

THE BEACON



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VATICAN FAKE NEWS

“The Reformation Is Over!”

By Richard Bennett and Stuart Quint

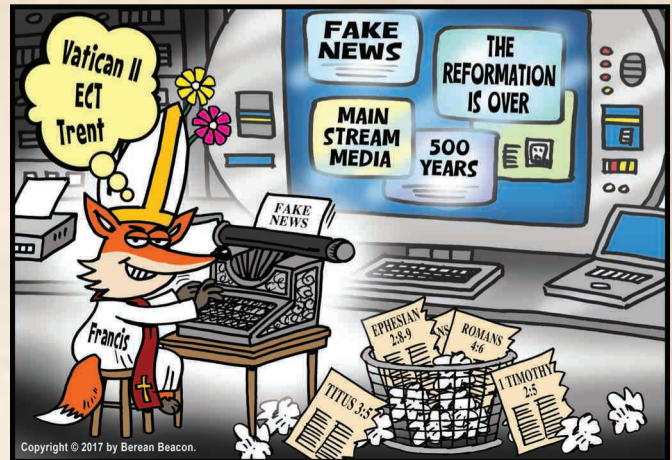
The Lord Jesus Christ condemned the Pharisees as they attempted to suppress the truth of the Gospel by equating their traditions with the Bible.

“But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.”¹

Today, the senior leadership of the Roman Catholic Church also undermines truth by equating man-made traditions with God’s Word. Pope Francis and the Roman hierarchy exalt their own authority above Holy Scripture. Consequently, the Catholic person believes not in the Almighty God and His immutable Word, but rather in the Catholic Church and her evolving tradition.

Ever since the Reformation began 500 years ago, the Roman Church continues to use its influence to camouflage the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

By convincing misinformed people that the Reformation was a mistake, Rome seeks to advance a more sinister objective.



ROME’S LATEST SCHEME TO CAMOUFLAGE THE TRUTH OF THE REFORMATION

Indeed, Rome’s intent is to suppress the truth rediscovered by the Reformation – the glory of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Why does Rome concern itself with an historical event that occurred 500 years ago and is barely remembered by many today?

Author George Orwell once said, “The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of history.”²

The Vatican legacy abounds with examples of “doctoring” history to deceive and manipulate ignorant people. Two prominent examples include Rome’s distortion of Biblical figures such as the Apostle Peter into the first Roman Pope³ and Mary into “the All-Holy One.”⁴

Up until recently, Rome has raged against the need for the Reformation. As shown in the Council of Trent and Vatican Council I, the Roman Catholic Church has taken the tact of debating and condemning the tenets of the Reformation.

However, the Papacy now employs a new tactic begun around Vatican II. Under the guise of false unity, Rome seeks to exploit many professing Evangelicals ignorant of the truth of the Gospel of the Reformation. Rome will promote this deception aggressively during the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

A leading UK Catholic journal quotes Pope Francis after a meeting with Lutherans in January 2017:

“After 50 years of official ecumenical dialogue between Catholics and Lutherans, we have succeeded in clearly articulating points of view which today we agree on. For this we are grateful...”

‘At the same time, we keep alive in our hearts sincere contrition for our faults,’ the Pope said. ‘In this spirit, we recalled in Lund that the intention of Martin Luther 500 years ago was to renew the Church, not divide Her...’

‘The materials for the week, published by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, say that, after 50 years of dialogue, ‘Catholics are now able to hear Luther’s challenge for the Church of today, recognizing him as a ‘witness to the Gospel.’”⁵

Pope Francis is wrong to claim Martin Luther as a fellow “witness of the Gospel”. Francis and Luther hold to entirely different gospels! The same conflict 500 years ago still exists today!

In 2017, Rome continues to persuade the world that Protestants no longer have reason to stay separated from her and that the Reformation is no longer necessary.

The Vatican announced in January a new postage stamp to commemorate Martin Luther.⁶ Different Catholic sources debate the significance



of this change in Vatican efforts from defaming to honoring the Reformation. Some even speculate that this action might suggest an effort by Rome to make Martin Luther a saint in the Roman Catholic Church! Regardless, this event has profound implications.⁷

Mauro Olivieri, the head of Rome’s Philatelic and Numismatic Office, views the stamp issuance not only as significant but under the direct orders of the Papacy:

“We have to try to understand the present time and be interpreters of the messages that the Holy Father wishes to convey... no doubt the issue dedicated to the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation marks the rapprochement and overcoming of mutual misunderstandings between Christians, and the philately there is.”⁸

This perceived “rapprochement”, or reconciliation, and “overcoming of mutual misunderstandings between Christians” are mere propaganda for the Vatican agenda.

