

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

JOURNAL

USA \$6.00
CANADA \$7.00

"Give to every man an answer..." (1 Peter 3:15)

WHEN is ANOTHER GOSPEL, Another GOSPEL?

SUMMER 1995 — VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

SPECIAL EDITION

Answers in this Issue

What is Christian Answers	2
Statement of Faith	3
<i>When Is Another Gospel, Another Gospel?</i>	4
by Rob Zins Th.M.	
<i>Open Letter from Wilson Ewin</i>	10
<i>"Suprised by Truth" Former Protestants Embrace Rome</i>	12
by James White	
Christian Answers Staff	17
<i>The Roman Catholic Church in History</i>	21
Book review by Jim Toungate Jr.	
<i>Cultic Definitions</i>	28
by Larry Wessels	
<i>Lift Up Your Eyes to Your Idols</i>	31
by Rob Zins	
<i>Letters from the Frontline</i>	34
<i>The Major Errors of Campbellism</i>	36
by Bob L. Ross	
<i>Ministry News</i>	38
<i>The Many Faces of Hinduism</i>	40
by Steve Morrison	
<i>Glossary of Hindu Terms</i>	44
<i>Hinduism Deep in the Heart of Texas</i>	46
by Larry Wessels	



The Many Faces of Hinduism — page 40

Subscription Information

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS JOURNAL is published quarterly by CHRISTIAN ANSWERS. Individual copies of the Journal are available for \$6.00 in the USA and \$7.00 in Canada. Yearly subscriptions are available for \$18.00 in the USA and \$21.00 in Canada. By subscribing yearly you receive one issue free! Order gift subscriptions for friends and family.

"For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. {4} But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, {5} He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, {6} whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, {7} that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."
(Titus 3:3-7 NASB)

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS STAFF

DIRECTOR
Larry Wessels

**DIRECTOR OF
RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS**
Jim Toungate Jr.

DIRECTOR OF RADIO OUTREACH
Lee Meckley

ASSOCIATE
Mark Gunning

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS JOURNAL Staff

Publisher
CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

Editor & Production
Jim Toungate Jr.

Associate Editor
Mark Gunning

Associate Editor
Larry Wessels

Contributing Editors
Dr. Michael Girouard

James White

Rob Zins

Bob L. Ross

Doug Kutilek

Mark McNeil

Steve Morrison

Mark Kass

Copyright © 1995 CHRISTIAN ANSWERS
No part of this publication may be reproduced for profit without the written consent of the publisher CHRISTIAN ANSWERS. Reproduction is allowed without permission for the furtherance of the Gospel. Remember when quoting to give credit where credit is due. For questions concerning reproduction please contact:

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS
P.O. Box 144441
Austin, TX 78714

What is CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

Our ministry name is derived in part from 1 Peter 3:15 which states, *"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have"* (NIV). This is the goal of CHRISTIAN ANSWERS in an increasingly anti-Christian society here in America and throughout the world.

The Biblical commands to *"fight the good fight of faith"* (1 Tim. 6:12), to be *"set for the defense of the gospel"* (Phil. 1:17), to *"earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"* (Jude 3), *"to be able to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict"* (Titus 1:9), to *"put to the test those who call themselves apostles but are not"* (Rev. 2:2), to *"beware of the false prophets, who came to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves"* (Matt. 7:15), to *"examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good"* (1 Thess. 5:21), *"with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth"* (2 Tim. 2:25), to follow the example of Paul and Apollos who *"vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ"* (Acts 18:28). These are but a few of the marching orders for the call to ministry.

The inerrant Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) whereby the gospel is preached which is *"the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth"* (Rom. 1:16) is the weapon of our evangelism. As Hebrews 4:12 states, *"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."* This is the evangelical missionary methodology of CHRISTIAN ANSWERS — to bring the Biblical perspective to a culture that is almost completely ignorant of it. To bring Christian truth, Christian answers to those who, as the prophet Isaiah said, have made *"lies...and falsehoods"* their refuge (Isa. 28:15). To smash lies and falsehoods with the *"hammer"* of God's Word (Jer. 23:29).

Christian Answers utilizes all outreach that God allows us including television, radio, audio cassettes, video tapes, speaking engagements, and the printed page. The materials we have been able to produce have been used by churches, Bible teachers, Christian apologists, laymen and others as well as those seeking life in Jesus Christ.

We are not afraid to stand up for Jesus Christ in public forums or wherever the Lord leads. Of course this type of ministry is not for the faint of heart and very often leads to the same type of suffering and persecution that we find in the Book of Acts. But as the old saying goes, *"one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last,"* and as Paul said, *"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 3:14). Amen!

The Christian Answers Staff

Our Statement of Faith

WE BELIEVE in one God who is eternally existent in three persons — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — and that He created everything *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) for His own pleasure and purpose.

WE BELIEVE that the 66 books that comprise the Bible are the plenary, verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant and infallible in the original manuscripts, and the guide and final authority in matters of faith and day to day life, interpreted by the Holy Spirit to each individual believer.

WE BELIEVE in the existence and personality of Satan, his complete opposition to God and his power over the unregenerate.

WE BELIEVE that man was created perfectly in the image of God, and when he sinned, mankind incurred both physical and spiritual death; thus man became eternally separated from God and is incapable of providing redemption for himself.

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ was begotten of the Father through the Holy Spirit, and was born of the Virgin Mary, and is true man without ceasing to be God. Thus He is the God-man.

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ lived a perfect and sinless life that fully pleased His Father; that He gave Himself of His own free will to be the sacrifice for the redemption of man and that He bore the judgement demanded by God's holy justice against sin, thus making it possible for God to remain just and yet at the same time to justify those who believe in His Son Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ rose in a glorified but human body from the dead, never to die again, and ascended to the right hand of the Father where, as high priest of His church, He mediates between God and man for those who are repentant believers.

WE BELIEVE that those who by faith alone and through no merit of their own receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are miraculously born again of the Holy Spirit and become children of God and partakers of His divine nature and eternal life.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit baptizes all true believers into the one true Church, His Body; that He indwells them eternally, bestows spiritual gifts upon them, and empowers them for service and holy living.

WE BELIEVE that the Scriptures have given us everything pertaining to life and godliness, including not only salvation from the penalty of sin but instruction in righteousness for present sanctification and victorious living to the glory of God.

WE BELIEVE that two ordinances, neither of which is essential to salvation, are to be observed by all believers in obedience to our Lord until His return: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

WE BELIEVE that at death the souls of the redeemed pass immediately into Christ's presence, to remain there until the resurrection of the body at Christ's return for His bride. We also believe that at death the souls of the lost go to Hell, where they will remain until they are brought before Christ at the Great White Throne final judgement to be judged according to their works and cast into the Lake of Fire, there to remain eternally.

WE BELIEVE that our Lord Jesus Christ will one day return for His Church to gather them as He promised.

The Christian Answers Staff

He is Risen!

WHEN IS ANOTHER GOSPEL, ANOTHER GOSPEL?



Rob Zins

We have reviewed the ECT document as well as Dr. Packer's rationale for signing it as found in the December 12, 1994 issue of *Christianity Today*. Both these papers are available for those who wish to catch up on the discussion.

We would like to now interact with Alister E. McGrath, Professor of Systematic Theology at Regent College, Vancouver, British Columbia. Dr. McGrath has given us another eye-opening article found in *Christianity Today*, (12-12-94), pages 28-33. Paged in front of Dr. Packer's apology (apologetic), this article is more analytical and theological than Dr. Packer's. We shall have to pay careful attention.

We applaud Dr. McGrath's article because he has handled the Reformation issues with a succinct clarity found in few writings. Dr. McGrath has gotten to the point on justification and other critical doctrines of the Reformation which have separated evangelicals from the Roman Catholic religion for almost 450 years.

However, we applaud only moderately. Despite Dr. McGrath's accuracy on the theological differences which separated the Reformers from Rome, we find that Dr. McGrath has failed to grasp the essence of Romanism on salvation. Also, Dr. McGrath fails to give the doctrinal differences their proper weight.

Dr. McGrath has made two grave errors. The first is not grasping Rome's use of terminology in such phrases as *salvation by the grace of God*. The second is not concluding from the evidence on justification that Rome preaches (ἕτερον εὐαγγέλιον) another gospel! In effect,

IN LIGHT OF ALL THE COMMOTION THAT HAS BEEN STIRRED UP BY THE DOCUMENT, *EVANGELICALS AND CATHOLICS TOGETHER* (ECT), AND THE SUBSEQUENT NATIONAL PRESS GIVEN TO THIS DOCUMENT, AND THE CORRESPONDING FALL-OUT FROM ITS SIGNING BY DR. J.I. PACKER, A PROMINENT EVANGELICAL, IT IS TIME TO GET TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER.

Dr. McGrath has loaded the proverbial theological gun, pointed it at Rome's gospel, taken careful aim and failed to pull the trigger! The trigger, for the sake of the gospel, needs to be pulled.

The problem begins with Dr. McGrath's misunderstanding of Catholic terminology. While accurately observing that Rome rejects Pelagianism (that we are justified on the basis of our works) he misleads in saying that the Catholic church, "does, indeed, uphold the principal of salvation on the basis of God's grace."¹ He also misleads when speaking of Catholic justification as being from the grace of God.

Here is the point. Rome can say, "we are justified by the grace of God and reject justification based upon our own works simply because Rome attaches preceding grace to all of man's works. Hence, to Rome, *good works* are not strictly *our own works* but those works, wrought by God. God's grace is behind good works. These good works are then added as a part of the ground of justification. Any Catholic theologian will tell you that he is not justified on the basis of *his good works*. No, he is justified on the basis of good works wrought by God, through graces given freely by God in the Romanist sacramental system. It is misleading to frame Catholic terms of justification *by the grace of God* as though they mean the same thing as the evangelical gospel of justification *by the grace of God*. It is the evangelical gospel that the grace of God is imputation of the righteousness of Christ for our declared justification. Good works have their role as the necessary result, but only after having been declared justified by God's grace based on the imputation of Christ's

righteousness alone.

The same thing holds true of salvation. Catholic theologians uphold the principal of salvation on the basis of God's grace but what do they mean? The phrase *by God's grace* is critical. The Roman Catholic sees *God's grace* everywhere, and so inflates the concept of grace as to make it meaningless! It is well documented that *God's grace* can be construed by Rome as God allowing us to suffer for our own sins! Incredibly, Rome says we must, *by the grace of God*, discharge the debt of sin by suffering! Trent is straight forward.

"If anyone says that after the reception of the grace of justification that guilt is so remitted and the debt of eternal punishment so blotted out to every repentant sinner, that no debt of temporal punishment remains to be discharged either in this world or in purgatory before the gates of heaven can be opened, let him be anathema."²

By *God's grace* we can have a shorter stay in Purgatory! By *God's grace* we can be regenerated in the Catholic sacrament of baptism! By *God's grace* we can acquire more grace through the eating of Christ's actual body and drinking of His actual blood in the Catholic eucharist! By *God's grace* we can earn indulgences, buy Masses for the dearly departed and go directly to Mary to ask a favor of the Son!

It is the height of naivety to suggest that Roman Catholics believe in salvation *by the grace of God* as though these words had any correspondence to Paul's gospel of justification by faith apart from

works or deeds of righteousness. They do not!

Evangelicals who try to explain the Roman gospel may get a bit zealous and say that Rome believes in a "works salvation". This is more a matter of compressing the essence into a short dictum than a serious misrepresentation of the Catholic religion. For in the final analysis, Rome teaches the ground for our justification includes good works wrought by God. It utterly rejects alien righteousness in the verdict of justification. Also, the big work (after a passive baptism) in the Roman system is to avail oneself of the means of grace. Grace, in Rome, is a supernatural enabling which is procured! Thus, justification is dependent upon dedication to the sacramental system to get more grace, to do more works in order to suffer less penance or spend less time in Purgatory. The minute the Romanist stops doing his part he is lost. Dr. McGrath apparently has missed this point.

It is also entirely misleading for Dr. McGrath to say that Catholics are somehow orthodox with the gospel by saying that they hold, "Salvation is only possible through the cross of Christ."³ A Mormon or a Jehovah's Witness could say this, not to mention an entire parade of quasi-Christian cults. It is equally misleading to say that,

"Roman Catholicism, from the Council of Trent in 1547 onwards, has unequivocally rejected this (justified on the basis of our works) doctrine".⁴

In the first place, no one accuses Rome of being justified on the basis of their own raw, inherent, non-baptized works! What we do accuse Rome of is proclaiming a gospel of salvation based upon faith plus *grace produced works* stemming from participation in Rome's sacramental system. This faith plus *grace induced works* gospel is foreign to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To say that Rome does not believe works *uninitiated* by God can save us is of little comfort! Especially when Rome attaches merit to the initiated works of God! Listen to Trent.

"Hence, to those who work well unto the end and trust in God,

eternal life is offered, *both as grace mercifully promised to the sons of God through Christ Jesus, and as a reward promised by God Himself, to be faithfully given to their good works and merits.*"⁵

"...we must believe that nothing further is wanting to those justified to prevent them from being considered to have, *by those very good works which have been done in God*, fully satisfied the divine law according to the state of this life and *to have truly merited eternal life*, to be obtained in its due time, *provided they depart from this life in grace.*"⁶

"If anyone says that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in divine mercy, *which remits sin for Christ's sake, or that it is this confidence alone that justifies us, let him be accursed.*"⁷

"If anyone says that the justice received is not preserved and also not increased before God through good works, but that those works are merely the fruits and signs of justification obtained, but not the cause of its increase, let him be anathema."⁸

We believe Dr. McGrath has chosen his words very carefully so as to oblige the Romanist gospel. It is totally inaccurate to let stand Dr. McGrath's summary that,

"We have already observed that today's Catholic church does, indeed, uphold *the principal of salvation on the basis of God's grace.*"⁹ (Italics ours)

This statement is dangerous and not worthy of a careful biblical theologian.

Why Not Pull The Trigger?

We are at a loss as to how Dr. McGrath can so carefully and expertly clarify our differences with Rome to be totally outside of the evangelical understanding of justification. He finds Rome's teaching on the church, assurance, indulgences, purgatory and Mary (just to name a few) to be absolutely contrary to the evangelical understanding of

the gospel. Yet, he will not say that Rome is outside of Christianity.

Ostensively, we feel his reluctance stems from a greater fear of living in a post-Christian world than a fear of unfaithfulness to the gospel of Jesus Christ! Dr. McGrath, like his colleague Dr. Packer, have a healthy fear of non-Christian religions but little fear of Rome. We are absolutely baffled! Rome does not preach nor teach the gospel of our salvation. Rome has not changed theologically from Trent. On top of this, Rome is leading the cavalcade in accommodations to the Muslims and Hindus of the world. Vatican II and post Vatican II speeches should make evangelicals extremely uncomfortable. Rome is engrossed in ecumenism while claiming to be Christ's Bride here on earth. Rome also comes close to declaring all religions to be in, some way, related to Rome, albeit only in Rome will there be the fullness of spirituality. If Rome's gospel is not enough to keep us out of Rome (and it most assuredly is) then what of Rome's ecumenism? Has not Dr. McGrath read Vatican II? Rome embraces what Dr. McGrath dreads the most. We offer an illustration taken from Lumen Gentium, and a speech given by John Paul II. In referencing the Muslim and Hindu religion, Vatican II states:

"The plan of salvation includes those also who acknowledge the Creator; foremost among these are the Muslims; they profess fidelity to the faith of Abraham and, with us, adore the one and merciful God who will judge mankind on the last day. Nor is God far from those who in shadows and images seek the unknown God; for He gives to all men life and breath and all things..."¹⁰

We find these sobering words given by Pope John Paul II at Manila in February of 1981, while addressing several Asian churches:

"All Christians must therefore be committed to dialogue with the believers of all religions, so that mutual understanding and collaboration may grow; so that moral

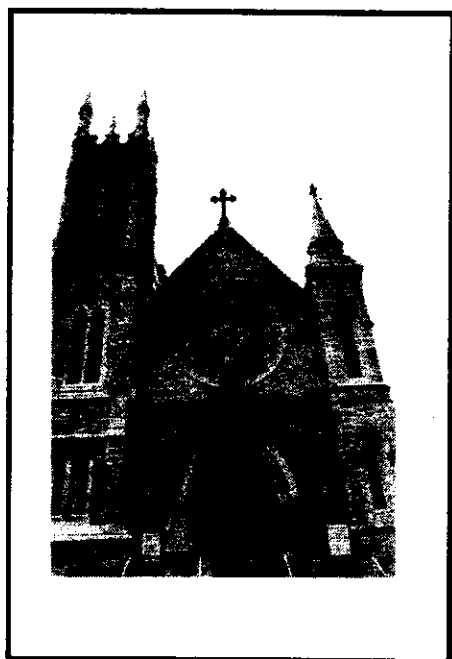
(Continued on page 7)

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

Video Series

This series is for the Christian defender of the faith who wants a comprehensive overview of the entire "system" of salvation known as Roman Catholicism. This series is excellent for group study as well.

Rob Zins, Th.M, Dallas Theological Seminary and author of *Romanism: The Relentless Roman Catholic Assault on the Gospel of Jesus Christ!* joins Larry Wessels in surveying Catholic theology in light of biblical truth. This series has remained a continual best-seller. Each video tape is packed with two hours of valuable apologetic information designed for easy access to sometimes hard to find material.



Roman Catholicism
Video Series

VT-10 - Roman Catholicism (Tape #1):

Old Testament Religion Revisited / The Roman Mass

VT-11 - Roman Catholicism (Tape #2):

What is Your Authority? / Roman Catholic Inventions

VT-12 - Roman Catholicism (Tape #3):

Vatican II and Evangelism / The Roman Doctrine of Mary

VT-13 - Roman Catholicism (Tape #4):

The Doctrine of Purgatory / The Doctrine of the Pope

VT-14 - Roman Catholicism (Tape #5):

Roman Catholic Apologists (part 1) / Roman Catholic Apologists (part 2)

VT-15 - Roman Catholicism (Tape #6):

Scripture Twisting / Justification Through Faith

VT-16 - Roman Catholicism (Tape #7):

The Roman Priesthood / Roman Potpourri

VT-17 - Roman Catholicism (Tape #8):

Roman-Style Universalism / Who Speaks for Rome?

