



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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Meals for Migrants

When we learned of the massive number of migrants who have come to El Paso, we contacted our friends there to see if there was anything we could do. They suggested that they could take meals to the migrants living on the streets and hand out tracts and “John and Romans”. I texted many of my friends and supporters to pray and the Lord sent the funds in. Praise the Lord for the opportunity to reach out to these dear souls, most of whom are Roman Catholic. The picture below shows a man reading our tract (in Spanish), “How Could a Loving God make Hell?”. His breakfast burrito waits on his backpack, after he finishes reading. Pray for more opportunities like this in the future. Because of the fluid nature of immigration, it's hard to predict when future groups will come so pray we can be ready when future waves come! To God be the Glory!-MTR



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Missions Trip 2023 (October 2-7)

We are going to do a missions trip to El Paso! It is our first missions trip where others are coming to join us! We want to go to El Paso to work with Bearing Precious Seed El Paso to do some canvassing of the city with tracts and invitations to reach the city. El Paso is in the very western portion of the state (seen at left) and borders New Mexico and Mexico. It has an official population of 680,000 people with a total of 2.7 million people living in the metropolitan area. Nearly half of all residents are Roman Catholic and the migrant population is even higher than that. Because of its close proximity to Mexico (the wall can be seen behind Rachel in the picture



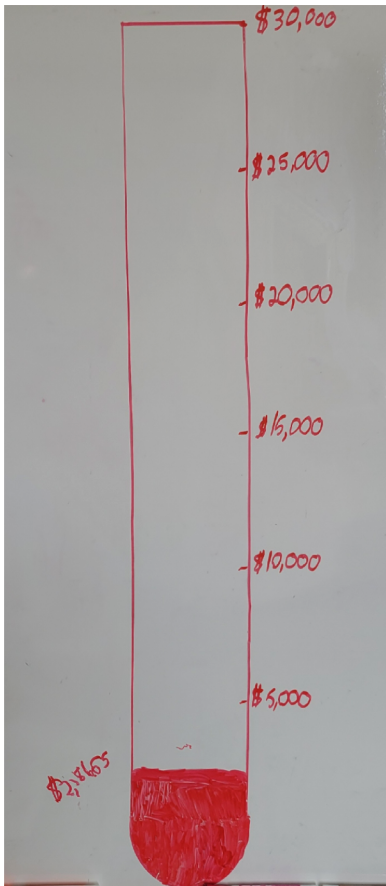
below), it is an ideal place to reach people coming and going. We have supplied 3 churches with tracts and enabled others with supplies. The first time I went was 6 years ago. I fell in love with the place and the people. We are praying for 30-40 people to come help us hand out tracts and invitations to



some of the local, independent, Baptist churches in the El Paso area. Brother and Sister Jimenez (seen above) of BPS – El Paso will provide transportation, meals, and lodging for our group. The cost for this will be \$400 plus your travel to El Paso. El Paso International Airport is very easy to use and is serviced by several major airlines. Regarding the cost of the trip, we have had an anonymous donor offer to pay 50% of the “on the ground” expenses for the first

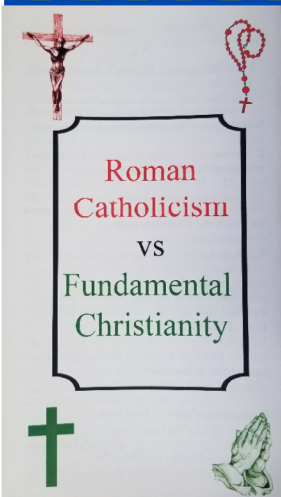
10 people to sign up. Please contact me at the office for more details! If you would like to donate so that others can go in your place, please mark your gift, “El Paso Missions Trip”. We hope to see you in El Paso, TX this fall!-MTR





1,000,000 Spanish Tracts

Please pray with us as we want to print a million tracts in Spanish for various mission fields. We have opportunities to ship tracts to Peru, Mexico Venezuela, Honduras, and Guatemala. We anticipate the cost of this to be \$30,000 though that could change with inflation and supply chain issues. We currently have \$2,186.65 towards this. Any gifts to help with this should be marked, "Spanish Tract Project".



Roman Catholicism VS. Fundamental Christianity

In previous editions of *The Gospel Catholic*, we have been doing comparisons of what the Roman Catholic church teaches versus what the Bible says. The previous points covered were:

1. Who is the Final Authority?
2. Is salvation through the Church?
3. Is salvation through good works?
4. Does the Church forgive sins?
5. Is the RCC the one, true church?
6. Should we pray for the dead?
7. Is the Pope the vicar of Christ?

Today, we are going to look at a topic that is hotly debated by many religions and denominations. **Does baptism save?** Or another way to phrase that might be, **Is baptism necessary for salvation?** Let's look at what the Catholic Church's catechism states vs. what the Bible says on the topic.

