished the Spanish and will have 2,500 available by the time you read this. Please let us know if you’d like to receive some. We are anticipating the Portuguese to be finished by the end of the year. I am praying that we can sponsor a printing in Brazil in 2023 so that her testimony can be passed out in her heart language and to her own people. I want to have this tract done in illustrated form as well. It will cost us \$3,000 to finalize everything; your prayers are appreciated.

PERSONAL The family is doing well! The kids are well underway on school and our health has been maintained. We have a new prayer card available on request. I will be sending out informational packets to churches this year to introduce our ministry to them. If you have a pastor or church that you’d like to receive one, let us know. I would appreciate your prayers for me as I make plans for travel in 2023. There are many doors of opportunity but I need to choose them wisely. Thank you so much for your love and support of this ministry! God bless you for it!

Yours for the Kingdom,

Mark T. Reno, Director

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The Gospel of Grace

God's Word, the Bible, Tells Us We Need To Be Saved

"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." *Matthew 18:11*

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." *Romans 3:23*

"Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God." *John 3:3*

Religious Works Cannot Bring Salvation

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." *Titus 3:5*

"...not of works, lest any man should boast." *Ephesians 2:9*

"... all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." *Isaiah 64:6*

"This is the work of God that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent." *John 6:29*

Jesus Christ – God Himself – Has Provided Everything For Our Salvation

"Who (Jesus) His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree..." *1 Peter 2:24*

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." *John 14:6*

We Must Repent From Sin and Accept Christ To Be Saved

"... for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." *Matthew 9:13*

"... the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." *Matthew 1:15*

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." *John 3:16*

"...and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out." *John 6:37*

We Are Saved By Grace Through Faith Alone

"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

Romans 3:28 "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ...for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." *Galatians 2:16.*

"For by Grace are ye Saved through Faith"

HAVE YOU....Been converted to the Lord Jesus Christ? Is He your personal and all-sufficient Savior? If not, you are invited to trust Him NOW. Today is the day of salvation. Then unite with a Christ-centered, Bible teaching, Missionary-minded, Separated, and Fundamental, New Testament Christian Church.

THE CONVERSION CENTER, INC.

A Bible-believing Nonprofit Faith Mission

THE GOSPEL CATHOLIC – the Official Quarterly Publication of The Conversion Center, Inc. will be mailed to you free and postage paid upon request. It is also available via email and our website. Free tract samples will also be mailed upon request.

HAVE YOU....asked your church to include The Conversion Center, Inc. in its missionary program?

HAVE YOU....remembered The Conversion Center, Inc. in your will?

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