Order video tapes individually for \$12.00 + S&H

Audio Soundtracks — All 16 tapes, Cat. #'s: AC-61 through AC-76 \$59.00 + S&H

Individual audio tapes \$4.50 each + S&H

To order the entire series:

VT-18 - 16 hours, VHS, (8 tapes), \$90.00 + S&H

(Save \$6.00 and get a free copy of Rob Zins' book, Romanism)

***** Please see order form for shipping and handling charges. *****

(Continued from page 5)

values may be strengthened; so that God may be praised in all creation. Ways must be developed to make this dialogue become a reality everywhere, but especially in Asia, the continent that is the cradle of ancient cultures and religions... Christians will, moreover, join hands with all men and women of good will who share a belief in the inestimable dignity of each human person. They will work together in order to bring about a more just and peaceful society in which the poor will be the first to be served. Asia is the continent where the spiritual is held in high esteem and where the religious sense is deep and innate; the preservation of this precious heritage must be the common task of all."¹¹

It appears to us that Rome is treating the other religions of the world precisely as Dr. McGrath and other evangelicals are asking us to treat Rome. The language is imprecise. The words are carefully chosen so as not to offend. The meat of the matter is lost in reconciliation language. The focus of the gospel and the gospel message is buried under an avalanche of poetic semantics.

In every theological disputation and argument there is a turning point where the entire article can be summed up as to its essence. We find that turning point on the last page of Dr. McGrath's article.

He calls our differences with Rome "continuing doctrinal disagreements." He identifies the real enemies of the gospel as mainline liberal Protestantism, secularism and, ironically, Islam! He then asks the question, "Can feuds between Christians be allowed when non-Christians seem to be winning the cultural battles?"¹² At this point the entire issue of the gospel has been compromised! Dr. McGrath considers the gospel of Rome to be nothing more than a "doctrinal difference" which can be ironed out later when the world is safe for the gospel.

Essentially, we are being asked by a reputable theologian to set aside the gospel until the world is safer for the gospel! We are absolutely dumbfounded.

We are asked to erase 450 years of history, throw out the gospel and join ranks with Rome to make this world a better place to live!

Although Dr. McGrath expresses his uneasiness with the direction the train is headed, he does not withhold his fuel! He thinks that we can set aside our differences and get on with the task of quieting the world. But how shall we do this? Shall we preach the Roman Catholic gospel to Muslims? Hardly, they are to be esteemed and their doctrines held in high regard, according to Vatican II. Even so, are we willing to say a Muslim converted to Catholicism is now a Christian? Shall we turn the tide of secularism through the mighty gospel of Rome? Shall we elect Roman governors and presidents so that we can be safe and free to worship as our fathers did? We speak as if insane!

Another Gospel

There are no doubt some who have lost their identity, their mooring and have gone apostate. Things are pretty bizarre when people are leaving liberal Protestant churches to join conservative Roman Catholic churches. True enough! But it is even more bizarre for high profile professing Christians to get rattled over this. Since when is the barometer of healthy Christianity measured by folks jumping from liberal ships on fire into the frying pan of Roman slave ships? There are plenty of conservative Bible believing churches to accommodate those who want to flee liberalism!

Christians have long given up on liberals who are looking for that elusive combination of meaningful ritualistic religion without any accountability to the God of Scripture. In Rome they may find the ritual but with it comes eternal death through a false hope.

Furthermore, we are extremely concerned at how easy it is for some to quickly desert the One who called them by the grace (evangelical definition) of Christ to a different gospel.

All of a sudden truth is in the way of some who are in a hurry to usher in the third century united around moral, social and political causes. Hold on here! Perhaps we should take a lesson from the apostle Paul. He lived in dangerous times (2 Cor. 11:23f). The gospel was underground! The prospects for a long life upon becoming a Christian were slim. The Body of Christ was tiny and frightened by the great Roman empire. What to do? According to today's alleged consensus, the church should have pursued needed allies to bring in a safer social, moral and political environment. Why not join in with the Jewish nation? After all the early Christians had more in common with Judaism than they did with the Temple of Zeus! Now what should they have given up to form a political and social alliance against the dreaded Roman pagans and gods of the Canaanites? How about something insignificant like circumcision? Why not just include it as part of being a Christian. After all, it is a minor doctrinal difference between Christian and Jew. For that matter, how about the law of Moses? We can think of nothing more moral than the law of Moses.

Hopefully you get the point! The apostle Paul thundered against the inclusion of anything that took away from the righteousness of Christ for our justification. He would not allow for even a minute the innocuous doctrine of circumcision. According to today's evangelical standards, Paul must have been narrow-minded indeed. Perhaps he was ignorant that belief in monotheism, Christ as the Son of God, and the judgment in the end were enough to make one a Christian. If we can form a political, moral and social consensus with those who preach circumcision, or the law, or the sacraments,

"Why not join in with the Jewish nation? After all the early Christians had more in common with Judaism than they did with the Temple of Zeus!"

or 5 steps to heaven, or baptismal regeneration, or Pentecostal oneness, then all the better! After all, are not we all simply Jehovah's Witnesses? We speak as if mad!

We are not aware of any passage of Scripture which informs us that having begun by faith we are to continue by ritual or sacrifice, or sacrament or evangelical obedience! However, we do see a tiny band of the faithful refusing to blend Christianity in with another gospel. We do see the early Fathers willing to suffer death rather than compromise the gospel to an amalgamation of political strength! We do see Christians unwilling to set aside the gospel for even a second to accomplish some wide-eyed idea of world peace!

We ask a simple question. If the Apostle Paul considered the simple rite of circumcision an intrusion on the gospel of Jesus Christ, to the point where he called it another gospel, what are we to think of Roman Catholicism? The Judaizer were moral, monotheistic, willing to believe that Christ was the Son of God and sold out to Moses. Why not adjust the gospel? We believe the answer lies in the uniqueness of the gospel and the power of God when it is preached. To the Jews it was a stumbling block, to the Greeks it was foolishness. The Roman Catholic gospel, having its origin with men, is neither foolishness nor a stumbling block to a world that relishes in fatal attempts to

please God with its own righteousness.

Perhaps if the Christians of the world would not be afraid to call a false hope, a false hope we could begin to recapture the lost ground with the only message of mankind's salvation.

We have been sufficiently warned by Dr. McGrath that there is a great deal of confusion and fear among evangelicals. He is at the forefront. These anxieties stem from a wavering commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ which could lead to alliances with pagan gospels for political safety. As the nation of Israel forged alliances, which would later turn on them and take them captive, so now our leaders are asking us to open up our gates and welcome the Roman Horse! We say no. We say let our fear be in forsaking the gospel of the living God. 1 Corinthians 16:13 †

Endnotes:

1. "Christianity Today," p. 30.
2. H.J. Schroeder, *The Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent*. (Rockford: Tan Books, 1978). pgs. 41-46
3. Ibid. p. 29.
4. Ibid. p. 29.
5. Schroeder, *Canons and Decrees*, p. 41.
6. Ibid. p. 41.
7. Ibid. p. 43.
8. Ibid. p. 45.
9. Ibid. p. 30.
10. Austin Flannery, *Vatican Council II*, p. 367
11. J. Neuner and J. Dupuis, *The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Church*. (Alba House, New York, 1981). p. 300.
12. *CT*, p. 33

Salvation by Grace or Merit?

When Martin Luther stood at the doorway of the castle church at Wittenburg, as when he stood at the Diet of Worms, he had one thought on his mind: *sola fide, sola gratia, sola Christo, sola Scriptura, soli Deo gloria* — only faith, only grace, only Christ alone, only Scripture to the glory of God.

Since those turbulent years of the early 1500's, the world has changed dramatically — externally. Yet the battle for the minds and souls of men and women is ever with us in the earthly tent, nothing has changed. The great spiritual and religious questions which tormented the hearts of mankind throughout the ages lives on with us in the Twentieth century.

This 27-page booklet by Rob Zins examines key Roman Catholic teachings and answers the age old question, "Is salvation by grace or merit?"

BKL-2, \$1.50 + S&H

Backward Christian Soldiers

**Backward Christian soldiers,
fleeing from the fight,
With the cross of Jesus clearly
out of sight:**

**Christ our rightful Master
stands against the foe,
But forward into battle we are
chicken to go.**

**Like a mighty tortoise moves
the church of God;**

**Brothers we are treading
where we've often trod,**

**We are much divided, many
bodies we,**

**Having different doctrines, not
much charity.**

**Crowns and thrones may perish,
kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus hidden
does remain;**

**Gates of hell should never
'gainst that Church prevail,**

**We have Christ's own promise,
but think that it will fail.**

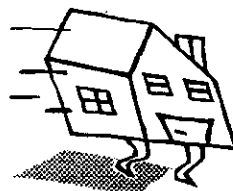
**Sit here, then, ye people, join
our useless throng;**

**Blend with ours your voices in
a feeble song.**

**Blessings, ease, and comfort,
ask from Christ the King.**

**With our modern thinking, we
won't do a thing.**

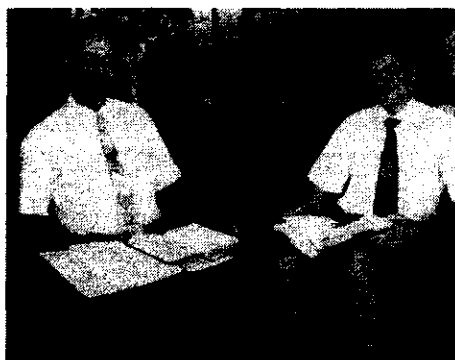
**— George Verwer, *Come! Live!*
Diel, p. 91-92.**



Moving Soon? Please remember to inform us of your new mailing address.



New Age Bible Versions Refuted: The Video



Author James White (left) with Christian Answers Director Larry Wessels

The "King James Only" factions have brought forth a best-selling, nearly 700 page book, entitled New Age Bible Versions written by G.A. Riplinger to attack other translations of the Bible and the personal characters of those who translated these other versions. This book has added to the growing strife and discord among Christians over this issue across America. The author of this book, Gail Riplinger, claims her designation of G.A. Riplinger stands for "God and Riplinger" and that the "discoveries" in her book were "not the result of effort on my part, but at the directed hand of God."

James White, author of New Age Bible Versions Refuted and The King James Only Controversy joins Larry Wessels as

they analyze the amazing claims of Riplinger's book. Misrepresentation, distortion, logical fallacy and fundamental errors of fact are found on almost every page of this supposedly "scholarly" work. Get this video today and protect your church or Bible study group from deception.

VHS, 60 min. \$15.00 + S&H

Audio sound track available, catalog # AC-81, \$5.95 + S&H

ALSO

Best-Selling Radio Debate

James White
vs
Gail Riplinger

60 min., audio tape
AC-17, \$5.95 + S&H

KJV Radio Debate

James White
vs
Dr. D.A. Waite

150 min., 2 audio tapes
AC-15/16, \$10.95 + S&H

Booklet

New Age Bible Versions
Refuted

James White's scholarly refutation
of Riplinger's book.

BKL-1, \$5.00 + S&H

SPECIAL OFFER

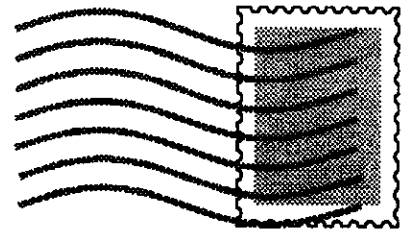
The James White KJV Package

Order all of the above (valued @ \$36.90) for just \$30.00 + S&H (save \$6.90).

ORDER TODAY!

An Open Letter from Wilson Ewin

Dr. Alister E. McGrath and
Dr. J. I. Packer,
Regent College
5800 University Boulevard,
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V6T 2E4



December 15, 1994

Dear Professors McGrath and Packer:

Your major contributions as leading articles in the December 12, 1994 issue of *Christianity Today*, arrived in my home yesterday. I read them attentively and with much interest. Both articles, namely, "Do We Still Need The Reformation" by you Dr. McGrath and "Why I Signed It (The joint declaration 'Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the 3rd Millennium' signed by leading evangelicals and Catholics on March 29, 1994)" by you Dr. Packer, came from you as men both currently involved in the ecumenical process.

Pope John XXIII opened his Vatican II Council on October 20, 1962. It was designed to initiate the papal device known as ecumenism. The Pontiff had been installed only 90 days as head of the Roman Church when he announced his plans for this on January 25, 1959.

At that time in Quebec, we evangelicals were subjected to jailings, death threats and physical abuse inspired by Catholic clergy. In love for their soul, an attempt was being made to present the gospel to them. I mailed the second of my three personal letters to 17,000 nuns and priests on September 21, 1959. A copy is enclosed for you and I apologize for the marginal notes. These were made by an agitated priest. Cardinal Paul Emile Leger himself was disturbed and named a committee to counter the effects this second letter had made upon countless nuns and priests. However, after a few days of attempting to achieve this, the men abandoned their task as a hopeless effort.

The ailing Pope John XXIII delivered his opening speech to the "Ecumenical Council" on October 11, 1962. In the section of his address entitled, 'How to Repress Errors', the Pontiff said:

"The Catholic Church has always opposed these errors. Frequently she has condemned them with the greatest severity. Nowadays, however, the Spouse of Christ prefers to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity. She considers that she meets the needs of the present day by demonstrating the validity of her teaching rather than by condemnation ... experience has taught men that violence inflicted on others, the might of arms, and political domination, are of no help at all in finding a happy solution to the grave problems which afflict them. That being so, the Catholic Church, raising the torch of religious truth by means of this Ecumenical Council, desires to show herself to be the loving mother of all, benign, patient, full of mercy and goodness towards the brethren who are separated from her..." (p. 716, The Documents of Vatican II).

DECADES OF OPERATION

Some thirty years have now passed since then and the ecumenical device has made radical adjustments to its modus operandi. No changes to the "fundamental doctrine of the Church" were ever planned, discussed or ever occurred (see page 715 of the "Documents"). However, the deceitful, treacherous and cunning strategy of Vatican ecumenism has penetrated evangelical walls with its Trojan Horse. Confusion and seduction abound among evangelical ranks. May I quote several outstanding examples of these from your articles? First I read from Dr. McGrath's comments on page 29 that he now believes what the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" actually teaches:

1. "Encouragingly, the catechism is unequivocal in its endorsement of the leading themes of traditional orthodox Christian doctrine."

2. "Salvation is only possible through the cross of Christ."
3. "Our justification comes from the grace of God."
4. "Roman Catholicism, from the Council of Trent in 1547 onwards has unequivocally rejected this doctrine" (justification by works).
5. "The catechism's robust and committed defense of orthodoxy... It indicates that an important ally could be at hand in the struggle for the restoration of doctrinal orthodoxy to the mainline denominations."

Secondly, I understand from Dr. Packer's comments about his signing of the declaration "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" that he shares the attitude of Dr. McGrath towards the Church of Rome. One statement confirming this appeared when Professor Packer wrote that Catholics agree "on the proposition that 'we are justified by grace through faith because of Christ' (p. 34).

THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES

Many evangelicals have fallen under the spell cast by the Vatican's ecumenical contrivance. For the sake of truth and to expose the depth of papal intrigue and deception, I published a documentary in 1993 entitled "The Assimilation of Evangelist Billy Graham Into The Roman Catholic Church." The edition went into circulation quickly and is no longer available. However, much of its contents were incorporated into an expanded sequel and published in April 1994. It bears the appropriate title "Today's Evangelicals — Embracing the World's Deadliest Cult."

A copy of this documentary is enclosed together with sheets of comments by respected men of God throughout the world. The booklet deals with the six points specified by Dr. McGrath and also the attitude towards Roman Catholicism expressed by Dr. Packer.

The Vatican has now succeeded in locking the State of Israel into the ecumenical net. Because of my love for the Jewish people, I have written "For David My Servant's Sake and for Jerusalem's Sake Which I Have Chosen." The printer has promised to complete his work by the end of next week.

A copy of the 99 page documentary will be mailed to you. The 40 pages with photos will reveal how the Roman Catholic Church is now firmly under the control of Marxist prelates. No person with Christian religious convictions could possibly maintain association with Roman Catholicism after having read the book.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

One last matter should be clarified. It concerns a paragraph by Dr. Packer on page 34. He states:

"So I ought to have anticipated that some Protestants would say bleak, skewed, fearful, and fear-driven things about this document — for instance, that it betrays the Reformation; that it barter the gospel for a social agenda; that it forfeits the right to share Christ with nominal Roman Catholics; that by saying "we are justified by grace through faith because of Christ" it abandons justification by faith alone; and that its backers should be dropped from evangelical fellowship. All these untrue things have been said — and it is time, I think, to set the record straight."

The problem here is one of discernment, recognition or understanding that "All these untrue things" are, in reality, absolute truths. Perhaps the problem here can be explained by these words spoken 2,000 years ago, "Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word ..." (John 8:43).

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

Signed Wilson Ewin
P.O. Box 180, Norton, VT 05907-0180

“Surprised by Truth” Former Reformed Protestants Embrace Rome for all the Wrong Reasons....

A Review of the Conversion Stories of Robert Sungenis and Julie Swenson as found in *Surprised By Truth*, edited by Patrick Madrid.



James White

“We believe that modern evangelicalism has little to say to Roman Catholicism, since it agrees with Rome on some of the most basic issues of the Gospel!

So I wrote in my first book, *The Fatal Flaw* (p. 22), and so I believe. But what is more, it seems that Roman Catholic apologists have recognized the same fact. Reformed writers and apologists are their greatest foes, and hence it seems they wish to focus their attention upon making as many converts of Reformed churches as they possibly can.

I was not surprised, then, upon receiving a copy of *Surprised by Truth*, a new work edited by the Vice President of *Catholic Answers*, Patrick Madrid (subtitled “11 Converts Give the Biblical and Historical Reasons for Becoming Catholic”), to see that a number of these converts claimed to have once been “Reformed” in one way or another. Steve Wood I knew—I had listened to him give his “testimony” at a church in El Cajon right after debating Dr. Mitchell Pacwa in January of 1991. And James Akin claimed to have some “Reformed” background, having been a member of a Presbyterian Church.¹ These two individuals aside, I was immediately drawn to the stories of Robert Sungenis and Julie Swenson, which are found back-to-back on pages 101-160. I had encountered Mr. Sungenis just a few days before

in the religion forum of *America Online*, a national computer service. He had identified himself as a Catholic apologist, and very quickly raised the possibility of debating me on various topics. Mrs. Swenson’s story follows immediately after Mr. Sungenis’, and it caught my attention due to the prevalence of the term “Calvinist” in its text.

Over the past few years I have corresponded with, or met, or debated, numerous “converts” to Catholicism. Gerry Matatics was the first. He, too, claimed to have been staunchly Reformed at one point. I have met Scott Hahn, who makes the same claim. Steve Wood was a Presbyterian, as was James Akin. And now I was reading the stories of Sungenis and Swenson. Is there something to what they have to say? There certainly are consistencies, but I should start by giving the reader some idea of what these folks say about their own reasons for conversion.

Church-Hopping Bob

Bob Sungenis was a church-hopper. His own words make this very, very plain:

Being true to the name “Protestant,” I eventually left one denomination after another, due to disagreements in doctrine (p. 109).

... which forced me to leave the institution after only one year (p. 110).

Not being totally convinced that the militant Calvinistic theology espoused at Westminster was correct, I continued to find myself in theological debates with professors and fellow students (p. 111).