“RCC Vs. Fundamental Christianity”, continued from page 3



The Catechism Says

1257 The Lord himself affirms that Baptism is necessary for salvation.⁵⁹ He also commands his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations and to baptize them.⁶⁰ Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this

sacrament.⁶¹ The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude; this is why she takes care not to neglect the mission she has received from the Lord to see that all who can be baptized are "reborn of water and the Spirit." God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments.

1212 The sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist - lay the foundations of every Christian life. "The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. **The faithful are born anew by Baptism,** (Emphasis added.)

strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity."³ 1265 Baptism not only purifies from all sins, but also makes the neophyte "a new creature," an adopted son of God, who has become a "partaker of the divine nature,"⁶⁸ member of Christ and coheir with him,⁶⁹ and a temple of the Holy Spirit.⁷⁰

1274 The Holy Spirit has marked us with the seal of the Lord ("Dominicus character") "for the day of redemption."⁸⁵ "Baptism indeed is the seal of eternal life."⁸⁶ The faithful Christian who has "kept the seal" until the end, remaining faithful to the demands of his Baptism, will be able to depart this life "marked with the sign of faith,"⁸⁷ with his baptismal faith, in expectation of the blessed vision of God - the consummation of faith - and in the hope of resurrection.

1271 Baptism constitutes the foundation of communion among all Christians, including those who are not yet in full communion with the Catholic Church: "For men who believe in Christ and have been properly baptized are put in some, though imperfect, communion with the Catholic Church. Justified by faith in Baptism, [they] are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to be called Christians, and with good reason are accepted as brothers by the children of the Catholic Church."⁸⁰ "Baptism therefore constitutes the sacramental bond of unity existing among all who through it are reborn."⁸¹

1272 Incorporated into Christ by Baptism, the person baptized is configured to Christ. Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of his belonging to Christ. No sin can erase this mark, even if sin prevents Baptism from bearing the fruits of salvation.⁸² Given once for all, Baptism cannot be repeated.

“RCC Vs. Fundamental Christianity”, continued on page 5



“RCC Vs. Fundamental Christianity”, continued from page 4

BUT, what does the Bible say? First of all, while Roman Catholicism and many other denominations practice infant baptism, that is never promoted or even mentioned in the Scriptures. So, let’s look at some passages about what the Bible DOES say about baptism. I’ve added bold to verses to help you.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, **even to them that believe on his name:**

Ephesians 1:7 In whom **we have redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

1 Corinthians 1:17 **For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel:** not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

Acts 8:36-38 ³⁶And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

³⁷ And Philip said, **If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Acts 16:30-33 ³⁰ And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

³¹ And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**

³² And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

Acts 2:37-39 ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

³⁹ For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call. (The verse tells you to be baptized because of the remission of sins, not to bring it about.) Baptism doesn’t bring about forgiveness, it’s something a Christian does out of obedience because God has forgiven them of their sins and saved them. An infant is unable to make a profession of faith like the Ethiopian eunuch did in Acts 8, like John the Baptist commanded the people to repent in Matthew 2, and Peter did in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost. The thief on the cross had no opportunity to be baptized and yet Jesus said in Luke 23:43, “Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” Adding any work of ours to salvation makes it a salvation of works, which Ephesians 2:8,9 speaks strongly against. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.”





Mary's Testimony

I want to tell you a dear testimony of a lady named Mary. She had grown up in a small interior village in Brazil and was a staunch Catholic. She would close up her shop to attend every event or class held at the local Catholic church.

She was invited to a Christian "couples" class and even though she was single, she came. Mary let the missionary know she was Catholic and was assured she would be more than welcome. Over the following weeks, this little lady would bring others to hear the Gospel, even though she hadn't accepted it for herself.



El Testimonio de María

Quiero contarle de un testimonio precioso de una señora llamada María. Fue criada en un pueblo pequeño en el interior de Brasil y era una católica devota. Cerraba su tienda para asistir todo evento y toda clase que tenía la iglesia católica local.

Fue invitada a una clase cristiana para parejas y aunque era soltera, ella asistió. María avisó al misionero que ella era católica y fue asegurada de que sería bienvenida. A través de las siguientes semanas, esta pequeña dama trajo a otros para escuchar el Evangelio, aunque ella no lo había aceptado por sí misma.



O Testemunho de Dona Maria

Quero contar-lhes um lindo testemunho de uma senhora chamada Maria. Ela cresceu em um pequeno povoado no interior do Brasil e era uma católica romana terrena. Toda vez que havia um evento ou uma reunião na sua paróquia, ela fechava o seu pequeno comércio e ia para a igreja.

