



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No. 43, October 27 , 2015 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

[TURN BACK YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR SATURDAY EVENING!]

WAS THE REFORMATION A MISTAKE?

SUNDAY, November 1, is REFORMATION SUNDAY! Rick Warren, speaking at the PEW FORUM ON RELGION AND PUBLIC LIFE said: “You know, 500 years ago, the first Reformation with Luther and then Calvin, was about beliefs. I think a new reformation is going to be about behavior. The first Reformation was about creeds; I think this one will be about deeds. I think the first one was about what the church believes; I think this one will be about what the church does.” **“The first Reformation actually split Christianity into dozens and then hundreds of different segments. I think this one is actually going to bring them together... Last week I spoke to 4,000 pastors at my church who came from over 100 denominations in over 50 countries....We had Catholic priests, we had Pentecostal ministers, we had Lutheran bishops, we had Anglican bishops, we had Baptist preachers.”** (Copyright © The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life)

One of the most popular Southern Baptist lady Bible teaches has openly claimed that **‘God showed her’** the church, **‘as Jesus sees it’**.... And it is a church where Protestants, non-denominational, Charismatics, and Roman Catholics are all one big happy church. **IN OTHER WORDS, the**

Reformation was a mistake. YES, very influential Evangelicals such as Rick Warren, James Robison, Beth Moore, Billy Graham, and many more think it is time to forget differences between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. They believe the differences are minor. They want us to ALL UNITE into one BIG CHURCH and be the answer to the prayer of Jesus for unity in John 17. **SO, WAS THE REFORMATION a mistake?** Are the theological, Biblical positions of the Reformation no longer IMPORTANT? For after all, isn't the Roman Catholic church now basically evangelical? The following quotes express present doctrines of Roman Catholicism. Can you 'square' these quotes with the Word of God?

A Roman Catholic Apologist tells us about Roman Catholicism!

Karl Keating is a Roman Catholic apologist. In other words, he has given himself to defending Roman Catholicism. He has a book that has a rather interesting title to say the least: ***CATHOLICISM AND FUNDAMENTALISM... The Attack on "ROMANISM" by "Bible Christians!"*** What follows are quotes which I gleaned from Keating's book. **You will note that any and all Bible Believing Christians are categorized by Keating as "Fundamentalist."** (For emphasis, I will place some words and/or phrases in bold.) **Here are quotes from Keating's book:**

"Few orthodox Catholics can imagine themselves leaving their religion for another... To convert to mainline Protestantism, or to collapse into agnosticism, does not occur to them even in nightmares... A change to Eastern Orthodoxy or Anglo-Catholicism is more an adjustment than a real switch... **But fundamentalism?** To embrace it is to reject Catholicism outright, **because fundamentalism** does not just modify, but discards, the sacramental and liturgical core of Catholicism. **One might as well subscribe to an obscure Eastern cult."**

"But the allure of fundamentalism should be taken seriously, if for no other reason than that hundreds of thousands of Catholics have taken it so seriously in the last few years that they have joined "Bible-believing" churches. Many of them have become not just non-Catholics, but anti-Catholics, because such an attitude is the natural result of the logic of their position. **They perceive a duty to bring into "real Christianity"**

the family and friends they left at Mass, and bring them they have.”

“Fundamentalists regard the Bible as the keystone of their faith. Their understanding of inspiration and inerrancy comes from Benjamin Warfield’s notion of plenary-verbal inspiration, meaning that in the autographs all of the Bible is inspired and the inspiration extends not just to the message God wished to convey, but to the very words chosen by the sacred writers.”

“First to catch one’s eye is the fundamentalists’ reliance on the Bible to the complete exclusion of any authority wielded by the Church. (The Roman Catholic Church is the Church to which Keating is referring.)

The second is their insistence in a faith in Christ as personal Lord and Savior. “Do you accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?” they ask. “Have you been saved?” they ask. This is unalloyed Christian individualism...

It is a one-to-one relationship, with no mediators, no sacraments, just the individual Christian and his Lord.”

“Adoration of the wafer (host), decreed by Pope Honorius III, 1220AD. What the reader is supposed to think, apparently, is that Catholics worship the bread used at Mass. They do not.

What they worship is Christ, **and they believe the bread and the wine are turned into the actual Body and Blood, including not only His human nature, but also His divine nature.**

If Catholics are right about that, then surely the Host deserves to be worshiped, since it really is God.”

“Cup forbidden to the people at communion by Council of Constance... 1414AD... **The Catholic position has always been that after the Consecration (By the Priest) the actual Body and Blood of Christ are contained in the smallest particle of the Host (The wafer) or the tiniest drop from the cup...** In giving the cup to the laity there was a chance the contents would be spilled, so out of respect, the restriction was imposed.”

“As heirs of the Reformers, fundamentalists work on the basis of ***sola scriptura***, and they advance this notion at every opportunity... **The Catholic method** of finding the Bible to be inspired begins this way. It is not, at first, presumed to be inspired... The Catholic Church... tells us the Bible is inspired, **and we can take the Church’s word for it precisely because the Church is infallible...**

The Catholic believes in inspiration because the Church tells him so — that is putting it bluntly — and that same Church has the authority to interpret the inspired text.”

“Fundamentalists say the Bible is the sole rule of faith... **Catholics, on the other hand, say the Bible is not the sole rule of faith** and that nothing in the Bible suggests it was meant to be... The notion of ***sola scriptura*** arose when the Reformers rejected the papacy. In doing that, they also rejected the teaching authority of the Church. They looked elsewhere for the rule of faith and thought they found it in the Bible.”

“**Tradition** means the teachings and teaching authority of Jesus and, derivatively, the apostles. These have been handed down and entrusted to the Church... which means to its official teachers, the bishops in union with the Pope.”