After two years of enjoyable and

challenging work at Family Radio, something happened that shattered my life-long dream of being a Bible teacher: another doctrinal controversy (p. 112).

We were in and out of five different Presbyterian churches within the next five years, each move being due to disagreements on the pastor’s interpretation of the Bible (p. 113).

Still searching for truth, we entered a small, vibrant denomination, the Boston Crossroads Movement of the Church of Christ (p. 114).

Once again I found myself having to leave another church over doctrinal controversy (p. 115).

Brigitte and I were members of his church for only two months (p. 115).

It’s hard to keep track of how many different churches Bob Sungenis was a member of, but this is certain: he wasn’t a member of any one particular church for very long. Why is this important? Church-hopping is a very clear sign of spiritual immaturity, as any pastor knows. Those who cannot overlook even the slightest differences of opinion within the fellowship will not be long for any one church. It takes maturity and experience to be able to recognize that pastors are people, too, and they may well have some quirks or beliefs you don’t share. There’s something in the Bible about love covering a multitude of sins.

The reason for Mr. Sungenis’ constant movement may be revealed in his story as well. Immediately after concluding that “there was absolutely no Scriptural warrant for the Protestant claim that the Bible

is the sole infallible guide for Christian doctrine and practice," he says,

In many Protestant circles I was known – to my great private satisfaction – as "Bible Bob." When someone had a doctrinal question or wanted to find something in the Bible, I usually had the answer (p. 104).

He speaks of making the Scripture his "expertise" (p. 104), speaks of his "self-guided study of the Bible" making him a "something of a scriptural know-it-all" resulting in "smugness" on his part (p. 109). Each of his doctrinal disagreements, it seems, stemmed from his belief that he was an expert on the Bible, the final authority, one might say. One looks in vain for any mention of a "teachable spirit," or any willingness to consider that differing viewpoints on non-essential beliefs can co-exist in peace.

Mr. Sungenis graduated from Westminster Theological Seminary, a true "bastion" of Reformed thought. Yet, we are told that he not only joined, but was being "groomed for leadership," in the Boston Church of Christ, a movement identified by most as a cult! How one can jump from one end of the theological spectrum (Reformed) into the Boston Movement in one fell swoop is difficult to understand. Such actions, however, demonstrate that Mr. Sungenis, far from being a grounded, well-instructed Reformed believer, was, in fact, ripe for the call of an authoritarian system like Rome.

"I Was an Anti-Catholic!"

Many of those who convert to Rome wish to be viewed in a "Pauline" way. That is, they wish to project a Damascus-road type experience, and they foster this image by insisting that they were once ardent "anti-Catholics" before their "enlightenment" to the truth. Right before Gerry Matatics parted company with *Catholic Answers* (eventually becoming a Traditionalist) he was featured on the inside front cover of an issue of *This Rock* maga-

zine under a banner that said, "I'm the guy who lured your family and friends out of the Church." Of course, a tape entitled "From Anti-Catholic to Catholic: One Protestant Minister's Pilgrimage" was then offered for a small donation. I asked Mr. Matatics about what books he had written against Catholicism. He hadn't. I asked him what tracts he had written. He hadn't. I asked him what debates he had engaged in. He hadn't. One would think there are thousands of "anti-Catholic" Protestant apologists swarming over the face of the United States, given how many have "converted." Bob Sungenis is no exception. He describes himself as a "militantly anti-Catholic Evangelical" (p. 103), one who "developed a robust hatred for Catholicism" (p. 108). He writes of himself,

I abandoned the Catholic Church, and for the next seventeen years, as a staunch Evangelical Protestant, I fancied myself (as so many Protestants do) a David, courageously defying the towering Catholic Goliath (p. 108).

No offense to Mr. Sungenis, but one has to wonder about such statements. I certainly do know of some people who think of themselves as David in the fight against Goliath, but such folks are normally not educated, and are rarely even aware of the issues surrounding the Protestant/Catholic debate. But Mr. Sungenis is a graduate of Westminster Seminary, no mean institution. And he thought of himself in this way? Despite two published books on the topic, over a dozen scholarly debates, and a growing list of "shots" to be found in Catholic magazines and books, I do not view myself as a David fighting Goliath. One does not last long in the ministry if one does not have a realistic view of things. God places people in positions to minister to others, and He keeps them there as long as He wishes. Nobody is irreplaceable. If Mr. Sungenis thought himself a David, he should certainly have known the issues a whole lot better than he did. David well knew Goliath's strengths, but Mr. Sungenis gives no evidence of ever having made

an even cursory study of the apologetic works of Rome. Indeed, this is another common element of these "converts" — all admit to having been ignorant both of Catholic doctrine and of Protestant responses to Roman claims. If they were "anti-Catholic," it was out of ignorance, both positively of their own faith, and negatively of the Roman system.

Nothing New Under the Sun

At times it is difficult to remember that one is reading Mr. Sungenis' words rather than those of the editor, Patrick Madrid. The arguments are, at times, almost verbatim from the pages of *This Rock* magazine. For example, when I debated Madrid in San Diego on the doctrine of *sola scriptura* he said to the audience at one point,

Folks, Mr. White, Mr. White, Mr. White is a thief. Mr. White, in the context of this debate tonight, he has stolen a tradition from the Church, from the Catholic Church, which many Councils, Rome, Hippo, Carthage, Carthage again, the Pope, Pope Damasus, these were in the late 4th century, the Church officially defined what the canon of Scripture was.

And we read from Mr. Sungenis,

The truth is, Protestants are living off the borrowed capital of the Catholic Church, for it was the Catholic Church that infallibly recognized, under the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit, the canon of Scripture.²

There are many comments in Mr. Sungenis' article that cry out for comment, but I will limit myself to the following:

Although still firmly entrenched in the smugness of my Protestant anti-Catholicism, I was dejected and frustrated by the experience of "church hopping" for so many

(Continued on page 15)

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS TOPICAL VIDEOS

1. **Bahaism** (with Dr. Frank Beckwith, author of the Bethany House book *Bahai*).
2. **Roman Catholicism #1** (with Rob Zins, author of *Romanism: The Relentless Roman Catholic Assault Against the Gospel of Jesus Christ*.)
3. **Roman Catholicism #2** (with Rob Zins)
4. **The "King James Only" Cult #1** (with Gary Hudson, editor of the *Baptist Biblical Heritage* magazine.)
5. **The "King James Only" Cult #2** (Gary Hudson)
6. **Seventh-Day Adventism #1** (with Wallace Slattery, author of *Are Seventh-Day Adventists False Prophets?*)
7. **Seventh-Day Adventists #2** (Wallace Slattery)
8. **The "Church of Christ"** (with Bob L. Ross, author of *Campbellism, Its History and Heresies*.)
9. **United Pentecostal Church** (with Mark McNeil, former U.P.C. member and valedictorian of Texas Bible College.)
10. **Word-Faith Heresy #1** (with Michael Horton, editor of the book *The Agony of Deceit*.)
11. **Word-Faith Heresy #2** (Michael Horton)

You may choose any three of the above 28 minute videos for the single price of \$20.00 + S&H. Catalog identification is CATV. For example, if you wish to order *Bahaism*, *"Church of Christ"*, and *United Pentecostal Church*; please list on order form as CATV = 1, 8, 9. Three videos on one tape for one low price of \$20.00 + S&H

CREATION SCIENCE

with Dr. Michael Girouard

CREATION SCIENCE VIDEO SERIES

Dr. Michael Girouard is joined in studio by Larry Wessels and Director of PEACEWAY Productions, Dale Delony, for this fascinating and informative video series on creation science.

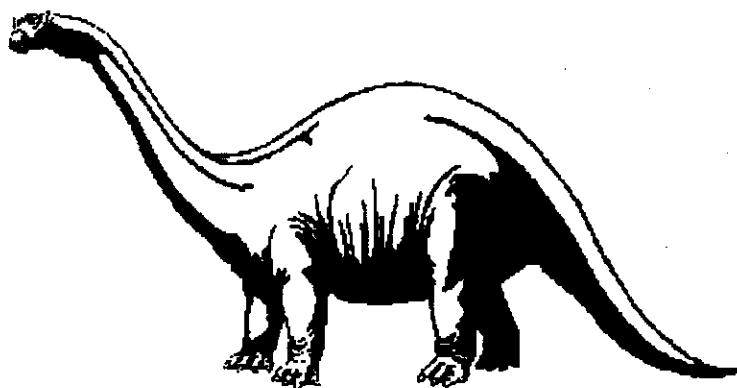
1. *Introduction to Creation Science*
2. *Science vs. Bias*
3. *What Does Scientific Truth Demand?*
4. *Evidences for a Young Earth*

VT-25, 4 hours VHS — \$25.00 + S&H

Creationism Discussion at the University of Texas

A Mars Hill presentation of creation vs. evolution on campus to skeptical university students. This video was extremely popular on cable access TV.

VT-3, 2 hours VHS — \$20.00 + S&H



Dinosaurs, Fossils and Creation

What happened to the dinosaurs? Dr. Girouard discusses dinosaurs, the fossil record and creation science. (60 min., audio) Cat. # AC-6 \$5.95 + S&H

(Continued from page 13)

years. Evangelicalism had turned out to be merely a mirage of the shining theological Camelot I had envisioned it to be all those years ago when I became "born again" (p. 117).

I note that we are being led to believe that "church hopping" is normal, and is, in fact, part and parcel of Protestant theology. Yet, is it? Surely there are many "church-hoppers." Yet, there are also literally millions of "nominal Catholics" who are utterly unaware of the most basic elements of Roman doctrine as well, and who darken the door of a Roman Catholic Church but once or twice a year. Does that mean that this kind of surface-level Catholicism is part and parcel of the system, or is it an aberration of the system, something that the system decries, and yet it still exists? Mr. Sungenis may well be confusing his own inability to "settle down" and be patient with God's providence with some kind of problem in not embracing an extra-Scriptural ultimate authority, specifically, the authority of Rome.

Next, we note Mr. Sungenis' words,

Since only an entity with the ability to observe and correctly interpret information can act as an authority, I saw that the Bible, though it contains God-breathed revelation, cannot act as a final "authority," since it is dependent on thinking personalities to observe what it says and, more importantly, interpret what it means (p. 118).

This is an important argument which is used with great frequency by Roman apologists. We first note that it is self-defeating, however. What does Rome offer us in place of the Scripture as the final authority? Scripture plus their tradition. And yet, once the Teaching Magisterium of the Roman Church speaks, what happens next? Are we not left to interpret what has been said? And do we not see Roman Catholics bitterly fighting with each other over the interpretation of those very traditions? I

have observed the most heated debates over the meaning of such things as *Humanae Vitae* or this section or that from Vatican II. All Rome has done is move the question back one step: you still have fallible human beings interpreting allegedly infallible pronouncements, whether those are to be found in Scripture, or in the added Roman documents. Nothing has been accomplished by the addition of this next level of authority.

But beyond this we note that Rome has to attack the *nature* of Scripture to maintain her claims. Is God so restricted that what He speaks is limited in relevance and ability to a particular time and place? The writer to the Hebrews said that the Word of God is "living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12, NASB). The Scriptures say they are "able" ³ to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Perhaps the Scriptures are more than Mr. Sungenis has been lead to believe?

Finally, we read these words:

My seventeen-year experience with Protestant biblical scholars had made one thing very clear to me: *Sola scriptura* is a euphemism for "sola ego." What I mean is that every Protestant has his own interpretation of what Scripture says and, of course, he believes that his interpretation is superior to everyone else's (p. 119).

What makes this statement so ironic is that it seems Mr. Sungenis does not realize that he is describing himself in these words. A self-professed "church-hopper" who could not find a way to settle down and take instruction from the pastor of his church, and who confesses the fact that he viewed himself as a "Scriptural know-it-all," is hardly in a position to define, and then reject, the entire doctrine of *sola scriptura* on the basis of his own experi-

ence! Obviously the twisted version of *sola scriptura* that Mr. Sungenis rejected ⁴ was based more upon his own unwillingness to submit to proper Scriptural authority and show an ability to live in peace with all men than it is upon the historic statements of the doctrine itself.

The Calvinist's Calvinist

Julie Swenson describes herself in a number of ways in her essay in *Surprised by Truth*. Unfortunately, nearly all of them demonstrate that again we do not have here an example of a rooted, grounded Calvinist becoming a Roman Catholic. Instead, we again find a sad lack of accuracy in describing the doctrines of the system that has been abandoned in favor of the ultimate authority of Rome. Mrs. Swenson describes herself as "a complacent, staunchly anti-Catholic, reformed Calvinist" (p. 135); she asserts that when she became Reformed she "embraced John Calvin's system of theology with gusto and thought of myself Reformed with a capital 'R'" (p. 137). Unlike Gerry Matatics and Bob Sungenis, Mrs. Swenson was not a "church-hopper," at least not until she began her journey to Rome (which involved a brief stop at Canterbury). But did she have a solid grasp of the theology she claims to have embraced with "gusto"? Does she accurately represent her former beliefs in her essay?

The Pillar and Foundation

Mrs. Swenson describes an incident that may well help us to understand her journey to Rome right at the beginning of her essay. She speaks of encountering the words of 1 Timothy 3:15, which describes the Church as the "pillar and foundation of the truth," and how this verse "threatened my secure, independent spirit." She says that "I was my own authority and determined truth using Scripture as my sole guide" (p. 138). Yet, if she was such the child of Calvin, why, we must ask, would this passage be unknown to her? Was her study of the New Testament so shallow as to have missed this vital passage? And if, as she

claims, she had embraced with "gusto" the teachings of John Calvin, how had she managed to avoid reading his main work, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, which comments on this passage a number of times? We read in Book IV, Chapter 8, section 12,

The other passages, as we have elsewhere seen, has an entirely different meaning from what they pretend. For when Paul has instructed Timothy and trained him for the true office of bishop, he says that he has done so that he may know how to behave in the church. And, that he may with greater piety and zeal bend to this task, Paul adds that the church itself is "the pillar and foundation of truth" [1 Timothy 3:15]. But what else do these words mean than that God's truth is preserved in the church, that is, by the ministry of preaching? Or, as he elsewhere teaches, "Christ gave... apostles, pastors, and teachers" [Ephesians 4:11], "that ... we may no longer ... be tossed about by every wind of doctrine, or be deluded by men" [v. 14 p.]. Rather, illumined "by the true knowledge of the Son of God, we should meet together in oneness of faith" [v. 13 p.]. Truth, therefore, is not extinguished in the world, but remains safe, because it has the church as its faithful custodian, by whose work and ministry it is sustained. And if this custody rests in the prophetic and apostolic ministry, it follows that this safekeeping of the truth wholly depends on whether the Word of the Lord is faithfully kept and preserved in its purity.

And from whence did Mrs. Swenson derive this idea that the Church is not used of God to teach, instruct, admonish, and correct? This is a common *straw man* argument, one that a Reformed person with a capital "R" would never embrace.

This helps us to understand the many other amazing statements that we encounter in this article. The fullness of the

Reformed understanding of justification and sanctification is passed over in favor of the "legal fiction" (pp. 140, 156) perspective, ignoring the fact that it is part and parcel of Reformed theology to insist that those who are justified *will be sanctified*, and that there is no means of separating the two, while it is *vital* to differentiate between them. Mrs. Swenson relates a personal instance where, due to physical suffering and depression, "for the first time in my life, reading Scripture was insufficient to get out of this spiritual desert" (p. 141). While all believers have experienced times when the Lord, it seemed, had hidden His face, it is instructive to note that she relates this experience after saying, "I had been raised to believe that the written Word of God alone was my sure guide to salvation." How does her experience of not finding solace in her depression relate to the Bible being an insufficient guide to salvation? Obviously this is important in her thinking, but surely we can see that this is hardly how one is to determine issues of eternal importance.

There are many other items that should be addressed but space precludes a full review. We simply note in passing her statement that a "fundamentalist scheme of holiness" leads one to avoid cultivating the gifts of God in one's life (rather, it leads one to cultivate said gifts to the glory of God); her statement that her idea of worship, as a Protestant, amounted to reading about him in Scripture (hearing the living Word preached is an encounter with God), singing about him in church (what happened to singing *to* Him in church?), and listening to others preach about him.⁵ And most amazingly, this one who claims to have been Reformed with a capital "R" can write,

This realization of the profound role of suffering in the life of a Christian was something about which I knew little. As a secure, "don't worry, I have it all worked out" Calvinist, I never felt the need to embrace suffering. Sure, I would put up with it as best I could when it happened to come

my way, but that was mere toleration of suffering, a sort of Christian stoicism. I never felt I had to do anything to persevere toward final salvation (p. 143).

I can only assume, then, that Mrs. Swenson never read John Calvin, who spoke much of sufferings, trials, and tribulations (he was a living example of experiencing such things), nor any of the Puritans who dwelt upon such topics in fullness. Nor, I can only surmise, did she ever bother to note Calvin's denial of the charge of "stoicism," (*Institutes*, Book II, Chapter 8, sections 8-9) and the many and constant calls in nearly all Reformed writings to perseverance in salvation. As many Roman Catholics say they cannot recognize some of the representations made of Rome by former Roman Catholics, this Reformed person has to wonder where Mrs. Swenson got her unique, though sadly inaccurate, view of Reformed beliefs.

The Common Denominator

One might suggest many commonalities between the stories of Bob Sungenis and Julie Swenson. But the one that strikes me most is this: aside from the constant repetition of the same tired arguments for Roman supremacy (i.e., a denial of the sufficiency of Scripture, the "fractured" nature of Protestantism in light of the alleged unity of Rome, etc.), we do not hear our converts to Rome speaking of how they managed to abandon the life-changing realization of their utter sinfulness and their dependence *en toto* upon Christ for *all* of salvation. I am speaking of that self-shattering moment when we realize we are undone before God, helpless to save ourselves, in need of a perfect Substitute, a perfect Savior. Those who were once *truly* Reformed know of what I speak. Those who were not cannot understand what I am referring to. One does not easily deny justification by faith and embrace concepts such as purgatory, indulgences, the treasury of merit, and the sacrifice of the Mass, when one has truly dwelt upon what

(Continued on page 19)

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS STAFF



Director
Larry Wessels

Involved in counter-cult ministry since 1981; staff writer for the *Baptist Biblical Heritage* magazine; former assistant with the Research and Education Foundation; co-host with the "In Defense of the Faith" radio and television programs; former Director of Dayspring Evangelism and columnist for *The Believers Guide* magazine; graduate of the University of Texas at Austin; seminar speaker and lecturer on cults and the occult.



Research & Publications
Jim Toungate Jr.

Editor and producer of the *CHRISTIAN ANSWERS JOURNAL*; former speaker and lecturer for the SBC's Home Mission Board Interfaith Witness Department in the fields of Mormonism, New Age and Jehovah's Witnesses. Jim is also responsible for our research department and is co-host of *Christian Answers Live!* radio broadcast. Jim has been an instructor of apologetics and cult evangelism for seven years.