THE GOSPEL OF THE REFORMATION: THE AUTHORITY AND TRUTH OF THE BIBLE ALONE

The Reformers in the sixteenth century rediscovered God's written Word as the absolute authority for faith and practice. The Scriptures do not substitute for God, but rather express the very mind of God. Christ forbids men to invent subjective interpretations of God's Word.

*"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."*¹⁰

To elevate manmade ideology higher than the Bible is tantamount to calling God a liar. Rome demotes God's glory in promoting tradition as equal to His Word:

"Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence."¹¹

THE GOSPEL OF THE REFORMATION: SALVATION WORKED BY GOD'S GRACE ALONE

The Reformers showed that the Scripture wonderfully declares that sinners, *"dead in trespasses and sins"*¹² are *"justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."*¹³ They echoed the Word of God itself, *"for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*¹⁴

In opposition to this truth, Rome alleges grace to be a mere aid transmitted through its sacraments. "The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation. 'Sacramental grace' is the grace of the Holy Spirit, given by Christ and proper to each sacrament."¹⁵

THE GOSPEL OF THE REFORMATION: SALVATION COMES THROUGH FAITH ALONE

The Reformers taught that God grants faith that brings a sinner to salvation. The object of faith is the Person of Christ Jesus Himself. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."*¹⁶

God grants such faith through the means of hearing the Word of God: *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*¹⁷

Regardless, the Catholic Church completely distorts the concept of faith. Indeed, Rome boasts, "It is the Church that believes first, and so bears, nourishes and sustains my faith."¹⁸

Then she has the audacity to declare that faith comes through the Church because the Church is our Mother. "Salvation comes from God alone; but because we receive the life of faith through the Church, she is our mother."¹⁹

Rome compels a person to believe in Mother Church and not in the Lord Jesus Christ. "'Believing' is an ecclesial act. The Church's faith precedes, engenders, supports and nourishes our faith. The Church is the mother of all believers. 'No one can have God as Father who does not have the Church as Mother.'"²⁰

THE GOSPEL OF THE REFORMATION: SALVATION DRIVEN BY CHRIST ALONE

Christ alone saves believers. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ...to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."*²¹

The Apostle Paul explicitly defines Christ as the origin of granting the believer external justification before God: *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."*²²

The Catholic Church explicitly denies the Bible on this point. "Justification is conferred in Baptism, the sacrament of faith. It conforms us to the righteousness of God, who makes us inwardly just by the power of his mercy."²³

Rome teaches: "Justification is not a declaration of righteousness based on the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ but a declaration of the believer's righteousness before the judgment seat of God based on an infusion of grace in a believer's life. This means that justification is not grounded exclusively on the work of Christ but also in the works and merits of the individual."²⁴



THE GOSPEL OF THE REFORMATION: GLORY BELONGS TO GOD ALONE

The Reformers understood the principle of giving glory to God alone follows logically from the other principles. Because justification is by grace alone through God's gift of faith alone and in Christ alone on the written authority of his Word alone, to God alone be the glory! He has no room for Mary, the Pope, nor dead saints.

In fact, the Catholic Church addresses Mary as if she were God. "By asking Mary to pray for us, we acknowledge ourselves to be poor sinners and we address ourselves to the 'Mother of Mercy,' the All Holy One."²⁵ The Pope competes with the God's glory in assuming the titles of "Holy Father" and "Vicar of Christ."

The Roman Church dilutes God's glory with its veneration of saints:

"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 earliest days of the Christian religion, has honored with great respect the memory of the dead... Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective."²⁶



"We here are of the conviction that the papacy is the seat of the true and real Antichrist. . . . Personally I declare that I owe the Pope no other obedience than that to Antichrist." – Martin Luther

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE GOSPEL OF THE REFORMATION?

It is not enough to celebrate the Reformation. We need to obey and treasure the same Christ and the very Gospel that inspired revivals throughout history.

Will we awaken from the slumber of our postmodern age that consents with Rome to suppress the Gospel of Christ? Will we run the same race as believers of the past and look unto Christ as our source of power and example? Will we love Christ at our own expense and be willing to endure scorn for Him?