“**D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones**... Lloyd-Jones’ trouble, the trouble of all fundamentalists, is that **he labors under the misconception that the Scripture has the last word** and that Tradition built on oral teachings counts for nothing.”

“There is no more confusing topic, when fundamentalists and Catholics sit down to talk, than salvation... **Fundamentalists... conclude** from the Bible that Christ actually promised that heaven is theirs in exchange for a remarkably simple act. All they have to do, at just one point in their lives, is ‘accept Christ as their personal Savior’... It comes down to Galatians 2:20: ‘The Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.’ Christ is seen as one’s personal Savior, and that is why these words are a favorite with fundamentalists...”

For Catholics salvation depends on the state of the soul at death. Christ has already redeemed us, unlocked the gates of heaven, as it were... He did his part, and now we have to cooperate by doing ours... **As Catholics see it, anyone can achieve heaven, and anyone can lose it...**"

"The Catholic Church has always understood baptism... as a sacrament that accomplished several things, the first of which is the remission of sin... Did Christ leave us any means within the Church to take away sin? The Bible says he gave us two means.

Baptism was given to take away the sin inherited from Adam [original sin] and any sins [called actual sins because they come from our own acts] committed before baptism. **For sins committed after baptism, a different sacrament is needed... Cyprian writes that the forgiving of sins can take place only 'through the priests'.**

"The inability of the Church to teach error is infallibility... It means what is officially taught will not be wrong... Rome has spoken; the case is closed... In 1950, Pope Pius XII, in an exercise of papal infallibility, defined that Mary, 'after completion of her earthly life'—note the silence regarding her death—'was assumed body and soul into the glory of heaven'... **True, no express Scriptural proofs for the doctrine are available...** Still, fundamentalists ask, 'Where is the proof from Scripture?' Strictly, there is none...

The mere fact that the Church teaches the doctrine of the Assumption as something definitely true is a guarantee that it is true... Mary is the Mediatrix of all graces because of her intercession for us in heaven... **grace is not conferred on anyone without Mary's cooperation. True, Scriptural proofs for this are lacking."**

This final quote is from a little Catholic booklet,

MY FIRST COMMUNION CATECHISM:

"Every day Jesus makes the same offering that He made on the cross. He offers Himself to God the Father. He does this in the Sacrifice of the

Mass... I cannot see Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Jesus is hidden in the Host.

The white Host looks and tastes like bread, but it is not bread. It is Jesus..."

SOME CONCLUDING THOUGHTS/RESPONSES:

1. Mr. Keating clearly understands the vast difference between Roman Catholicism and Bible-believing Churches / Fundamentalists. He clearly understands that both cannot be genuine expressions of true Christianity. That reality is something that many Evangelicals and 'Fundamentalists' have abandoned. **Have you?**

2. All around the world, God's amazing grace continues to save numbers of folk out of the bondage and blindness of Catholicism. Indeed, lost religionists fill the rolls of all "flavors" of churches and denominations— **It is all a part of the present day Mission Field!**

3. Some may say, "But I know some 'Evangelical Catholics'...even priests— They do not believe the Catholic doctrines Keating has stated."

RESPONSE:

(a) It is common for cults to try to appear Christian and Evangelical.

(b) Keating has stated Catholicism's case accurately.

(c) The Holy Spirit has a consistent habit of leading even brand new Christians according to the pure, infallible written Word of God, the Bible.

(d) Once enlightened by the Holy Spirit's ministry of quickening the Word of God— **for a person to then refuse to renounce and leave Catholicism is no different than for a person to claim to be saved, but yet refuse to leave and renounce Mormonism, Hinduism, Buddhism,** AND/OR groups that teach, (along with Catholicism), that water baptism is NECESSARY in order to savingly connect with Jesus and His redeeming blood, etc.

4. In commendable honesty, Karl Keating plainly states the TRUE Catholic position:

"To convert to mainline Protestantism, or to collapse into agnosticism, does not occur to them even in nightmares... A change to Eastern Orthodoxy or Anglo-Catholicism is more an adjustment than a real switch... But fundamentalism? **To embrace it is to reject Catholicism outright, because fundamentalism does not just modify, but discards, the sacramental and liturgical core of Catholicism. One might as well subscribe to an obscure Eastern cult.**"

5. THE OPPOSITE IS, LIKEWISE, TRUE:

To embrace Catholicism is to totally reject Bible-believing Christianity.

To embrace Catholicism is to totally reject Salvation by grace alone through faith in Christ alone.

To embrace Catholicism is to embrace a different gospel from that which is found in the Bible.

These facts being true, Bible-believing Christians should LOVINGLY SHARE THE GOSPEL OF GRACE with Catholic family, friends, and associates!

Grace to one and all!

James Bell

www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Contact Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

WEDNESDAYS:

6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities;

☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— **(For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)**

☐ **6:30pm— CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— NEXT, November 5, 11:00am, The Life of David! Cindy Bell, teaching. {Meet in Ladies Sunday School Room: Come in FRONT doors of the church auditorium or the SIDE door at the top of the IRON STEPS!}

* **EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!** {Study in ROMANS}... Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL— *Uniting Church, Home, and School in CHRIST!* For the 2015-2016 school term we are offering **Second through Twelfth grades**. Children need the Home, the Church, and the School to model and teach the same basic philosophy of life. ***Children are like young plants in a garden— they must be protected.***
<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER:

TURN BACK YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR SATURDAY [10/31/15] EVENING!

Sundays, November 1, 8, 22, 29:

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship

Noon Covered Dish Meal

1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service

Sunday, November 15-

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship/**LORD'S SUPPER.**

(No meal, no early afternoon service)

EVENING HOME GROUPS