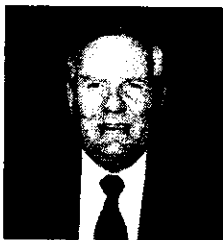
Director of Radio Outreach
Lee Meckley

Lee currently resides in Austin, Texas and has been employed by Austin's leading Christian talk-radio station KIXL 970 AM for five years; Lee is co-host of the *Christian Answers Live!* radio broadcast which features interviews with scholars, theologians, apologists and other leading Christian thinkers. [Editor's note: See page 18 for some of the outstanding programs that Lee has produced.]



Associate
Mark Gunning

Mark provides essential technical assistance to virtually all Christian Answers operations. Mark operates the computerized lighting system and cameras at cablevision video taping sessions, screens calls for *Christian Answers Live!* radio, produces audio soundtracks of ministry video tapes and serves as Associate Editor of the *Christian Answers Journal*.



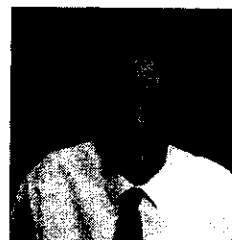
Consultant: Campbellism
Contributing Editor
Bob L. Ross

Director of Pilgrim Publications, one of the leading publishers of the works of C.H. Spurgeon in the world; publisher of the *Baptist Biblical Heritage* magazine; television host; author of *The Trinity and Eternal Sonship*, *The Restoration Movement*, *Campbellism: Its History and Heresies*, *Acts 2:38 and Baptismal Remission*.



Hinduism/Apologetics
Contributing Editor
Mark Kass

Mark has a Bachelor of Science degree from Creighton University and a Doctorate in Law. Mark is an instructor of apologetics at the International Bible College located in San Antonio, Texas and has extensive knowledge in the field of Hinduism (see the Christian Answers video on Hinduism) and Pantheism.



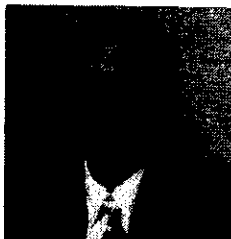
General Apologetics
Contributing Editor
Steve Morrison

Steve has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas, a M.S. from the University of Houston, and currently is a Ph.D. candidate. Steve has 14 years experience in Christian apologetics and is also a Bible instructor. Steve is an excellent researcher and appears in several Christian Answers videos.



Theology
Contributing Editor
Doug Kutilek

Doug is a writer, speaker and Bible instructor. He has instructed extensively in theology and the cults in Hungary and Rumania as well as the United States. He is a staff writer for the *Baptist Biblical Heritage* and has written for such publications as the *Christian News*. Specialization: Biblical languages, manuscripts & texts (ancient).



Consultant: Catholicism/KJV Only; Contributing Editor
James White

Director of Alpha & Omega Ministries; BA in Biblical Studies; proficient in Biblical languages; graduated *Summa Cum Laude* Grand Canyon University; Ray Maben scholar; MA in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary; former professor of church history at Grand Canyon University; author of *The Fatal Flaw* and many other books.



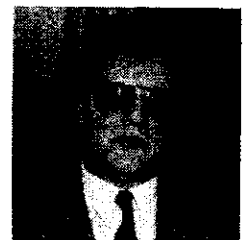
Consultant: Creation Science
Contributing Editor
Dr. Michael Girouard

Associate and speaker with the Institute for Creation Research; BS in Chemistry, Southeastern Louisiana University; MD — Louisiana State University Medical School; residency — anesthesiology, Ochsner Foundation Hospital; campus lecturer; guest on many radio programs including CRI's *Bible Answer Man* show; video series guest.



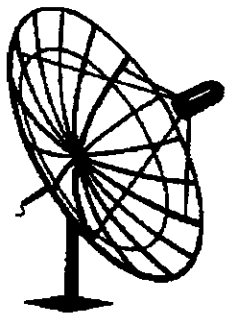
Consultant: Roman Catholicism
Contributing Editor
Rob Zins Th.M.

Graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, 1981 — Th.M Historical Theology; teaching elder of Reformed Bible Church, Rutland, VT; author of *Romanism: The Relentless Roman Catholic Assault on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A Believers Guide to Romans 5*; seminar speaker; featured in a 16-part video series on Roman Catholicism.



Consultant: UPC & Trinity
Mark McNeil

Minister, teacher, and author who resides in Pasadena, TX with his wife and son; earned degrees in theology and Biblical studies including a 3 year degree from Texas Bible College where he was named valedictorian; MA candidate in Theological Studies — Luther Rice Seminary; author of the booklet *An Evaluation of the Oneness Pentecostal Movement*; has appeared in many videos such as: *The Trinity Debate* & *The Biblical Doctrine of the Trinity*.



So you don't live in Austin? You can still catch Christian Answers Live! We offer quality audio cassettes of each of our programs so that you don't have to miss a show. Each week, Lee and Jim interview authors, theologians and apologists from across the country to bring you the cutting edge of the Christian faith and how to "give an answer" to those who question your Christian beliefs. Each tape is only \$5.95. Great for believers and non-believers alike. Enrich your understanding of Biblical Christianity with these informative programs.

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS LIVE!

*"always be prepared to give
every man an answer..."*
(1 Peter 3:15)

The Body is Listening...

**Each 90 min. program
is only \$5.95**

**Order the whole series
(22 tapes) for \$99.00!**
(retail price \$130.90)
Save \$31.90!

The Musical Instruments Debate
\$9.90 + S&H or \$8.00 W/Set

- RP-1 *LETTERS TO A MORMON ELDER/THE KING JAMES ONLY CONTROVERSY*
Guest: James White
- RP-2 *THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF EVOLUTION/THE REALITY OF CREATION SCIENCE*
Guest: Dr. Michael Girouard
- RP-3 *WORLDVIEWS/APOLOGETICS, AND ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIANITY*
Guests: Todd Kent (Life Builders) & Dr. Greg Bahnsen
- RP-4 *HERMENEUTICS & BIBLE DIFFICULTIES/THE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH*
Guests: Dr. Gleason Archer/Bob L. Ross & Mark McNeil
- RP-5 *BIBLICAL EVIDENCE FOR A YOUNG EARTH?/THEODICY (The Problem of Evil)*
Guests: Charlie Clough & Dr. Jay Adams
- RP-6 *HELL'S BEST KEPT SECRET/GOD DOESN'T BELIEVE IN ATHEISTS*
Guest: Ray Comfort
- RP-7 *AN INTRODUCTION TO THE REFORMATION/AN INTRODUCTION TO CALVINISM*
Guest: Dr. Curt Daniel
- RP-8 *UFOS IN THE NEW AGE*
Guest: Bill Alnor
- RP-9 *EVANGELICAL GOSPEL VS. ROMAN GOSPEL*
Guest: Rob Zins
- RP-10 *SPIRITUAL WARFARE*
Guest: Tommy Ice
- RP-11 *WHAT IF JESUS HAD NEVER BEEN BORN?*
Guest: Dr. D. James Kennedy
- RP-12 *JUSTIFICATION THROUGH FAITH — THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL*
Guest: Michael Horton (CURE)
- RP-13 *COPING WITH THE CULTS/JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES: AN UNPROPHET ORGANIZATION*
Guest: Lorri MacGregor
- RP-14 *A WOMAN RIDES THE BEAST: THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE LAST DAYS*
Guest: Dave Hunt
- RP-15 *THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ROME*
Guest: James McCarthy
- RP-16 *DEBATE ON ETERNAL SECURITY*
Guests: Rob Zins (Calvinist) vs. Dan Corner (Arminian)
- RP-35/ *MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE CHURCH DEBATE (2 TAPES, \$9.90 + S&H)*
36 Guests: Bob L. Ross (Christian) vs. Don Bennett (Campbellite)
- RP-37 *DECEIVED BY THE LIGHT*
GUEST: DR. DOUG GROOTHUIS
- RP-38 *99 REASONS WHY NO ONE KNOWS WHEN CHRIST WILL RETURN*
Guest: B.J. Oropeza (C.R.I.)
- RP-39 *ANGELS AMONG US/CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT*
Guest: Dr. Ron Rhodes
- RP-40 *PREDESTINATION DEBATE — CHRISTIAN ANSWERS VS. CATHOLIC ANSWERS*
Guests: James White (Christian) vs. James Akin (Catholic)
- RP-41 *AMILLENNIALISM VS. PRETRIBULATIONIST DEBATE*
Guests: Dr. Jay Adams (Amil) vs. Dr. John McClain (Pretrib)
- RP-42 *WHY YOU SHOULD BELIEVE THE TRINITY!*
Guest: Robert Bowman Jr. (2nd hour debate with anti-Trinitarian)

(Continued from page 16)

it means to be have peace with God because of the work of another, the work of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1-2). Those who have knelt at the foot of the cross in utter despair of self, works, and merit, and have seen, by God's grace, the perfection of the work of the Savior in their behalf, cannot quickly or easily embrace a system that makes salvation a joint venture between God and man.

Mr. Sungenis and Mrs. Swenson have made their homes in Rome. But one thing is certain: they had never built a home upon a firm foundation in Geneva. Anyone with title to a home there knows that at the top one reads, *Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, Soli Deo Gloria.* ☩

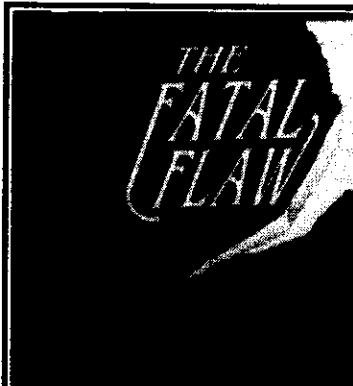
End Notes:

1. I did not realize, in Mr. Alkin's case, that he had gone directly from being a devotee of Gene Scott, the wacko televangelist, to joining the Presbyterian Church!
2. It hardly seems a coincidence that this statement comes on the page immediately following a footnote that is nothing less than an advertisement for the tapes of my debate with Madrid, introduced by, "A glaring example of the utter absence of biblical evidence for *sola scriptura* and of the inability of Protestant apologists to deal with the epistemological problem of the canon as it relates to *sola scriptura*, is seen in a debate on *sola scriptura* between Catholic apologist Patrick Madrid and Fundamentalist apologist James White." Mr. Sungenis (if he even wrote the blurb—remember, the book is edited by Patrick Madrid) fails to note that the topic of the canon did not come up until a point in the debate that did not allow for even a cursory discussion of the topic. I have invited Roman Catholic apologists to debate the idea that "oral tradition" is in fact inspired. So far, none have taken up that challenge, including Mr. Madrid. He has publicly said that he does not feel oral tradition is *theopneustos* (θεοπνευστος). Interestingly, Mr. Sungenis directs his readers to *The Catholic Controversy*, which gives the arguments of St. Francis de Sales. This work, however, plainly asserts the inspiration of the oral traditions. The inconsistency is striking.
3. The Greek is striking. The term is *kritikos* (κριτικος), an adjective which means "able to discern or judge." It is the term from which we derive our word, "critic."
4. Mr. Sungenis and Mr. Madrid both continue to attack a misrepresentation of the doctrine of *sola scriptura* rather than the actual doctrine. I have engaged both on the topic on *America Online* and have demonstrated this fact over and over again.
5. Innote with sad irony that Roman Catholics speak often of Christ's presence with them in the Mass through transubstantiation, yet Paul said that the Lord Jesus came to believers, not through the Mass, but through the person of the *Keryx*, the preacher, who speaks the words of Christ to the people of Christ (Ephesians 2:17). And what is the one thing that has been minimized in Roman worship so as to make room for the Mass? The preaching of the Word.

TOPICAL VIDEOS



Sometimes in our fast-paced society, it can be hard to find the time to sit down and watch a 1 or 2 hour video. If you are pressed for time, please consider our 28 minute topical videos. These videos give you an overview of groups such as; the United Pentecostal Church, Seventh-Day Adventism, Roman Catholicism, Baha'i etc. For a complete list of our topical videos see page 8.



The Fatal Flaw

by James White

Do the teachings of Roman Catholicism deny the Gospel?

Should Protestants and Catholics reunite in ecumenical unity?

The Fatal Flaw examines the central issues separating Romanism and the Protestant churches. Beginning with Luther and the roots of the Reformation, and Calvin's story of his conversion, the reader will survey such topics as the Gospel of Grace and the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The Roman Catholic doctrines of the Mass and Purgatory are carefully dissected in this book.

The reader will conclude with the burning question for the Roman Catholic — what will you do now? For the Christian — will you stand for the Gospel?

BK-1, \$9.00 + S&H, 223 pages

The King James Only Club

New Age Bible Versions Refuted:

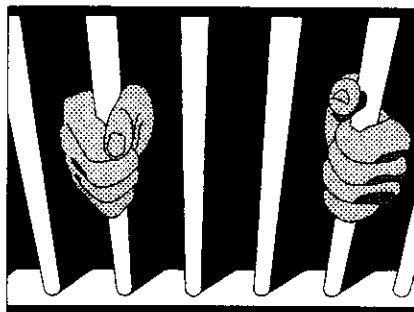
James White's scholarly refutation of Gail Riplinger's heretical book *New Age Bible Versions* that is being promoted by Texe Marrs, Peter S. Ruckman, and Chick Publications. Riplinger's book promotes "KJV Onlyism" and attacks modern translations such as the New International Version and New American Standard Bible. BKL-1, \$6.00 + S&H

James White vs. Gail Riplinger:

James White debates *New Age Bible Versions* authoress Gail Riplinger. The only debate between Riplinger and an evangelical scholar to date. This audio debate is a must for those interested in learning how to refute "KJV Onlyism." (Audio 60 min.) AC-17, \$5.95 + S&H

James White vs. Dr. D.A. Waite:

James White debates KJV advocate Dr. Waite on the "In Defense of the Faith" radio program. Nationally known conspiracy author Texe Marrs calls-in and attacks James White. (Audio 2½ hours) AC-15/16, \$10.95 + S&H



Trapped in the Jehovah's Witnesses



Christian Answers Director Larry Wessels (left) with Audrey Kaufman and children Stacy, Jason and Jerret.

Audrey Kaufman, mother of three, lost custody of her children to her ex-husband who later became a Jehovah's Witness. Audrey gives her personal testimony of her battle to regain her children and consequently free them from the Jehovah's Witness lifestyle. The children tell their story of what it was like to grow up in the Jehovah's Witness environment, such as:

1. At school, J.W. children must follow the "rules" set by their religion, especially those forbidding extra-curricular activities with non-J.W. children.
2. J.W.'s do not celebrate holidays.
3. Now is not the time to get married and have children; J.W. youth should spend their time going door to door.
4. The J.W.'s child's "goal" in life is pioneering (missionary work), not careers.

This timely video is useful to Christian apologists and those who have friends and relatives "trapped" in the Jehovah's Witnesses. Join Audrey as she takes the viewer on a heart-felt journey from despair to triumph.

VHS, 1½ hours, \$12.00 + S&H
Audio soundtrack available — AC-98, \$5.95 + S&H

THE FOLLOWING QUOTE COMES FROM THE ROMAN CATHOLIC APOLOGETIC MAGAZINE, *THIS ROCK*, PUBLISHED BY KARL KEATING'S ORGANIZATION *CATHOLIC ANSWERS*. THIS QUOTE SHOULD SERVE AS A WARNING TO ALL THOSE WHO HOLD DEAR THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION AND THE DANGERS OF FINDING A COMPROMISING ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CHURCH OF ROME.



Jim Toungate Jr.

"I was born into a Methodist's family, joined a Presbyterian church at ten years of age, got "saved" at age 18 at a "non-denominational Fundamentalist" church, graduated from Pepperdine University (run by the Church of Christ), and joined the Southern Baptist's Apologetic Brigade in 1991. As an avid donor/follower of CRI [Christian Research Institute], I subscribe to its journal, read its books, and listened regularly to the daily broadcast of the "Bible Answer Man" radio show.

Here is the paradox: It was CRI which opened the eyes and heart of a 40-year Protestant to the truths of Catholicism. CRI taught me how to defend the "essentials" of the "historic Christian faith" and to discern who was practicing orthodoxy and who was teaching error."¹

Responsibility

As I sat down at my keyboard to write this review, I felt a tremendous responsibility. I also felt pain in my spirit. It is never enjoyable to have to expose those within the Body of Christ who are teaching error. Indeed, it is a grave responsibility that is never to be taken lightly.

With that in mind, I would like to express to you the reader what I feel

is to be accomplished by writing this review.

The first thing to be accomplished is to clearly document from Walter Martin's book *The Roman Catholic Church in History* and from his lecture *Peter the Rock* that he did not hold to the same position that Hank Hanegraaff, President of the Christian Research Institute (CRI), CRI Journal Editor-in-Chief Elliot Miller, and former CRI staffer Kenneth Samples hold. Hanegraaff and the others claim that they got their current position on Romanism from Walter Martin himself. Of course, this could be true if Walter Martin were to later repudiate his book and audio tape series on Romanism, however, I have found no evidence that Walter ever did this.

Second, to clearly present quotes from Walter's book that will give the reader a good understanding of what Walter was trying to convey.

Background Check

While in the process of writing this review, I called the Christian Research Institute on November 2, 1994, and spoke to one of their customer service representatives to see if the book was currently available to the public. The gentleman whom I spoke to said that he had never heard

of the book before. He also mentioned that he had not seen it in the library at CRI. He seemed very surprised that Walter Martin had written a book concerning Roman Catholicism and that CRI did not promote or offer it to the public. However, this came as no surprise to me. If they did have the book, Hank Hanegraaff would be in a very uncomfortable position indeed.

A New Agenda

The Christian Research Institute, founded by Walter Martin, is now under the control of men who have a different agenda concerning the Roman Catholic Church. It is an ecumenical agenda which defends the church of Rome and panders to its members.

The quote I started this review with from *This Rock* magazine is a prime example of how well the present CRI has dealt with Romanism.

