

A Roman Catholic Testimony

Earl Payne
Ex US Army Officer



I was born in a Catholic hospital, baptized by a priest, educated in the Roman Catholic Catechism, received my first communion at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, went to Confession, performed acts of Penance, and became an altar boy.

Later, while in the US Army, I had the opportunity to attend Bible studies at a nearby church. Although I had attended Mass and studied the Catechism, I had never been taught from the Word of God.

Roman Catholics need to be saved just like everyone else. By reading the Bible, I learned to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as my

own personal Saviour and I received God's gift of eternal life.

As I continued to study the Bible, I discovered its teaching to be quite different from my earlier religious instruction. The following are just a few examples:

The Pope

The idea of a Pope is not found anywhere in the Bible. Catholicism teaches that Peter was the first Pope, the rock on which that church is built. The Bible teaches that that Rock is Christ, as the Apostle Peter himself testified **Acts 4:8-12**.

See also **Ephesians 2:20** and **1 Corinthians 10:4**.

When the Lord Jesus said ‘... upon this rock I will build My Church’, He wasn’t speaking about the weak and bungling Peter who would soon deny the Lord three times with oaths and swearing. He spoke about Himself, the One who never changes. As **Hebrews 13:8** declares, He is ‘Jesus Christ, the

same yesterday, today, and forever’.

Marriage

The Catholic Church does not allow priests, nuns and Popes to marry. However, Peter was married **Matthew 8:14**, and so were some of the other apostles. **1 Timothy 4:3** condemns any church or religious group which forbids marriage.

The Rosary



The rosary is an important part of Catholicism. Over those beads millions of ‘Our Fathers’ and ‘Hail Marys’ have been recited. Yet the Scripture says in **Matthew 6:7**, ‘When ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do’.

‘Vain repetitions’ is an accurate description of someone praying the Rosary. ‘Vain repetitions

means’ empty phrases or many words and phrases that are repeated over and over again.

Jesus Christ said that pagans use empty phrases when they pray, and He commanded us not to follow their example **Matthew 6:7**.

A Mediator

Catholics pray to Mary and the saints, and they confess sins to their priests hoping that by doing this they will be forgiven. However, the Bible plainly says in **1 Timothy 2:5**, 'There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus'.

Since Christ is the only mediator between God and men, it is useless to pray, 'Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners ...?'

It is also useless to go Confession and think that the priest is a mediator (a 'go-between') between yourself and God. He is not.

Blessed Virgin

Mary is called the 'Blessed Virgin', but she did not remain a virgin after the birth of Jesus.

Matthew 13:55 says, 'Is not this the carpenter's son? And are not his brothers James, and Joseph and Simon and Judas with us? And are not all his sisters with us?'

Mary had a large family. She was definitely not the 'Blessed Virgin' after the birth of Christ.

Good Works

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that a person gets to Heaven by living a good life, being a good Catholic, going to Confession, attending Mass, and doing good works.

The teaching of the Bible on this very important subject is very different from the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Romans 6:23 tells us, 'The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.'

Ephesians 2:8-9 also tells us, 'For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God: not a result of works, so that no one may boast.'

Purgatory

'Another fictitious element of the Catholic religion is purgatory, a place where people who missed hell but weren't good enough to get into heaven suffer until their sins are 'purged'. One can search the Bible from cover to cover without finding a hint at such a place.'



However, in the Bible, over and over again, we discover that Christ Jesus the Lord has already 'purged' our sins (**Hebrews 1:3**).

The Bible makes it clear in these verses and throughout its pages that Heaven and eternal life are received as a gift, based on the work of the Lord Jesus Christ alone. It specifically says that it is 'not of works.'

Despite this, the Catholic Church, as well as many other religions and denominations, teaches that a person must earn salvation.

1 John 1:7 tells us that 'The blood of Jesus Christ His (God's) Son cleanses us from all sin'.

According to God, Purgatory is unnecessary and non-existent.

The True Saviour

When the Bible says in **John 3:35**, 'Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life', it is talking about a person relying on Christ alone for forgiveness and salvation and trusting the Saviour to do what a Saviour is supposed to do - to save!

If a person tries to work and earn his way into Heaven by doing good things, he is trusting in his own efforts to save him - which means he is not trusting Christ as his Saviour - which means he is not saved!

As Lord of all, the Lord Jesus Christ deserves our undivided reverence.

As the Saviour of sinners, He wants us to admit our guilt and accept His all-sufficient payment for our sin.

You cannot do this and believe the teachings of Roman Catholicism about salvation because, as we have seen, the teachings of Catholicism about salvation do not agree with the teachings of the Bible.

No longer a Catholic

Therefore, I no longer believe the teachings of Catholicism. Instead, I rely on the Word of God which will stand forever. I am no longer a Roman Catholic. Instead, I have God's gift of eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The gift of eternal life is available to everyone. But the only people who receive it are those who are willing to give up their own ideas and traditions and put their trust in the Saviour.

'For God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Son, that whoever believes in Him should

not perish, but have eternal life'
John 3:16.

This 'whoever' means me. It can mean **YOU** if you believe and repent.

Don't let anyone or anything stand between you and this precious gift. No one has a right

to interfere with the reception of the gift of life, not even your church.

Choose Christ! Choose Life! And begin to live – FOREVER! For your sake and for His glory.

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PO Box 505

MATRAVILLE

SYDNEY NSW 2036 AUSTRALIA

Tel: + 61 (0) 2 9666 3072

Mob: + 61 (0) 408 162 550

Email: robflind@bigpond.net.au