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."*²⁷



But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. **II Tessalonians 2:13**

END NOTES

1. Matthew 23:13. Unless otherwise specified, all verses are from the King James Version.
2. <https://www.military-history.org/articles/thinkers-at-war-george-orwell.htm> accessed on July 24, 2017.
3. Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition (1994: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City), Paragraphs 880-2.
4. Catechism, Paragraph 2677.
5. <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/01/19/pope-francis-martin-luther-wanted-to-renew-the-church-not-divide-her/> accessed on June 23, 2017.
6. <http://www.vaticanstate.va/content/vaticanstate/en/servizi/uf-cio-latelico-e-numismatico/programma-emissioni1.html> accessed on June 23, 2017. Authors' emphasis.
7. "Pope Francis, always surprising people during the four years so far of his pontificate, is preparing to announce that Martin Luther is certainly in heaven. This is called equipollent canonization – where, by virtue of his position as the Vicar of Christ, Pope Francis can bypass the ordinary judicial process of canonization..."
8. English translation and screenshots of original interview in Italian by Danilo Bogoni, "Novita Vaticane Targate 2017", Arte del Francobollo, January 2017, p.8 on <https://www.unicato.it/adf65-pdf-gennaio-2017/> cited on <http://callmejorgebergoglio.blogspot.com/2017/01/vatican-to-issue-stamp-commemorating.html> accessed on June 25, 2017. Authors' emphasis.
9. For more detail, please see the article by Richard Bennett titled "Five Biblical Principles of Reformation", October 17, 2015, Berean Beacon on <https://bereanbeacon.org/new-blog/2015/10/17/five-biblical-principles-of-reformation>.
10. Matthew 5:17-20.
11. Catechism, Paragraph 82.
12. Ephesians 2:1.
13. Romans 3:24.
14. Ephesians 2:8-9.
15. Catechism, Para. 1129.
16. Acts 16:31.
17. Romans 10:17.
18. Catechism, Para. 168.
19. Ibid., Para. 169.
20. Ibid., Para. 181.
21. Ephesians 1:3-4.
22. Romans 5:8-9.
23. Catechism, Para. 1992.
24. William Webster, Saving Faith: How Does Rome Define It? (1997: Christian Resources, Battle Ground, WA), 42.
25. Catechism, Para. 2677.
26. Ibid., Para. 958.
27. Hebrews 12:2-3

FROM OUR MAILBAG

“ I spent 42 years as a Roman Catholic and I thought I knew it all and had it all. Life was great outside of the speed bumps that are common in most people's lives. I met a woman who was also catholic, fell in love, got married and baptized 3 children in our local Parish church. 3 years ago I found a pamphlet on my train titled “What Every Catholic Should Know” and I thought, let's see what I should know. It was written by Richard Bennett, a former priest. A former priest? Why former? I started to search and visited your web site and found more that I thought I knew. I found the truth! It was hard at first and I knew if I continued on the path many things would change. God blessed me with a wonderful woman to whom I showed al I found to and God opened both our eyes! Together! The road became easier because now the most important woman in my life was still by my side but now we worship in truth and so do our children! We lost many friends along the way and many relatives have voiced their opinions, because like me, they think they know it all and have it all. Now we have many to pray for because we want them all to really have it all! A saving faith in Christ alone and by God's grace alone! Thank you God for allowing this 5 page tract to put us on a path for truth. Thank you for using Richard Bennett and his ministry as a seed of truth that only You can water. Praise your glorious name above all! We are saved!

Glenn R. - Facebook

“ Praying for you all! My mother has been listening to Richard Bennett for several years now. So I had the privilege of growing up while hearing the truth of God's Word!”

A.E. - Facebook

“ Thank you for accepting my request. I'm so glad to hear that your ministry of sharing the true Gospel with Roman Catholics now has a Facebook presence! I myself was Roman Catholic once but now saved by the Lord's grace. I'll definitely keep Richard Bennet and his wife Lynn and the Beacon volunteers in my prayers. Grace and peace to you all in Christ Jesus!

Pat C. - Facebook

“ Thank you for such insight into the Papacy and Hello Richard! God bless you! I am an American evangelical, and God has been opening up MANY doors or me in the last five years, in Italy. Among the people, yes, but mostly among the clergy. I am studying your books for help. They help me in dark hours. Any insight you can give me would be very appreciated. Thank you for writing your books and for the work you do! With the Love of Christ Jesus.”

Gianna - Email

“ I pray for you often my brother. You have been a big help to me in my Ministry” Manny S. - Facebook

“ Greetings, I love the Beacon and Richard Bennett, he's been a tremendous blessing! Thank you very much! Grace and Peace.” Michael L. - Facebook

“ I watched some of Richard Bennett's testimony and was blessed by what I heard and the sincerity of love he showed in his manner when speaking about Catholics. May the Lord richly use the ministry to bring Catholics to New birth in Christ. Shalom.”

Salvador H. - Facebook

“ Greetings. I have watched some of Richard Bennett's videos and have deeply appreciated them. They are courageous, insightful and edifying exposés of Roman Catholicism. May you all keep up the great work you do! God bless.”

Tim - Email

“ Thank you for such insight into the Papacy and its intentions. Also thank you for a great reminder of the Sovereignty of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the truth of scripture and assurance for those who believe in Him!!!”

Chip - Email

“ Thank you for such insight into the Papacy and Thank you so much, I really appreciate and am looking forward to receiving your newsletter. Continue to fight the good fight of faith!!!”