Besides allowing Jesuit priest Mitchell Pacwa to be a contributing writer for the *CRI Journal*, Roman Catholic apologist Scott Hahn to be a guest on CRI's national radio show, the *Bible Answer Man*, and having CRI's Ken Samples write a spirited defense of Romanism in the Spring 1993 issue of the *Christian Research Journal*, CRI has continued to mail out perspectives and information

packages on Roman Catholicism which state positions alien to Martin's written and spoken words. Examples follow:

"Our position is that Roman Catholicism is a religious system which includes both orthodox biblical Christianity and elements of unbiblical or "cultic" doctrine and practice. That is, we recognize that Roman Catholicism historically has affirmed the essential teachings of the Bible, while also teaching doctrines that are inconsistent with that affirmation and which seriously compromise the gospel of Jesus Christ."²

"The errors of RC [Roman Catholicism] are heretical only in that they compromise or undermine the orthodox confession of the church. In short, we regard RC as neither a biblically sound Christian church nor a cult, but a **Christian church** with a mixture of orthodox and erroneous teachings."³

"Another point that should be understood and weighed, in terms of Protestant-Catholic agreement, is that evangelical Protestants actually have far more in common with orthodox Catholics than they do with liberal Protestants. And orthodox Catholics have much more in common doctrinally with evangelical Protestants than they do with liberal Catholics. Both camps continue to face the challenge of religious liberalism which in many respects denies the very essence of Christianity."⁴

"Summary: Catholicism possesses a foundational orthodoxy reflected in its affirmation of the crucial doctrines expressed in the ancient ecumenical creeds. Nevertheless, Protestants detect serious problems in Catholic theology in that the church affirms teachings that are extraneous and inconsistent with its orthodox (Christian) foundation. These doctrinal errors are of such

a serious nature that aspects of orthodoxy are undermined, thus warranting the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century and the continued separation of present day Protestantism from Catholicism. These divergent views, however, do not warrant classifying Catholicism as a non-Christian religion or cult. The doctrinal disputes of the Reformation era remain substantially unchanged today, extending to: (1) religious authority, (2) the doctrine of justification, (3) beliefs concerning the Virgin Mary, and (4) sacramentalism and the Mass. The 20th century trend toward religious pluralism has also become a serious concern."⁵

"The position that I hold on Catholicism... was greatly influenced by Dr. Martin... (he) held the very same position, in fact the statements that I wrote to represent our organization, Dr. Martin read and agreed with... Dr. Martin agreed absolutely with our position on Catholicism, because quite frankly he helped shape my own view of Catholicism." [former CRI staffer Ken Samples]⁶

If Ken Samples is telling the truth then Walter Martin is contradicting his previous written and oral statements concerning Romanism without ever retracting them. If Walter held the position that Samples claims why doesn't Samples quote Walter Martin to prove his position as I will be doing in this paper.

"I'm being tarred and feathered by people, people who say that I am now taking a different position from Walter Martin's position with regards to Roman Catholicism, and even going so far as to have Jesuit priests write for the *Christian Research Journal*. Interestingly enough, the Jesuit priest in context is Father Pacwa who's a good friend of Dr. Walter Martin." [CRI President Hank Hanegraaff]

This brings an interesting question to mind: If I have friends who are pagans, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, New Agers, witches, etc., does this mean that I need to have them write for my magazine? NO.

"Catholicism carried to its logical conclusion is a denial of justification by faith in the context of Romans 4 and 5 because it involves works as a means of merit. The Roman Catholic doctrine itself teaches that man cooperates by faith and works for redemption, whereas Biblical theology says it's by grace we have been saved through faith not by ourselves, it's the gift of God not by works lest anyone should boast. So, for me, to carry it to its logical conclusion, I having gone to Catholic schools as you have, and been trained in it, know perfectly well that I was taught, and I'm sure you were too, that you have faith in Jesus Christ and you work like a beaver, because if you don't — PURGATORY!" [Walter Martin in his televised debate against Jesuit priest Mitchell Pacwa.]⁷

Elliot Miller, who is a strong defender of Roman Catholicism, has debated against Protestants on national radio concerning Romanism. Apparently, Miller uses one set of criteria for judging Romanist doctrine but another altogether for Word-Faith doctrine. Word-Faith teachers claim to believe the Trinity, the deity of Christ, etc., but Miller judges them differently:

"...if they (Word-Faith teachers) are teaching false doctrine their teaching is of the devil, and the devil is the source of it. And Scripture doesn't really differentiate between the two specifically because it sees it all as one thing...and so I don't think we have to worry about it too much. If its unbiblical it's of the devil."⁸

"Well, they would say no, that

they do not set forth a different gospel. The reason is they do not deny the essentials of the historic Christian faith. I say that they not only deny them, but they also compromise and confuse them." [Hanegraaff speaking about the Word-Faith teachers.]¹⁰

Why is it that CRI has so much trouble applying the same Biblical criteria of discernment to Romanism as they do with the Word Faith teachers? Hopefully the reader noticed my first quote from CRI literature (footnote #2) where they used the words "*seriously compromised the gospel of Jesus Christ*" concerning Roman Catholicism. I believe CRI is intentionally equivocating on the word "compromise" to suit their own misguided and misleading purposes.

As for Romanism compromising the gospel, Walter Martin had this to say:

"Friends, this is as true today as it was when it was spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Roman Church has elevated tradition, upon which all of this is based to an equal plane with Scripture. This is what Jesus was talking about here in Mark 7:8: "You do *nullify* the commandments of God that you may keep your *own* tradition." The Roman Church in effect nullifies the good doctrine of the Gospel by adding the traditions or commandments of men. Herein lies the deadly parallel to Judaism mentioned by our Lord in Mark 7."¹¹

According to Webster's Dictionary, to *nullify* means to make void or lose validity. Martin's choice of words couldn't have been better, for that is exactly what the Roman Catholic Church does, it makes void the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Do we today consider Judaism to be a true Christian church? Of course not! Can a Church that is considered to be Christian nullify the Gospel and stay a true church? Our only answer

is absolutely not!

CRI claims that Roman Catholicism is orthodox when it comes to their affirmation of the essentials of the historic Christian faith. I disagree. While it may appear on the surface that they affirm all the right things, it isn't so. Take for instance the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ. While it is true that they affirm this doctrine, they also denigrate it by adding to it the traditions of men by giving Jesus' earthly mother Mary the titles of "Mother of God," "Queen of Heaven," "Queen of all Saints," Immaculate Spouse of the Holy Spirit, and "Co-Mediatrix," to name a few. They also throw in the hyperveneration (worship) of Mary.

Does this sound orthodox to you?

I once heard Hank Hanegraaff and Norman Geisler on the *Bible Answer Man* show say that "...we have more in common with orthodox Catholics than we do with liberal Protestants." (this can be found as well in their written literature). To this I would have to say..... NOT! I don't know about you, but as for myself, I don't think I have anything in common with either of them since they deny the Gospel.

"Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?"¹⁵ Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?¹⁶ Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."¹⁷ "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,..." (2 Cor 6:14-17 NASB)

When I called CRI to ask about

Martin's book, I asked for any materials they had concerning their position on Romanism. One of the things they sent me was an editorial from *Christianity Today* magazine. I was actually surprised that they would forward this particular article to me since it proves my basic premise that the Roman Catholic Church is not a true church but a false religion. Here are a couple of interesting statistics that I found in this editorial:

"One quarter of all Roman Catholics do not turn first to the church to settle religious questions, but to Holy Scripture.

One quarter of all Roman Catholics claim to be born again, and 20 percent insist that their only hope for heaven and eternal life is to be found through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior."¹²

These statistics do not give me any comfort that Romanism is changing or has changed. How can comfort be found in the fact that 75 to 80 percent of the membership are **not born again!** And of course, no definition of what born again means to those professing "born again Catholics" is given. These so-called "born again" Catholics could be defining "born again" in any context they choose regardless of what Biblical theology might say.

"Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NASB)

If you are not born again, then you are not a true Christian. The Scriptures make this very plain.

The next argument that CRI uses is that there is so much diversity within Romanism about what the individual's beliefs are that they must be judged on a case by case basis. CRI is espousing a double-standard here. They readily condemn Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Word-Faith

teachers, etc., where there is also diversity in what the individuals within these groups believe, yet, CRI is quick to label them as "cults."

CRI's founder Walter Martin said in his *Peter the Rock* lecture from his Roman Catholicism tape series:

...I have compiled all this material in a book entitled "The Roman Catholic Church in History", which will be coming up for reprint in the not-too-distant future. I did this originally in 1958 and little has changed since then except historical material and we are adding more material to it. It'll be approximately 96 pages, paperback, on Roman Catholicism and the differences that persist between Catholicism and Protestantism. And I think it's very important that we recognize that there are differences that do persist. There are Roman Catholics who are true Christians, who love the Lord Jesus Christ and trust Him as their savior. I believe that they are Christians not because of the Roman Catholic Church, but despite the Roman Catholic Church and the things which it has added to Biblical theology."¹³

Essentially what Walter Martin has said is that one can be a Christian and belong to the Roman Catholic church, but it's not because of the Roman Catholic Church. This important statement, which was made in the early 1980s, makes it clear that Martin held the same view of Roman Catholicism that he did in 1958 when he wrote his book on the subject.

It is a shame that this book wasn't reprinted before Walter went home to be with the Lord. The fact that the original has been covered up by the new CRI is also a shame. It is an excellent book which lays out the differences between Romanism and Protestantism in a clear and concise way.

With this in mind, we call on CRI in the interest of truth to have this book reprinted or at the very least acknowledge Walter Martin's true position concerning Roman Catholicism.

And now let's find out what Walter has to say about:

The Papacy

Was Peter The First Pope?

The subject of the papacy is one of great importance, for it is the foundation of Romanism. Without it, there can be no apostolic succession from Peter. It is on this doctrine that Romanism stands or falls. If you have no apostolic succession, then you don't have a Roman Catholic Church.

"To study the papacy is to learn a valuable lesson — to learn that **when we surrender to men what we are commanded to surrender only to the Holy Spirit, spiritual tyranny and slavery of the human mind and the souls of men can come about.**"¹⁴

"...The Scripture, then, plainly speaks of a Holy Father but the Scripture speaks of but *one* Holy Father. The Scripture speaks exclusively of the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ! **The Roman Catholic Church has therefore taken the very title of God Himself and has bestowed it upon sinful men.** They have given to every succeeding pope the title, "Holy Father," and yet the Scripture says there is but *one* Holy Father and out of the mouth of Jesus Christ, His Son, this title is given to God His Father. "Holy Father, keep in Thy name those whom Thou hast given me."¹⁵

Why is it necessary to go through priests or popes to have access to God? There is only one mediator between God and man and that is the God-man Jesus Christ (I Tim. 2:5). Why go to a middle-man when you can go straight to the top?!

"... Yet it is a specific function of

the Holy Spirit, as taught by Jesus Christ, to preserve exactly what the Pope is supposed to preserve — faith, morals, government throughout the earth! **There is a direct contradiction between the office of the Papacy and the office of the Holy Spirit**, for it is the Holy Spirit who is the third Person of the Godhead. It is He who indwells the believer; it is He Who makes intercession for us; it is He Who is our friend, our companion, our "comforter," not the "Vicar of Christ," of the Roman Catholic Church, (see John 14:26, 15:26, 16:7). It is good to keep in mind that the Unity of the Body of Christ is not dependent upon outward organization but upon spiritual fellowship.¹⁶

There goes ecumenism!

"... When you read Peter's statement in context, one understands immediately what he is talking about. It is that simple. Peter here tells every Christian that he is a little "stone," built up into a spiritual "temple," and Jesus Christ is the cornerstone. To illustrate it, Peter quotes Isaiah, the prophet, who was speaking prophetically of the coming Messiah. If Peter really was the "cornerstone," this question must be explained by the Catholic Church: **"Why didn't Isaiah say, 'Behold I lay in Rome a chief cornerstone?'"**¹⁷

"If Peter was allegedly Bishop of Rome and Vicar of Christ, and if the Church is built on him, it cannot be built in Zion, which is in heaven — the heavenly Jerusalem — it must be built here on earth, and its foundation must rest at St. Peter's Basilica! If Peter was the Rock, then Isaiah, the prophet, would have to have written, 'Behold, I lay in Rome a chief cornerstone,' but he did not because Isaiah, the prophet, was not speaking about Peter — and Peter himself said so!"¹⁸

"... If you are a Roman Catholic outside of Christ, and you want to know what your position will be if you accept the Lord Jesus Christ and trust Him alone for your salvation, here is the truth from Scripture. God says you do not need a pope, a cardinal, a bishop or a priest — God says you will be a priest, a member of a "holy priesthood," and He is going to use you, as a Christian, to bring people out of darkness into His marvelous light." ¹⁹

"... Christ then is consistently described in Scripture by the metaphorical usage — Rock. The whole foundation of Roman Catholicism admittedly rests upon Peter as *the rock*. Once you have shown that Christ is the Rock there is no apostolic succession. There is no authority for the claim of the Roman Catholic Church and there is no basis to their claim that they are the "only true Church of Christ." ²⁰

Catholic Tradition and the Bible

One of the deepest rifts that has existed between Protestantism and Romanism is Rome's insistence on adding man-made traditions to Scripture and then elevating them to an equal plane with the Word of God. Not only have they elevated them to an equal plane, but they have in some instances, elevated them above Scripture.

Walter Martin had much to say about Catholic tradition in his book. Because this is such a vast subject, I have limited myself to a few appropriate quotes (I would like to recommend to the reader who is interested in the Biblical position concerning Romanism, since Walter's book is not available, that they obtain a copy of *Romanism: The Relentless Roman Catholic Assault on the Gospel of Jesus Christ* by Rob Zins — available from CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

for \$7.95).

"The very things which we are supposed to accept as valid traditions from the apostles are contradicted by the writings of the same apostles. Therefore, the Christian is faced with a problem; Which should he accept? Should he accept the Scriptures, admittedly the Word of God, or should he accept tradition in place of Scripture? You cannot have both if they are contra-dictory and they most certainly are, in not a few instances." ²¹

I don't think that many Protestants truly understand the magnitude of Roman Catholic tradition. It is the basis for their authority. Often you will hear Roman Catholic apologists say, "I am not bound by Scripture, I have the holy tradition as a guide also." Walter Martin understood its importance though. This becomes evident in the following quotes from his book:

"...Mark this well: *there is not one verse* of Scripture in the New Testament anywhere which authorized anybody to intercede with God after death. We are told to pray for one another *only while on earth*. Prayer that is blessed of God is prayer which is supposed to be directed to God while we are alive. There is no authority in Scripture for prayers either by, to or for the dead. Yet this is a cardinal tradition of the Roman Catholic Church — a tradition which the fourth chapter of Hebrews very pointedly contradicts." ²²

The Bible expressly condemns communication with the dead, whoever they may be, whether saints or sinners (Deut. 18:11).

"The place where we conflict with the Roman church is their assumption that *their* tradition is equal in authority with the Bible. Because they make this claim, it

is essential that we understand the Bible claims for itself supreme authority and it shares this authority with nothing else, and no one, except the Holy Spirit, its author, (cf. II Timothy 3:15-16). In John 17:17, Jesus said, "sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

"God says you do not need a pope, a cardinal, a bishop or a priest — God says you will be a priest, a member of a "holy priesthood,"

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, tradition is not *the* Word of God: The Bible is *the* Word of God. Therefore when Jesus said, "sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth," He places His stamp of approval *not* upon the supposed oral tradition of the apostles but upon the written authority of the Word of God." ²³

"...But, such is Rome's position, in effect — "Give us your mind and soul, we will think for you — obey us and there is a good possibility you may be saved." ²⁴

Most of the Roman Catholics that I personally know, refer to themselves as practicing Catholics. Generally this means that they were raised Catholic and possibly attend church once or twice a year; once at Easter and once at Christmas Eve Mass. This appears to this writer to be the norm within Romanism. It is no wonder that only 25 percent claim to be born again (if they even really know what "born again" means)!

"...*they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.*" (Matt. 15:14 NASB)

"God nowhere in the Bible authorizes anyone to place faith in tradition which is contrary to His Word. Secondly, the Roman Catholic Church has scores of traditions within its framework which are diametrically contradicted by explicit passages in the Word of God. The important thing to remember, in dealing with Roman Catholic tradition, is that we do not make the mistake of denying that tradition itself exists. Admit that it does exist. Admit that you are willing to accept it so long as it does not contradict the teaching of the Scriptures, and you are safe because the tradition of the Roman Church, almost without exception, is in direct contradiction to the Word of God."²⁵

Closing Remarks

I found Walter Martin's book to be a breath of fresh air in a world of Evangelical-Catholic smog. It was great to read Walter telling it like it is concerning Roman Catholicism. None of this constant blurring of distinctions, over-generalization, and ecumenical pandering as you find in current CRI literature and radio broadcasts. Why doesn't Hanegraaff and his crew ever quote official Roman Catholic sources such as the one below:

"But the plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Moslems: these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day... Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the gospel of Christ or his Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience — those too may achieve eternal salvation. Nor shall divine provi-

dence deny the assistance necessary for salvation to those who, without any fault of theirs, have not yet arrived at an explicit knowledge of God, and who not without grace, strive to lead a good life." [Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, Nov. 21, 1964, pp 367-368].²⁶

Not having to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior in order to receive God's unwarranted reward of spending eternity in heaven with Him is part and parcel of the false gospel of the Roman Catholic Church. This gospel is like getting a degree without having to go to college (a degree-mill gospel), just lead a "good life."

In final summation, I am going to close with another quote from Walter Martin that I have never heard CRI play or quote, on the air or in print, from his outstanding tape *Peter the Rock* (check with CRI for availability):

"As Christians what ought our attitude to be? It ought to be an attitude of gratitude. An attitude of joy because God has delivered us from this system into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

We are not the descendents of this papacy, nor do we wish to be. We do not wish its sacraments, we do not wish its dogmas, we worship only Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Redeemer and Savior of lost men.

We reject a corrupt church, a backslidden church, an apostate church and reach out to her people with the love of Christ. Holding forth Holy Scripture, as Strossmayer said, and standing upon the liberty wherein Christ has set us free. Let us not think that Rome has changed her basic positions, she has not. Her catechisms are essentially the same, her dogmas uncompromising. It is the same Roman Catholic church as the Council of Trent only carefully adapted to

American Protestant culture. It is a Roman Catholic church which today threatens Protestantism in various parts of the world wherever she gains the upper hand."²⁷ ☐

End Notes:

1. *This Rock* magazine, February, 1994, p 5 — A letter from Steven McCoy.
2. CRI, statement #DC-125 *Roman Catholicism*.
3. *ibid*
4. Kenneth R. Samples, *What Think Ye of Rome? An Evangelical Appraisal of Contemporary Catholicism* (Part 1), Winter 1993, *CRI Journal*, p. 6.
5. Kenneth R. Samples, *What Think Ye of Rome? An Evangelical Appraisal of Contemporary Catholicism* (Part 2), Spring 1993, *CRI Journal*, p 2.
6. Samples, *Bible Answer Man*, 1993, see *An Analysis of CRI on Romanism* (Part 1); audio tape available from CHRISTIAN ANSWERS for \$5.95 + S & H.
7. Hanegraaff, *ibid*.
8. Martin, *ibid*.
9. Elliot Miller, *ibid*.
10. Hanegraaff, *ibid*.
11. Walter Martin, *The Roman Catholic Church in History* (Christian Research Institute, 1960), p 39.
12. *Christianity Today*, p 12, February, 1983 — sent out by CRI as statement # DC-300.
13. Walter Martin, *Peter the Rock*, 1980.
14. Walter Martin, *The Roman Catholic Church in History* (CRI, 1960), p 23
15. *ibid*, p 9
16. *ibid*, p 12
17. *ibid*, p 14
18. *ibid*, p 14
19. *ibid*, p 15
20. *ibid*, p 16
21. *ibid*, pp 25-26
22. *ibid*, p 26
23. *ibid*, p 27
24. *ibid*, p 35
25. *ibid*, p 40
26. Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, Nov. 21, 1964, "Dogmatic Constitution of the Church, Chapter 2, "The People of God" pp 367-368.
27. Martin, *Peter the Rock*, CRI, 1980

"And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."
(Mat 26:39 KJV)

Jesus on Positive Confession

Jehovah's Witnesses ***A Non-Prophet Organization***

OVER 100 YEARS OF FALSE PROPHECIES AND LIES!