Um dia ela recebeu um convite para assistir a uma reunião cristã para "casais" e, mesmo sendo solteira, ela foi. Ao receber o convite, Maria logo disse para a missionária que era católica, mas recebeu a certeza de que ela iria ser mais que bem-vinda. Durante as semanas seguintes, aquela senhora de baixa estatura começou a trazer outras pessoas para ouvir o Evangelho, mesmo que ela mesma ainda não houvesse se entregado a Cristo.

Several editions ago, I included the testimony of a lady named Mary who was from Brazil. You may remember she was from a small village in the interior of Brazil where my brother and 2 of my sisters serve as missionaries. Mary was a dedicated Catholic lady who would close her shop for all the events at her local Catholic church. Her story continues as she began to come to "couples" class and Bible class and soon Mary was full of questions. One particular Bible study, she had some questions for the teacher about his lesson on Romans 10:9,10 and left that Tuesday night for the last time. Less than 2 days later, she had a brain aneurysm and went into a coma, dying shortly thereafter. My sisters were extremely sad, but then they learned from Mary's niece that she had been saved the night she went home after Bible study and couldn't wait for Sunday to tell the people at the church. The testimony mentions some of the changes in her life before she was saved. She began to see what the Bible said was different from what she had been taught and believed all those years. We praise the Lord that Mary turned to the One, True, Saviour who had shed His precious blood for her on Calvary.

Well, we took her testimony and printed it in English (left cover). We had such positive reaction to it that we began to have it translated in Spanish and have recently had 1,000 copies printed for starters. We are going to offer this tract to our missionary friends in Latin America as one they can request when we send out large shipments. However, through it all, I was praying that one day we could get Mary's testimony, that was written by my sister, translated into Portuguese so it could be read by people of her home country of Brazil. Praise the Lord, we have JUST received the translation, submitted to the printer, ordered the first 1,000 copies and should have them available by the time you are reading this. We have also worked with our printer here in the USA to get the file arranged so we can look into having it printed in Brazil to ensure quick turnaround time. Please pray for the thousands who will be reading the testimony of Mary! May God use her life to lead others to Christ (Matthew 5:16).



Dear Reader,

Thank you SO much for your interest in our ministry and reading this edition of ***The Gospel Catholic***. We pray it's been a blessing to you. We are thrilled to be a part of the "Meals for Migrants" and pray to be able to do more in the future. Because of the transient nature of the need, we didn't have time to notify all of you about the project. Also, there is a 5 minute video on our Facebook page showing more pictures and video of them handing the food out as well as handing out the

tracts, and talking with the people. It brought tears to my eyes and I suspect it will touch your heart.

COMPUTER NEEDS It came to my attention recently that our computers were needing replaced and while my laptop has already been provided by a dear friend to the ministry, we need to upgrade the ministry's computer, monitors, etc. I've been instructed that it will take **\$1,500-1,700** to upgrade everything we need. The computer repairman was surprised that we'd been able to stretch our machinery for over 10 years. God has been good to us and we appreciate your prayers regarding this.

TRAVEL My first few months of travel were purposefully designed to be slower but we are going to be busy from June-October. If you would like me to speak in your church, please contact me at the office as soon as possible. God has been so good to us in travelling safety and we appreciate your prayers for us.

PERSONAL As a family, we begin a stretch of months where we have birthdays in consecutive months. Stephen will be turning 15, Katie will be 12, Patricia will be 10, and Reuben will be 7. We are thankful for our children and it's a joy to watch them grow and mature. Please pray with us that they will turn into faithful servants for the Kingdom.

OFFERINGS The support coming in for the Conversion Center and for our own personal support was up in the fourth quarter. We are grateful for that. Some of the supporting churches and individuals have increased their support and we even have a few new supporters. This is



so encouraging to me and we thank the Lord for His goodness. Please continue to pray for good offerings, the needs and opportunities are many and we need funds and wisdom to pursue them. When I was a child growing up, we used to sing a little chorus in family devotions:

He owns the cattle on a thousand hills,

The wealth in every mine,

He owns the rivers and the rocks and rills ,

The sun and the stars that shine,

Wonderful riches more than tongue can tell,

They are my Father's so they're mine as well,

He owns the cattle on a thousand hills I know that He will care for me!



Regardless of the political situations that we see in chaos in many countries around the world, regardless of economic struggles from rising costs, supply issues, and transportation woes, regardless of a seeming lack of respect for God and His word on many fronts and spiritual darkness all over, God is STILL on the throne and we need to love and serve Him more now than ever. I have heard many preachers from childhood talk about living in the last days and I encourage you to live as if the trump will sound and the dead in Christ shall rise at any moment! I heard a country man once say about not holding anything back, "Don't leave your seed in the barn!" Let's be faithful to serve the Lord and reach as many souls with the Gospel that "Jesus Saves, Keeps, and Satisfies" until He calls us home! God bless you for your love, prayer and support of this ministry!

Yours for the Kingdom,

Mark T. Reno, Director

The Gospel Catholic

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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