Desiree - Email

“ I Just got back from a funeral service last night. My first time as a Christian and pastor preaching for a Christian funeral. I'm American and was born in Illinois, United States. Early last year I moved to Puebla City, Mexico and got married and restarted my ministry. I was raised Roman Catholic in a small town in Illinois and was asked at ages 14-18 to be assistant director of music for one of the billions of St. Mary's cathedrals. We felt a sense of religiousness, arrogance, and it was easy to quote canons from a catholic catechism to persecute or try to humiliate Christians. However, in October of 2010, God knocked me o my high horse and took the scales of religion o my eyes as did He to the apostle Paul in Damascus. I got saved and by November of 2010 felt the calling to preach (which I had never done and was newly learning to read a Holy King James Bible). Anyway, here I am. A catholic by sinner birth but a Christian by being born-again in Christ. I thank pastor Richard Bennett and family for your testimony and the documentaries which have helped God's ministry in the States and Mexico. We will be praying for pastor Bennett and his wife. God bless you (Dios te bendiga) and protect you!”

Pastor Daniel - Facebook

GALAXY REPORT:

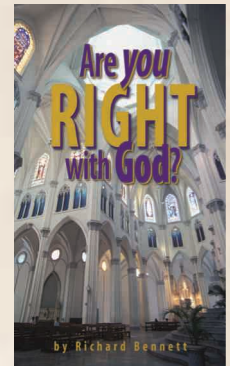
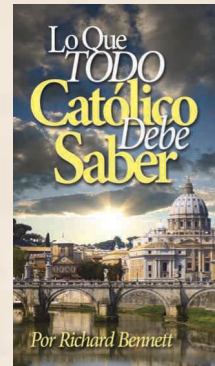
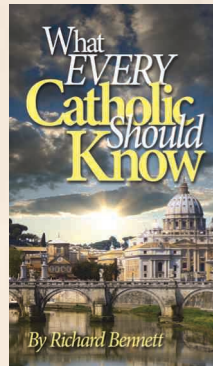
TRACT EVANGELISM

Reaching Roman Catholics with the true gospel of God's grace has been a motivating factor in all that we do at the Berean Beacon.

One of our goals has been to equip believers with the necessary tools and information to touch the lives of their Roman Catholic friends and families. For many, the act of evangelism is difficult as the Lord may not have gifted you in this particular area, however the Lord has called all of us to be a witness. The simple act of passing out, mailing or leaving behind evangelistic tracts is an inexpensive but powerful and fruitful endeavor.

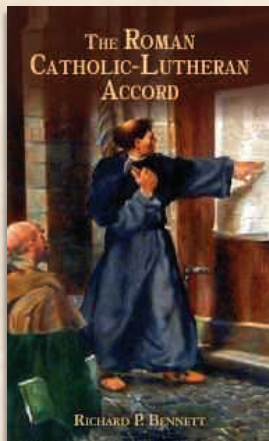
We would like to highlight the marvelous work of Doug Salser, President of Literature Ministries International, LMI. When Literature Ministries began in November 1996, Doug had already contacted Richard Bennett about publishing the tracts he had envisioned. One of LMI's founding goals was to provide clear biblical teaching for Catholic readers.

Since the first publication of **What Every Catholic Should Know** in 1997, LMI has added a Spanish version, **Lo Que Todo Católico Debe Saber** and has published **Are You Right With God?**—the clearest side-by-side presentation of salvation verses from the Bible compared to Roman Catholic beliefs. All three tracts can be read in their entirety on LMI's website: www.LitMin.org.



Versions and translations of these tracts continue to be printed and used by God to bring Catholics to salvation in America, Canada, Europe, Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Australia. We encourage everyone who has a deep concern for the evangelization of Roman Catholics to get copies of these beautifully designed and doctrinally sound tracts by contacting Doug Salser at 469.693.9284. LMI keeps these three tracts in stock in the www.LitMin.org web store. They come in shrink-wrapped packs of 25 tracts for \$2.39 (US) per pack, plus shipping and handling. We hope that you will partner with Richard and LMI by using these tracts as part of your weekly witness wherever you go.

Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! **Romans 11:33**



The denial of the Gospel on the part of Rome and nominal evangelicals began long before the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. One such example is the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification." This denial of justification by faith alone is an official doctrinal statement coauthored by representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation in 1999. Richard Bennett analyzes the

apostasy of both sides in his concise work **The Roman Catholic – Lutheran Accord**. Though written nearly two decades ago, this book can help you be prepared for the ecumenical downfall to intensify in the future.

For your copy of this booklet, please contact Chapel Library at 850-438-6666 or visit <http://www.chapellibrary.org>



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