Jehovah's Witnesses are a curiosity to most observers. They claim to be the only true people of God on earth. Their version of their history has been published in the book, "*Jehovah's Witnesses — Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*". They challenge us to examine them, to see if they really are the true followers of God. We have accepted this challenge.

Jehovah's Witnesses, while claiming to be a Bible-based religion, have gone beyond Scripture and prophesied in the name of "Jehovah". What is their record? We have found them consistent — a 100% failure rate, and a modern day false prophet.

Many will be shocked by the disclosures in this video, but facts do not lie. Here you will see over one hundred years of false prophecies, cover-ups and outright lies. Despite their carefully crafted public image, this video reveals the real identity of Jehovah's Witnesses — *A Non-Prophet Organization*.

"This program has examined the book, "Jehovah's Witnesses — Proclaimers of God's Kingdom". The Watchtower leaders herald it as the true history of their religion... their account of their history is a perversion of the facts."

Dr. D. James Kennedy
Truths that Transform

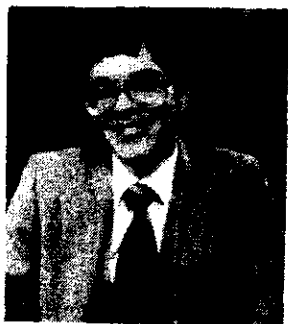
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Witness Inc.
MacGregor
ministries

Witness Inc.
Box 597, Clayton, CA 94517

MacGregor Ministries
Box 454, Metaline Falls, WA 99153

Cultic Definitions



Larry Wessels

"My dear pope, I will kiss your feet and acknowledge you as supreme bishop if you will worship my Christ and grant that through His death and resurrection, not through keeping your traditions, we have forgiveness of sins and life eternal. If you will yield on this point, I shall not take away your crown and power; if not, I shall constantly cry out that you are the Antichrist, and I shall testify that your whole CULT and religion are only a denial of God, but also the height of blasphemy against God and idolatry." (What Luther Says, II:1069)

This article is written in response to Gregory L. Jackson's article entitled, "Is Roman Catholicism a Cult?" on page 18 of the September 27, 1993 edition of *The Christian News*. I must admit that I was surprised to see my name mentioned in the first sentence of his article concerning this particular topic. I do appreciate the fact that Dr. Jackson did not go into detail as to who I was or who Ken Samples was or what side either one of us was taking.

Dr. Jackson says, "But Catholicism is too large and diverse to be called a cult. It is fair to call theological liberalism a cult, since it denies the Trinity, Hell, and salvation through the merits of Christ." It is obvious here that Dr. Jackson is taking, as he perceives it, Mr. Samples' side of this issue. Ken Samples is one of the Christian Research Institute's (CRI) "experts" on Roman Catholicism, having written a defense of Romanism as a

true Christian Church in the Spring 1993 *CRI Journal*. However, Samples has since left CRI under what seems to be peculiar circumstances.

Dr. Jackson's article seems to, at least in part, have its origins in a previous article I had written in the September/October 1993 "Researcher" newsletter entitled, "A Response to CRI's Attack." As is obvious in my article, although I do take a couple of "shots" at Samples' tactics and the way he defines what a cult is, my main thrust is not on this "cult" issue at all. Rather, I am replying to Samples' Journal article where he attacked me regarding a statement I had made in an earlier "Researcher" newsletter ("Lack of Discernment Among Discernment Ministries").

When it comes to this subject of what is a cult, let's look at a few definitions:

Walter Martin's book, *The Kingdom of the Cults*, page 11, states:

In his study of modern American cults and minority religious movements as found in his text, These Also Believe, Dr. Charles Braden, emeritus professor at Northwestern University (19-54), and John C. Schaffer, lecturer (1955) and visiting professor at Scripps College (1954-1956), made a number of observations with which this writer agrees. In regard to the term "cult", for instance, Dr. Braden states: "By the term cult I mean nothing derogatory to any group so classified. A cult, as I define it, is any religious group which differs significantly in some one or more respects as to belief or practice from those religious groups which are regarded as the normative expressions of religion in our total culture" (preface, xii). I may add to this that a cult might also be defined as a group of people gathered about a spe-

cific person or person's misinterpretation of the Bible. For example, Jehovah's Witnesses are, for the most part, followers of the interpretations of Charles T. Russell and J.F. Rutherford. The Christian Scientist of today is a disciple of Mary Baker Eddy and her interpretations of Scripture. The Mormons, by their own admission, adhere to those interpretations found in the writings of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. It would be possible to go on citing many others, such as the Unity School of Christianity, which follows the theology of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. From a theological viewpoint, the cults contain many major deviations from historic Christianity. Yet paradoxically, they continue to insist that they are entitled to be classified as Christians.

Nationally known authors Dr. John Ankerberg and Dr. John Weldon state in their book, *Cult Watch*, page iii:

By use of the term "cult", we mean nothing necessarily derogatory or pejorative. But from the viewpoint of Biblical revelation, most cults and most cultic religion have serious errors of belief and often incorporate dubious ethical values. For our purposes a "cult" may be loosely defined as a religious group having Biblically unorthodox and/or heretical teachings and which may fail to meet basic ethical standards of Christian doctrine or practice. Thus, in light of this definition, there are many unbiblical "cults" today - Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and Masons among them. There are New Age cults, spiritistic cults, and astrological cults. But for us, the word "cultic" may describe more than religious groups: It may also de-

scribe philosophies and practices having cult-like elements. Looking at the lowest common denominator in much religious cultism today, we discover at least some cultic elements in all the topics discussed herein. The common characteristics of such cultism often include 1) spiritual deception; 2) unbiblical theology (often justified by new, supernatural [occultic] revelations); 3) spiritistic and other occultic influence; and 4) authoritarianism or spiritual intimidation.

Hank Hanegraaff, President of the Christian Research Institute (the world's largest counter-cult organization) and author (with a whole lot of help from his paid staff) of the book, *Christianity In Crisis*, states on page 43 of this book:

A second way to define a cult is from a theological perspective. A cult, in this sense, is deemed a pseudo-Christian group. As such, it claims to be Christian but denies one or more of the essential doctrines of historic Christianity; these doctrines focus on such matters as the meaning of faith, the nature of God, and the Person and work of Jesus Christ. Denver seminary professor Gordon Lewis succinctly summarizes it in this way: "A cult, then, is any religious movement which claims the backing of Christ or the Bible, but distorts the central message of Christianity by 1) an additional revelation, and 2) by displacing a fundamental tenant of the faith with a secondary matter (*Confronting the Cults*, page 4)."

One definition of the word "cult" I have always liked is "organized heresy" but of course anyone can define "cult" any way he pleases. The word itself is very vague and it seems Luther possibly could have interpreted the word "cult" for his purposes as "the synagogue of Satan" if you look to various writings of his concerning Roman Catholicism (see *What Luther Says*, II:1009).

When it comes to the subject of whether Roman Catholicism is a cult, I must stand with Martin Luther (see quo-

tation that begins this article). Roman Catholicism, with its denial of the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6-9) by way of its lengthy additions to that gospel, easily falls into almost anyone's definition of a cult (of course, with the exception of Ken Samples' definition as found in the Spring 1993 *CRI Journal*). Consider the Roman doctrines of the Virgin Mary, the Mass, the pope, purgatory, prayers to the dead, universalism, condign and congruous merit, supererogation, apocryphal books, apostolic succession, infallibility, and on and on the list could go. All of these bury the simple gospel message with a tidal wave of man-made works-righteousness traditions.

Ken Samples and CRI, on the other hand, play a hypocritical double standard when it comes to Roman Catholicism. Samples defines the word "cult" in his *Journal* article in such a way as to exclude Romanism from falling into the "cult" category. This same trick is used by atheists when it comes to miracles — they simply "define" miracles out of existence and therefore conclude miracles do not happen.

Samples plays on his definition of the term "cult" in his effort to deferid Romanism while at the same time staying away from the Biblical term "church" which is too easily defined by the text of Scripture itself (and this again would give away the game because the Bible clearly refutes the Roman hierarchical church structure not to mention the Romanist gospel message). Hypocritically Samples and CRI will viciously attack word-faith teachers and others as cultists by using a separate set of standards (hear the Christian Answers audio tape — "An Analysis of CRI on Romanism parts 1 and 2" and see Jim Toun-gate's very revealing review of Walter Martin's book entitled *The Roman Catholic Church in History* — see our resource list) while at the same time treating Romanism to proverbial "wrist-slapping" (sheepish criticisms of Roman doctrines which CRI calls being "tough on Catholicism"). It should be noted of course that while Samples is no longer with CRI, CRI continues to send his articles out to thousands who inquire about the subject.

If people do not want to call Roman-

ism a "cult" that is fine with me, however, if they want to say that the Roman Catholic church is a true Christian church then they have "crossed the line" as far as I am concerned. The acceptance of Romanism as truly Christian is not only a slap in the face of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ but it is a rejection of Martin Luther and all of the great Reformers who risked their lives for the purity of the word of God!

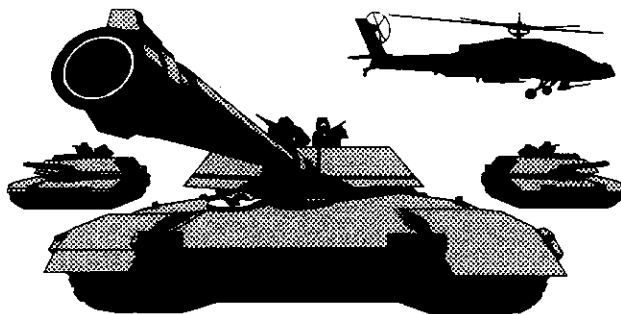
If there remains any reader who remains unconvinced that unity with Rome cannot be accomplished without compromising the truths of Scripture then I urge you to view my two-hour televised debate with Roman Catholic scholar Dr. Robert Fastiggi of St. Edward's University concerning the question, "Does Romanism Preach Another Gospel?" (VT-5 VHS). After the first hour of the debate I believe Dr. Fastiggi was ready to start the Inquisition all over again.

By contrast, the compromising ecumenical stand of organizations like CRI can hardly go unnoticed. During a national radio debate on the question, "Is the Roman Catholic Church a Christian Church?", *CRI Journal* editor Elliot Miller stated that people adhering "exclusively" to Roman Catholic teaching could still be true Christians (who needs Luther, the Reformation, or salvation by grace alone anyway?).

One final note — **battling over cult definition semantics is one thing, but battling over the gospel message is the ultimate crucible for truth.** If you believe the Trinity, the Deity of Christ, etc., yet deny the gospel then judgment awaits and damnation is sure. Christians need to stand up for gospel essentials despite the consequences. The consequence, very likely for the Christian in standing up to the ecumenical juggernaut, will be the statement, "Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16). †

"Therefore avoid and flee from those who seek the middle-of-the-road. Think of me after I am dead and such middle-of-the-road men arise, for nothing good will come of it. There can be no compromise." (What Luther Says, Vol. II:109)

REFUTATION OF THE VIDEO: "WACO THE BIG LIE" What Really Happened in Waco???



"Waco — The Big Lie" is the name of a popular video that has been distributed around in the country. This particular video alleges many startling and deplorable facts concerning the events surrounding the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas during 1993.

Is the video "Waco — The Big Lie" telling the truth about momentous events that took place or does the video's title reflect its own veracity and credibility? Watch this video and learn the truth!

Were flame-throwing tanks used against the Branch Davidian compound by the government?

Were helicopters shooting down on the compound?

Were all the police officers going through the now famous window killed?

Has a national police force been established under public law #100-698 (Nov. 19, 1988; 100th Congress)?

What about David Koresh and his beliefs?

Do the makers of "Waco-The Big Lie" have ties to anti-government and paramilitary groups?

Join host Dale Delony, Director of PEACEWAY Productions, and Hank Kitchen, former crime-scene investigator and independent researcher as they analyze the claims made in the video, "Waco — The Big Lie." See actual highlight clips of tanks, federal agents and Davidians in action.

VHS, 1 hour, \$15.00 + S&H
Audio soundtrack available — AC-40, \$5.95 + S&H

“Lift Up Your Eyes To Your Idols” Ezekiel 33:25

A Response to Mr. Charles Colson

by Rob Zins



On November 14, 1994 *Christianity Today* printed an article by Chuck Colson entitled *Why Catholics Are Our Allies*. We are mortified that *Christianity Today* continues to allow professing Christians to speak on behalf of the Roman Catholic religion. We have sent the editors of *CT* our response to Dr. Packer and Alister McGrath. We shall do the same with Mr. Colson. Here is our rejoinder.

Let us be straight forward and simple in our appraisal of Mr. Charles Colson's attempts to convince America that Roman Catholicism is a Christian religion. We believe Mr. Colson to be in grave error and rapidly emerging as an enemy of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ! We call upon the Christian community to censor Mr. Colson and withdraw all invitations to Christian pulpits and platforms throughout the land.

We could not be more serious. Mr. Colson has crossed the line. He no longer can be given the benefit of the doubt as though he is misguided. He is not. He is rather very guided and very intense in bringing about the slaughter of the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our nation.

In this particular article, Mr. Colson leaves no room for doubt. He is 100% convinced that Romanism is nothing other than a “distinctive theological tradition.”¹ Seeking to defend his part in the formation of *Evangelicals and Catholics Together (ECT)* statement, Mr. Colson calls upon evangelicals to embrace Rome because we are in a “culture war”² and it is to be fought on a level deeper than politics. When asked why we cannot simply forge al-

liances with Rome (political), Mr. Colson says it will not work. To do so, he says, is to shatter the Christian “house into disconnected rooms, as though Christian traditions had little in common.”³ He implores us to fight such issues as “abortion, pornography, and threats to religious liberty”⁴ in the same foxhole with “conservatives across denominational lines.”⁵ He wants us to see Rome as simply another conservative denomination. He wants us to rally around what he calls a “distinctive Christian presence and world-view.”⁶ He champions *ECT* as calling “all orthodox believers to unite on the great truths of the faith against both secular modernism and theological liberalism.”⁷ Evidently, Mr. Colson cannot comprehend that **the great truth** of the Bible is justification by faith alone! We have time and again sought to curb Mr. Colson's appetite to redefine Christianity. He thinks that belief in one god, the incarnation, the resurrection and the coming judgment is all that is necessary for one to have a Christian community. Mr. Colson goes on to say that “our best weapon is the distinctiveness of Christian truth, expressed in unity by all believers.”⁸ We are at a loss to explain how the **gospel of salvation** can be omitted as the heart of what Mr. Colson calls **distinctiveness of Christian truth!**

We ask Mr. Colson and others of his ilk a basic question. Why is the religion of Rome exonerated and then billed as part of the Christian community while other religions are not? Why are Mormons and Muslims and Jehovah's Witnesses excluded from the foxhole? Rome, herself, recog-

nizes the great value of the Muslim and Hindu religions along with those of the Jewish religion.⁹ Vatican II describes Muslims as the perfect “foxhole partners” when it comes to fighting the cultural wars of our times! We do not think we would have the same problems with liberals and abortion and religious freedom if we all became Muslims. **But why, in light of the Catholic endorsement of Muslims and other religions, does Mr. Colson exclude these? His answer is that he does not think they are Christian but he thinks Rome is!**

This brings us to the heart of the matter. Why does Mr. Colson think Catholics are Christians? Our answer is threefold. First, he is willing to throw away the **gospel message** and redefine Christianity in terms of **creedal assertions**. Thus, if I claim the Apostle's Creed, as my creed, then I am a Christian. This reduction of the gospel to “creedal affirmation” will destroy the gospel. Secondly, he is willing to throw away the gospel in favor of forming alliances to help fight the cultural wars of our day. He has set the social agenda of our day above the clear presentation of the gospel. Thirdly, he is motivated by fear of reproof from Rome. **We wonder out loud how many Romanists are involved in helping Prison Ministries.** Mr. Colson is willing to allow a false gospel to be slipped in along with some bread and comfort our prison

population. We find it utterly fantastic to believe that Romanism could be put *in par* with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We remind our readers that Jesus Christ came with a gospel of liberation of the soul. His agenda was a spiritual emancipation through confrontation with the powers of darkness. He has not called us to compromise the gospel for social or political expediency.

Rome does not teach, preach or believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. Rome preaches another gospel while affirming lots of historic creeds. Rome is not a distinctive Christian presence. It is distinctively Anti-Christ. Rome has never been infected with the great truths of the Christian faith i.e.; *Sola Scriptura* and *Sola Fide*. Rome has not changed her original doctrines. In fact, she has added worse doctrines throughout the years. Mr. Colson may have made his bed with Rome, but for us to jump in with him would be the end of the gospel. Mr. Colson wishes us to commit Christian genocide by asking us to confront a non-Christian world united with the arsenic of Rome. We would first have to swallow such a poison and that would be the end of the gospel — a price no true Christian is willing to pay!

We are not the first to warn of the danger of going to Rome. Mr. Colson is but one in along line of ecumenists who have tried to steer the "Christian Ship" onto the shoals of Rome. We close with one strong prophetic voice, from our recent past, who knew the danger Rome imposed for the gospel and urged men of God in his time to stand firm with the remedy.

"...to a man who knows this experience (intense personal salvation), to a man who has his only authority in the Scriptures, there is no possible compromise with, first of all, Rome — no possible compromise. The man who asks these questions and finds the scriptural answer finds, as Luther

found, that it is impossible to come to any agreement with Rome. She teaches 'another gospel.' It is entirely different. There can be no compromise with *sacerdotalism*. There can be no compromise for the evangelical with those who say that a bishop is of the 'esse' - very essence of the church. There is no compromise for the evangelical with a man who says that unless you received episcopal ordination you are not truly ordained. It is impossible. There can be no accommodation between evangelicals and those who believe in the blasphemy of the 'mass'. There is no possible compromise for the evangelical with a belief in baptismal regeneration; it is impossible. Luther found it impossible as he went on studying and preparing for his lectures on Romans and his sermons on the Psalms and Galatians, and so the break was inevitable."¹⁰

We find it ironic that men, such as Mr. Colson, are compelled to speak for Romanism. It is as if the veil of Moses reappeared to prevent such professing evangelicals from seeing an end to Roman law for righteousness. We urge Mr. Colson and those in sympathy with him to repent of their relentless assault on the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are finally cautioned with this sobering analysis by Dr. D. Martin Lloyd-Jones.

"But someone may object at this point and say, 'But are you not forgetting that Rome is changing? Have you not been carried away by Luther? Are you forgetting that you are living in the twentieth century and that Rome is changing?' All right, let us examine the change. The Church of Rome today is not identical with the church of Luther's day. In what respects? Well, since then she has pronounced infallibly the doctrine of papal infallibility. That was done in 1870. What

else? She has pronounced infallibly also the doctrine of the 'immaculate conception,' and also the doctrine of 'the assumption of Mary'. Moreover there has been a terrible increase in Mariolatry. The only difference between the church of Rome then and now is - that it is even worse now. Oh, yes, it is true to say that they dealt with the question of the abuse of indulgences since Luther's day; but what they have also done is to degenerate in doctrine and to make it even worse than it was in his day. Let us not forget that. Then others say, 'What about their new attitude to the Bible?' Let us face it. Did you know that the new attitude to the Bible in the Roman church is mainly a higher critical attitude, and that is what is coming into the Roman church is modernism, liberalism, higher criticism - not evangelicalism? Do not be deluded, my friends! Those are the facts concerning the Roman Catholic Church."¹¹ †

End Notes:

1. *Christianity Today*, November 14, 1994. pg. 136
2. *Ibid* pg. 136.
3. *Ibid* pg. 136
4. *Ibid* pg. 136
5. *Ibid* pg. 136
6. *Ibid* pg. 136
7. *Ibid* pg. 136
8. *Ibid* pg. 136
9. "The Church also has high regard for the Muslims. They worship God, who is one, living and subsistent, merciful and almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, who has also spoken to men. They strive to submit themselves without reserve to the hidden decrees of God, just as Abraham submitted himself to God's own plan, to whose faith Muslims eagerly link their own. Although not acknowledging him as God, they venerate Jesus as a prophet, his virgin mother they also honor, even at times devoutly invoke. Further, they await the day of judgement and the reward of God following the resurrection of the dead. For this reason they highly esteem an upright life and worship of God, especially by way of prayer, alms-deeds, fasting." Vatican II, *Nostra Aetate*, 28 October, 1965 as found in *Vatican Council II*, Austin Flannery, General Editor, Costello, New York, 1992. pgs. 739,740.
10. D. Martin Lloyd-Jones, *Unity in Truth*, Edited by: Hywel Rees Jones, Evangelical Press, Darlington, Co. Durham, England 1991. pgs. 40,41.
11. *Ibid* pg. 42

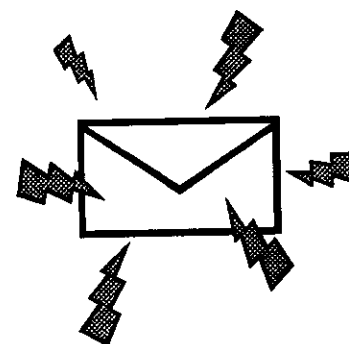
C O M P U T E R

B A S E D

A P O L O G E T I C S



Jim Toungate Jr. and Larry Wessels



With the rapid growth of personal computer technology, Christians can now virtually reach the world from their homes with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In this fascinating and timely video Jim Toungate Jr. and Larry Wessels explore how Christians can use their personal computer for defending the faith and evangelism utilizing computer bulletin board systems. Other topics include:

- ☞ What is a computer virus and how to protect your computer from them.
- ☞ What equipment you need to get on the "information superhighway."
- ☞ How to choose the right BBS.
- ☞ Electronic Mail (E-mail).
- ☞ Computer Bibles

Computer Based Apologetics 1.1

VHS, (1 hour) \$12.00 + S&H.

Audio soundtrack available — AC-60, \$5.95 + S&H

LETTERS FROM THE FRONTLINE

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for the prompt shipping of the *Spiritual Warfare Video Series*. Please find enclosed my check for the amount of \$18.00 for a subscription to the *Christian Answers Journal*. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry.

K. C.
St. Clair, MI

Thank you for sending me your *Christian Answers Journal*. It is nicely put together, and the contents were good.

I very much like Rob Zins' approach to and exposition of the Roman Catholic system. I am in a pretty fierce battle with R.C. doctrine in my area, and need to hone my weaponry. Zins' materials are a great help!

I also want to thank you for James White's brief but excellent study of the Greek text underlying Colossians 2:9, clearly bringing forth an irrefutable Pauline declaration of the absolute Deity of our dear Lord and God, Jesus Christ (James White, how about one like it on Romans 9:5?). Such fine work is very helpful in the Satanic wars, where truth is under constant attack.

S. R.
Woodstock, NY

Please feel free to send me a few of your "flyers" of your ministry to leave at Bible bookstores. Do you have any written material on the Nation of Islam and its teachings (Jesus is black, etc.)?

Also do you know of any ministries that do sell Walter Martin's book, *The Roman Catholic Church in History*?

CRI does sell a three tape set by Martin on Catholicism, is this where

you got the clip played on your "CRI tapes, part 2"?

T. M.
Norwalk, CA

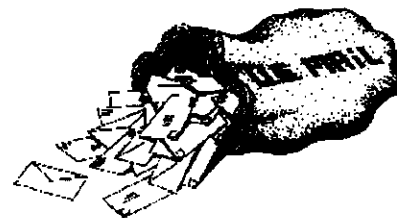
[Editor's note: Walter Martin's book is unfortunately out of print and next to impossible to find. You might want to write CRI and ask them when they intend to reprint it. And if they don't, why? The clip of Walter Martin in the *Analysis of CRI Part II* did come from his series, tape 1: *Peter the Rock*.]

Hi There,

While listening to your tapes on "CRI and Romanism" you mentioned that you were going to do some more tapes about both the defense of Romanism by CRI and Catholic theology. If these are available could you please let me know how many, and how much?

Your publication the "Journal" was great, its broad range of topics is excellent!!! I have taught in the field of the cults and occult for years, and am always looking for more sources of information. You guys appear to be my latest gold mine. I have acquired some of your tapes and booklets through other sources over the years, but I am delighted to see so much in one place. I will be happy to contribute to your ministry as the Lord provides.

I commend you for the position that you take. The church today is numb to the dangers that lurk inside and out. The list of enemies grows longer every day, and Christian apologists of the "Walter Martin" type are getting hard to find these days. As I listened to your tapes I heard that style again, one that I had assumed no longer existed in the Christian community. It was very stimulating and encouraging.



Thank you again, and may the Lord give you the strength to defend to the death the truth of His Word.

D. M.
Loganville, GA

Dear Larry,

Would you and your ministry pray for my daughter, Wendi? Satan is petitioning the Lord for her death. She needs protection and the grace of God for genuine repentance and Christian discipleship.

Thank you, brother, for being there for me in my time of need.

Your Brother & Fellow Minister,

R.W.

Burbank, CA

[Editor's note: Christian Answers would like to invite all our readers to pray for this dear brother's daughter. Prayer requests mailed to this ministry may be reprinted in future journals so they can be shared with the Body of Christ.]

Christian greetings in the lovely name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I would like to obtain a copy of the issue of the *Christian Answers Journal* containing Rob Zins' excellent article "The Big Compromise... When Evangelicals Compromise the Gospel for Unity." I saw this reprinted in *Christian News*.

Sincerely in Christ,

D. C.
Oak Harbor, WA

A WORD FROM R.C. SPROUL

LIGONIER MINISTRIES
P.O. Box 547500
ORLANDO, FL 32854

"Chiseled in the Reformation Wall in Geneva, Switzerland are the words *post tenebras lux* — after darkness, light. Our culture works to extinguish the Reformation torch in our day. Sadly, even prominent evangelical leaders seem bent on doing the same.

Ligonier Ministries labors to broadcast Reformation truth. You can help us do that. "Only One Gospel" is a sermon I preached this summer about standing for the truth of salvation by faith alone in Christ, regardless of the cost. There is no Copyright on this message. Please make as many copies as you can and share them with your friends, family members, pastor, and associates."
— R.C. Sproul

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS is pleased to offer this tape for free to anyone who places an order from our ministry. R.C. Sproul's message is vital in today's ecumenical age of moral and theological relativism. Please make sure you mention the tape "Only One Gospel" with your order. Catalog # AC-27

Here is a letter written to a local advice column along with the response:

Dear Eutychus:

Our preacher said, on Easter, that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health.

What do you think?

Sincerely,
Bewildered

Dear Bewildered:

Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails with 39 heavy strokes, nail him to a cross; hang him in the sun for 6 hours; run a spear through his heart; embalm him; put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours and see what happens.

Sincerely,
Eutychus

See: 1 Cor 15:3-4

Courtesy of the Bible Illustrator

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS TO THE CHRISTIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON ROMANISM

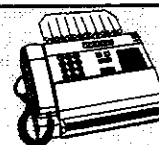
AN ANALYSIS OF THE CHRISTIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON ROMAN CATHOLICISM (PART I)

Join Christian Answers' Larry Wessels and Jim Toungate Jr. as they investigate CRI's position on Roman Catholicism. Is CRI's position really "well balanced"? Find out the truth in this well documented and informative audio tape. (90 min.) AC-1, \$5.95 + S&H

AN ANALYSIS OF THE CHRISTIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON ROMAN CATHOLICISM (PART II)

In Part II of this series, Rob Zins, Th.M, Larry Wessels and Jim Toungate Jr. explore shocking new material concerning CRI's unbiblical position on Romanism. Hear Hank Hanegraaff and Dr. Norman Geisler clearly put forth their position from clips of the *Bible Answer Man* show. (Two 60 min. tapes) AC-2/3, \$9.90 + S&H

"{6} I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; {7} which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. {8} But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed." (Gal 1:6-8 NASB)

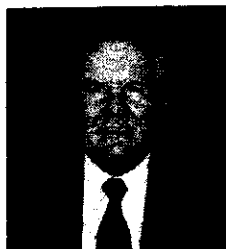


The following is typical of the messages we receive on our answering machine:

"My name is Pastor Ted _____, I'm pastoring in Bronx, New York. I'm currently talking to a number of Mormons and I would appreciate any and all information that you could send me. Thank you."

Christian Answers is always pleased to send free information on a requested topic such as tracts, pamphlets, and printed literature. Unfortunately our ministry cannot afford to mail out videos, audio cassettes, and books free of charge but free topical resource lists are available listing these items upon request. Remember: Keep the faith, but not to yourself.

THE MAJOR ERRORS OF CAMPBELLISM ON SALVATION



Bob L. Ross

This article will present three of the major flaws in Campbellite teachings on salvation set forth by modern-day Church of Christ writers, illustrating unscriptural positions which they hold. The letters "SS" will be used to abbreviate reference to *The Spiritual Sword* magazine from which many of the quotations will be taken. "CC" refers to "Church of Christ."

1. Campbellites of *The Spiritual Sword* cult teach that members of the CC are the only people who are saved.

The Bible teaches that there are no Christians who are not members of the church of Christ — Thomas Warren, SS 4/85, p. 6.

The Bible teaches that every one who enters a denomination sins in so doing and that those who remain in a denomination until death will be lost — Warren, SS 4/85, page 10.

'There are sincere, knowledgeable, devout Christians scattered among all the various denominations.' I kindly, but confidently, deny his affirmation — Garland Elkins, SS 10/85, page 28.

There are no Christians who are not members of the church of Christ — Warren, SS 10/83, page 1.

Parents MUST teach their children that the ONLY Christians are found in the church of Christ

— Bill Jackson, SS 10/84.

The Bible teaches that the SAVED are those who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior [John 3:16-18, 36, 5:24, 6:47, Acts 16:31, etc.]. Ideally, members of the church should be saved, yet there is the possibility that some become members of the church without having been saved. Church membership adds nothing to salvation, as the work of salvation is by Christ, not by the good works of the sinner.

2. Campbellites deny the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation.

Thus we see that the eunuch did not need an angel or the Holy Spirit for salvation, but he did need Philip's message for salvation — J.H. Parker, SS 4/76, page 10.

We can further note that the very efforts of the angel and the Holy Spirit in bringing Philip to the eunuch show that such divine agents are to have no direct role in the salvation of a man, rather that a man is to be converted by his hearing another preach the Gospel to him — J.H. Parker (op. cit.).

The Bible teaches that a man is BORN OF [Greek: "EK" (out of)] God. In every instance where the SOURCE of the new birth is mentioned, the language is EK HIM, EK THE SPIRIT, EK GOD. It is therefore essential that the Holy Spirit work in conjunction with the Gospel, or the Word, as ADDITIONAL to the preaching. Campbellites deny such a work of the Holy Spirit, holding that there is nothing more than the Word in bringing about the new birth.

In effect, they deny the very essence

of regeneration, which is to be "born from above" (John 3:3). This error leads to their denial of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, as taught by evangelical Christianity, and the denial of the security of the believer. They postulate everything upon man's "obedience" to the letter of the Word, denying an accompanying work of the Holy Spirit. They represent evangelical Christianity as teaching the work of the Spirit "separate from" and "apart from" the Word, when in reality we teach the position as set forth by Paul:

For our gospel came not unto you IN WORD ONLY, but also in power, and in THE HOLY GHOST... — 1 Thess. 1:5.

Lydia ... whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul — Acts 16:14

If there is no additional work, or influence, of the Holy Spirit, then this last verse, which says the Lord "opened her heart," is superfluous. Obviously, while the WORD is the means of communicating that which is to be believed, the additional unseen work of the Holy Spirit is necessary for being "born from above." Paul referred to his preaching as being "in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (1 Cor. 2:4). Is this not why, as so many have observed, Campbellite preaching is so dead, so staccato, and relies so heavily upon human "logic" and "legalism"? The only explanation of this barren spirituality is the absence of the Holy Spirit. This likewise explains their lack of a proper understanding of the Word of God (1 Cor. 2:14).

Anytime anyone in the Campbellite

movement somehow comes to accept the Bible teaching on the Holy Spirit's work, the person immediately comes under suspicion of heresy. This was one of the primary issues which was discussed at the special meeting which was held in Memphis in 1973, one of the "peak" events which marked a "split" in the ranks of those associated with the support of *The Herald of Truth* radio program out of the Highland Church of Christ, Abilene, Texas.

3. Campbellites deny that anyone is truly saved in this life.

Walter Scott (1796-1861), who claimed to have "restored the ancient gospel," taught that one is not "born of the Spirit" until the resurrection of the body (*The Gospel Restored*, page 558: "No Christian is yet born of the Spirit; this event is the resurrection ... still in the future").

Mr. M. H. Tucker says that "We have eternal life in prospect ... eternal life follows the judgement; it is received in the world to come" — SS 4/77, page 19.

Tom Warren says, "No one goes into eternal life (as a present possession) when he is baptized," but "he only comes into hope of eternal life at the time he is baptized," "if he lives the faithful Christian life (1 John 1:7), he will receive the eternal life which the Lord has promised (1 John 2:25)" — SS 4/77, pages 30, 31.

The prayer of Garland Elkins indicates that they do not believe they are really saved: "Forgive us our sins and save us in Heaven" — Memphis Meeting, II, page 27.

Consequently, when they speak of being "saved" during this life, they simply mean you have been saved from "past and alien sins." They do not mean that you are saved forever, have eternal life, and shall not come into condemnation; you could "sin so as to lose salvation."

Bill Jackson says there are "many elements making up a faithful Christian life and man is saved by all of these" — *Christian Worker*, 7/88, page 2.

Since they deny the work of the Holy Spirit in the new birth, and deny the indwelling of the Holy Spirit except by the Word, and teach that good works are a "part" of salvation, it is only natural that they do not believe they are actually saved in this life. To them, salvation is the "reward" that comes at the end of this life. If you have "obeyed" their "5-step plan," been a member of their church, worshipped according to their "5 acts of worship" teaching, obeyed the elders who "rule the church," and "do all that is right to the best of your ability," if your works "favorably correspond" to the truth, then you "shall be saved" (SS 4/77, pages 8, 9, and SS 1/76, page 26). **Gal. 2:16,21** †

Campbellism: Its History and Heresies

Video Featuring

Author Bob L. Ross, Mark A. McNeil, and Larry Wessels

This video reviews the highlights of Bob L. Ross' best-selling book entitled *Campbellism: Its History and Heresies*. This video is packed with key information on the church that Campbell built, namely the "Church of Christ."

VHS, VT-26, 2 hours, \$12.00 + S&H

GOSPEL SAYINGS:

We can learn nothing of the gospel except by feeling its truths. There are some sciences that may be learned by the head, but the science of Christ crucified can only be learned by the heart.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

My heart has always assured and reassured me that the gospel of Christ must be a Divine reality.

Daniel Webster

The gospel belongs to the poor and sorrowful, and not to princes and courtiers who live in continual joy and delight, in security, void of all tribulation.

Martin Luther: Table Talk

The gospel in all its doctrines and duties appears infinitely superior to any human composition.—It has no mark of human ignorance, imperfection, or sinfulness, but bears the signature of divine wisdom, authority, and importance, and is most worthy of the supreme attention and regard of all intelligent creatures.

Nathanael Emmons

I search in vain in history to find the similar to Jesus Christ, or anything which can approach the gospel.

Napoleon Bonaparte

The shifting systems of false religion are continually changing their places; but the gospel of Christ is the same forever. While other false lights are extinguished, this true light ever shineth.

Theodore Ledyard Cuyler

Talk about the questions of the day; there is but one question, and that is the gospel. It can and will correct everything needing correction.

William Ewart Gladstone

Ministry News



Christian Answers' video production continues at full speed. New videos that are in the process of being produced are:

1. "Witnessing to the Muslims"
 - 1) *Contrasts: Christianity and Islam*
 - 2) *Essential Teachings of Muhammad* with Larry Wessels (2 hours)
2. "Creation Science Made Easy" with Dr. Michael Girouard (1 hour)
3. "Jehovah's Witnesses: Deceived Deceivers" with Larry Wessels (4 hours)
4. "Moon Struck: Analysis of the Unification Church" with Steve Morrison and Larry Wessels (4 hours)
5. "The Doctrine of Hell" with Bob L. Ross, Rob Zins, and Larry Wessels (4 hours)
6. "The Doctrine of Predestination" with Bob L. Ross and Larry Wessels (6 hours)
7. "Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God" with Pastor Jackson Boyett (1 hour)

Christian Answers contributing editors Rob Zins and James White teamed up to debate two Roman Catholic Apologists at Boston College in April. Contact Christian Answers concerning the availability of audio tapes or the video of the debate. Initial reports are that the debate was a great success for our side.

The second edition of Rob Zins' book, *Romanism, The Relentless Roman Catholic Assault on the Gospel of Jesus Christ* is now available. The book is revised and expanded. It has a new cover and is published by White Horse Publications. Copies are avail-

able for \$7.95 + S&H.

Due to the success of the Christian Answers research tapes, "*An Analysis of CRI on Romanism*" (parts 1 & 2) and the demand for more, Larry Wessels and Jim Toungate are in the formative stages of producing a new series of tapes on this subject that will be more shocking (based on research data already amassed) than anything previously produced. Stay tuned.



Missions

This December, Jim Toungate Jr., will be traveling to the city of Wexford in Southern Ireland for three weeks to speak at area churches and to visit missionary pastor Michael Breene. Pastor Breene is a native of Ireland and is the teaching elder of a small Reformed church in Wexford that is a mission of Dayspring Fellowship, Jim's home church. Southern Ireland is predominantly Roman Catholic.

Jim will be giving a series of lectures on how to defend the Christian faith and effectively witness to Roman Catholics and people of other faiths. He also hopes to set up a debate with Benjamin Creme of the Tara Center which is located in Dublin. Creme is the spokesman for the claimed New Age "Christ", Lord Maitreya. In 1994 Creme took out ads in newspapers across the country proclaiming Maitreya's presence.

Jim also hopes to visit the Findhorn Community to do first-hand research on this strange New Age community. Some years ago they had the government reroute a road because they didn't think it proper to disturb a fairy mound nearby.

Please keep Jim in your prayers as he prepares for the trip and for the people he will be speaking to. ☺

CHRISTIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE CONTACTS LARRY WESSELS

Paul Young, a general officer of the Christian Research Institute (CRI) contacted Larry Wessels by telephone May 15, 1995 in regard to his newsletter, "*Apologists for the 21st Century*." Young indicated strong support by CRI and Hank Hanegraaff for Larry Wessels concerning the tribulations Wessels has been going through as indicated in the newsletter. Young requested an original copy of Wessels' newsletter since CRI's copy had been faxed to them by another ministry and was not very legible. The conversation was very friendly and cordial and Wessels immediately mailed CRI a copy.

The following day, May 16th, Young contacted Wessels concerning a different issue, this time about Christian Answers materials on CRI and Romanism and the *Matthew 18 Lawsuit* paper. Young and Wessels agreed to disagree on the Romanism issue but the "*Matthew 18 Lawsuit*" paper was of great concern to CRI. After another friendly discussion, Larry Wessels agreed to suspend the "*Matt. 18*" paper while Paul Young agreed to send refutation documentation concerning ethical accusations against Hank Hanegraaff.

Christian Answers will no longer make the *Matt. 18* paper available subject to input from CRI. It is the desire of Christian Answers to give CRI every opportunity to respond to accusations made against it.

This ministry feels for anybody who has suffered vicious slander attacks and Christian Answers believes individuals who have had their integrity questioned should have the right to respond. John 7:51†

[Editor's note: At the time of this printing, July 1995, CRI has yet to send the promised documentation.]

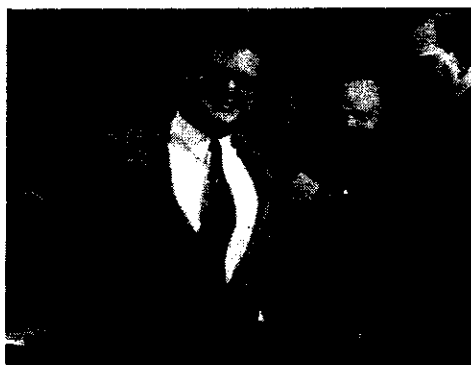
Ministry News Continued.....



**Mark McNeil, Dale Delony
(Moderator), and Steve McCalip**

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS sponsored a televised debate on the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity. Christian Answers' Mark McNeil debated Oneness Advocate Steve McCalip. This highly informative 2 hour debate will help any Christian defender in dealing with attacks against the Trinity. VHS, 2 hours, \$15.00 + S&H.

Special thanks to Dale Delony who broke up a pre-debate fight (see below) so that the show could go on!



Patrick Madrid of *Catholic Answers* (an associate of debater Akin) has said that James White is the "*best critic of Roman Catholicism in the United States today.*" James White is the author of such books as *The Fatal Flaw* and *Answers to Catholic Claims*.



**Christian Answers
vs.
Catholic Answers**

This July 1, 1995 Christian Answers' James White debated Catholic Answers' James Akin on the topic of Predestination. The debate took place on *Christian Answers Live!* the live call-in radio outreach of Christian Answers. For those who do not live in the Austin area tapes of the broadcast are available for \$5.95 + S&H, RP-40.

Jim Tounge, co-host of the radio broadcast stated that this debate was,

"One of the most succinct presentations of the doctrine of Predestination in contrast to the Romanist view that I've ever heard."



Jim Tounge (left) and Lee Meckley (right) in the studio at KIXL radio station (Austin, TX). Jim and Lee can be heard each Saturday evening from 6 to 8 pm.

Attention: Cable Access Producers

Christian Answers is looking for a few good cable access producers. Our director Larry Wessels has been a local cable access producer for more than ten years and has found this media outreach an inexpensive opportunity to get the



Christian message out to the local secular community.

Christian Answers has videos on a wide range of subjects that were originally produced as local cable access television shows. Please see the Christian Answers resource list and catalog for a complete listing of all the topical videos available to date.

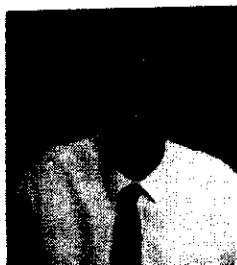
If you desire to reach your community (provided they have cable access television) with informative Christian Answers videos that can help those with sincere questions, please contact Christian Answers. Call (512) 218-8022 and leave your name and mailing address and we will send you a cable access producer form letter which will instruct you of the steps to take next. You can write us as well in this regard. Make an impact in your town for Christ!

Christian Answers

**P.O. Box 144441
Austin, TX 78714**

The Many Faces of Hinduism

by Steve Morrison



Steve Morrison

HINDUISM IS THE THIRD LARGEST RELIGION IN THE WORLD, WITH OVER 750 MILLION DEVOTEES. PERHAPS ONE WAY TO BE INTRODUCED TO HINDUISM IS TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING TEST. PLEASE ANSWER WHICH BELIEFS ARE HINDU AND WHICH ARE NOT.

- T or F _____ 1. Eating dung and drinking urine is impure.
- T or F _____ 2. Cow dung is purifying to eat and one should drink one cup of urine every day.
- T or F _____ 3. One ought to have three horizontal stripes of cow-dung on your forehead.
- T or F _____ 4. One should have respect for all life, not kill anything or anyone, and eat no meat.
- T or F _____ 5. One should make the horse sacrifice so revered in the Rig-Veda.
- T or F _____ 6. One should make human sacrifices to Kali.
- T or F _____ 7. It may be one's purpose, duty-bound destiny, to kill other people.
- T or F _____ 8. Shiva is the Supreme god to worship. Sometimes it is good to kill those who worship Vishnu.
- T or F _____ 9. Vishnu is the main god to worship. Sometimes it is good to kill those who worship Shiva.
- T or F _____ 10. Indra is the main god to worship.
- T or F _____ 11. There are at most 330 million gods to honor and worship.
- T or F _____ 12. It is best to worship none but Krishna.
- T or F _____ 13. Buddhism is just another school of Hinduism.
- T or F _____ 14. Buddhists are infidels who should be persecuted and killed.
- T or F _____ 15. Single people should abstain from sex; married people should remain faithful.
- T or F _____ 16. Sex with many partners, and even incest, is the way to truly know God.

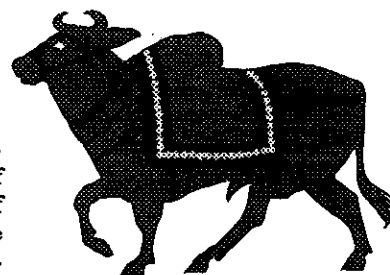
The answers to all of the above are true according to various schools of Hinduism.

References to quiz — 1. A common belief among many Hindus. 2. The former Indian Prime Minister Desai drank a cup of urine every day, as is common with holy men in India, *Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, p. 391, says cow dung used in cleansing. *Funk and Wagnall's Encyclopedia* says many yogi's eat or ordure [dung]. 3. Many Shaivites practice this distinctive feature of Shaivism. 4. Many ascetic Hindus, especially many Brahmins, believe this. Some stress *ahimsa* (non-violence). 5. Rig Veda, 1.162.10-12, p. 90 and Rig Veda 3.85.1. Today some Sakta sects, Vamacharis, and many southern Indian Hindus make animal sacrifices. 6. Thuggees strangled people as acts of devotion to Kali (Durga) as they revered her symbol and they used the pick-axe to dig the graves of their victims. Thuggees had almost total immunity from the law until 1829. Khonds killed people as slowly as possible. 7. Bhagavad Gita 2.30-37: 9.30; Rig Veda 10.159.3-5. 8 & 9 Thuggees and Khonds murdered ordinary people as religious acts. The Shaivite sects worship Shiva (in one of his forms) as the main god. The Vishnaite sects worship Vishnu as the main god. The Shaivites and the Vishnaites have violently fought among each other, particularly near the end of the Chola Empire. 10. Katha Upanishad p. 32 and Rig Veda 10.159.3-5. 11. This is counting every local village deity. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* estimated that 80% of southern Indians worshipped a local female deity (grama-devata). 12. Bhagavad Gita 9.13-14, 21-24; 8.5-7, 10.20-23. 13. Orthodox Hinduism considers Buddha the 9th avatar (incarnation) of Vishnu. Vishnu/Buddha's teaching (to the Hindus), was primarily to remind people to be kind to animals. 14. Buddhists were violently persecuted in India by religious Hindus the first known time was 82-72 BC. 15. Many Hindus of different sects believe this. 16. Tantric Hinduism believes this and Kundalini yoga is also very sexual.

The Sacred Cow

by Raymond Hammer

The fact that Krishna is commonly portrayed as the cowherd is also significant, for it brings Krishna-worship into the context of the ancient cult of the mother-goddess. The cow is the living symbol of Mother Earth and of the bounty she bestows upon mankind. Feeding the cow is in itself an act of worship. Even the cow's urine is seen as sacred, being used, for example, in purification rites by those who have broken caste taboo. (Although some Hindus eat meat, the majority are vegetarian, for reverence for the cow is also a symbol of reverence for all animals.)



Hindu Brahma Bull

Strictly speaking, Hinduism should not be called a religion. As John B. Noss says, "It is not one religion, but rather a family of religions." (Man's Religions, 1969 p.88.)

Hindu Scriptures

Vedas: The earliest scriptures are the Vedas, written from 1400 B.C. to 400 B.C.. There are four Vedas, the Rig-Veda, the Samur-Veda (also known as Sama-Veda), the Yajur-Veda, and the Athara-Veda. The vedas have hymns to the gods (mantras), ritual practices (brahm-anas), and religious doctrine (Upanishads). The Rig-Veda is the main one, with 1028 hymns. 300 of these are to the god Indra, but others are to Soma, the god of an intoxicating drink, Varuna, and Mita. The Yajur-Veda borrows from the Rig-Veda and has much application to ritual situations. The Samur-Veda borrows from the Yajur-Veda. The Athara-Veda has magic spells for the priests.

Upanishads: were written from 800-600 B.C. They are sometimes called the Vedanta, the tail of the Veda. We do not know how many were written, but 108 survive today. For Hari Krishnas, only ten are authoritative. Of the 50% of Hindus who are literate, perhaps only 10% have read the Upanishads.

Ramayana: A 24,000 verse Epic poem written by the poet Valmiki.

Mahabharata: Written between 400 B.C. and 400 A.D. 100,000 verses. Within this is the Bhagavad-Gita, which is only 700 verses.

Bhagavad-Gita (Lord's Song): Actually a part of the Mahabharata, these 700 verses were added around 100 A.D. It is a core part of much of modern Hinduism today, but in earlier times it was considered a non-canonical book.

Puranas: These stories, such as the Vishnu-purana and the Bhagavata-purana, tell of the many sexual escapades of Krishna.

Religions within Hinduism

It is impossible to briefly summarize all the religions of Hinduism, but here is a smattering of the major ones and the more interesting ones.

Early Hinduism: Polytheism somewhat similar to the Greeks and Romans. Like the Greeks, they thought the universe is primarily air, earth, fire, and water. The chief gods include Agni (fire) and Varuna (moral order). The supreme God is Indra, god of war and thunder and son of the sky god.

Polytheistic Hinduism: Perhaps the most direct descendant of early Hinduism, this form of Hinduism believes in the worship of over one million gods. It is perhaps the most common Hinduism today. It believes the three highest gods are Brahma (Creator), Vishnu (Preserver), and Shiva (Destroyer).

(Semi-) Monotheistic Hinduism: All of the many gods are either harmless diversions or misleading goals for the ignorant and superstitious. The highest God is one of the following:

Shiva (for many Brahmins; 3 horizontal stripes of cow-dung on the forehead)

Vishnu (since the 11th century; mostly non-Brahmins; many sects)

Krishna (for Hare Krishna sect and others)

Rama (majority view: 7th incarnation of Vishnu.)

Pantheistic Hinduism: Gods and demons are just beings similar to us. The ultimate one behind everything is

Brahman (different from Brahma.) Brahman is impersonal. Some say Brahman has personal aspects although they cannot ascribe any personality traits to Brahman. These Hindus stress the Upanishads.

After the Epic period, from 200 A.D. on is a time called the "Period of the Six Systems," meaning there are six major systems of Hinduism. The six systems are Nyaya, Vaishesika, Samkhya, Yoga, Purva Mimamsa, and Vedanta.

Within Vedanta there are three main schools: *Samkara*, *Ramanuja*, and *Madhva*. *Samkara* (*Advaita*) rejects dualism. *Maya* is taken to mean the world is transitory, imperfect, and imperfectly perceived. It does not mean all the world is illusion in this school, as it does in some others. God is not mentioned as having personality here.

Ramanuja says god (Brahman) does have personality.

The Madhva school believes dualism is the key to understanding the universe. There are five dualisms: God and soul, God and matter, soul and matter, one soul and another, and one part of matter and another. Reality is of two kinds: independent (*svatantra*) and dependent (*paratantra*). God is the only independent reality. A complete dualism.

Yoga emphasizes mental discipline. God is just another soul; we are not to seek union with God. Yoga follows an eightfold path: abstention, observance, posture, regulation of breath, withdrawal, fixed attention, contemplation, and concentration.

Purva Mimamsa emphasizes duty (dharma). It is light on philosophy and heavy on ritual and action.

Vedanta emphasizes the study of the Upanishads.

The Hare Krishna sect was founded by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, who was born in 1486. He came from the Bhakti-Yoga school. He had a novel belief, considered heretical by many Hindus, that Krishna, and not Vishnu was the Supreme Lord. A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada was the one who brought the Hare Krishna movement to America in 1965. He abandoned his wife and children to do so. He died in 1977.

Bhagats literature was an early reaction against caste and Brahmin influence. It was followed by Vishnu devotees at the end of the 11th century near Madras.

We know little of the Dravidian religion except for the artifacts left behind. They seem to emphasize a nude goddess, bulls, elephants, lions, dragons, and creatures with snake lower bodies and human upper bodies.

Vedic Period 1500 B.C. - 600 B.C.

Indra was the greatest of all Hindu deities. Indra overshadowed every other Hindu god, note in the earliest Veda, the Rig-Veda, 300 hymns (over one-fourth) are to Indra. Indra was the god of war. Two hands hold spears, one hand holds a thunderbolt, and his other hand may or not be free. He is said to have 1,000 eyes. The vedas say his father was Dryas, the sky-god. In later Hinduism he is the caretaker of the heaven of the gods. In the Zoroastrian religion Indra is prominent too, but there he is an evil demon. The oldest surviving inscription we have of Indra is in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) about 1400 B.C.

Early Hindu worship

The main gods were *Surya* (sun), *Agni* (fire) *Prajapati* (lord of creatures), *S'raddha* (faith), *Manyu*

(wrath), *Varuna* (physical and moral order), and *Indra*, who was supreme.

With all of the many gods, some sought to find one god who was supreme. While this was Indra originally, later some called *Prajapati* the supreme god (R.V. X:85:43 X:184:4; C:189:4). In the Rig-Veda X:121 Hiranagarbha is supreme. In the Rig-Veda X:72 *Brhaspati* is supreme.

The *Upanishads* were written after the four Vedas, and are sometimes called the *Vedanta* meaning "of the end of the Veda." They are of a different tone (one might say almost a different religion) from the *Vedas*, in that they emphasize there is but one, *Brahman*, who is behind everything.

Things absent from the Vedas and Upanishads are that all the universe is mere illusion. The "triad" of modern Hinduism, *Brahma*, *Vishnu*, and *Shiva*, is also absent. Though Vishnu is mentioned, he is just a minor god.

Hindu Scriptures in English

The Rig-Veda : An Anthology, Penguin Books, 1982. translated by Dr. Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty.

Prabhupada, A.C. Bhaktivedanta, *The Bhagavad-Gita As It Is*, Bhaktivedanta Book Trust.

Secular Background Material

Encyclopedia Britannica.

Recommended Christian Books

McDowell, Josh & Don Stewart, *Understanding Non-Christian Religions*, Here's Life Publishers, 1982.

Clark, David K. and Norman L. Geisler, *Apologetics in the New Age : A Critique of Pantheism*, Baker Book House 1990.

Lochhaas, Philip H., *How to Respond to ... The Eastern Religions*, Concordia 1979.

Matrisciana, Caryl, *Gods of the New Age*, Harvest House 1985.

"All the crowding of gods and goddesses in Vedic polytheism proved a weariness to the intellect and so a tendency shows itself very early to identify one god with another or throw all gods together." Radhakrishnan and Moore, *A Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy*. Princeton Univ. Press p.16

A Sampling of Hindu Scriptures

"The Self is all-knowing, it is all-understanding, and to it belongs all glory. It is pure consciousness, dwelling in the heart of all, in the divine citadel of Brahma. There is no space it does not fill." (from the *Mundaka Upanishad*)

"Thou art the Eternal among eternal, the consciousness within all minds, the Unity in diversity, the end of all desiring. Understanding and experience of Thee dissolve all limitations." (from the *Shivatashvatara Upanishad*)

"Arjuna, of this be sure: None who pays me worship of loyalty and love is ever lost. For whosoever makes me his haven, base-born though he may be, Yes, women too, and artisans, even serfs—Theirs it is to tread the highest Way..." (*Bhagavad Gita* IX.31,32)

However, the One True Incarnation Jesus Christ said,

"All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." (John 10:8-11) (NASB)

Hinduism: Paths to the Cosmic Fire

VIDEO

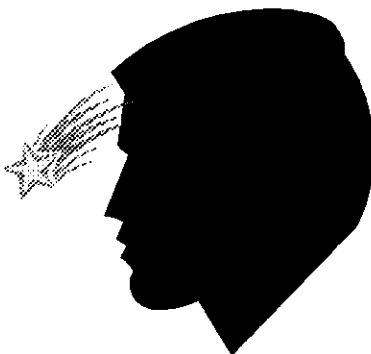
In the middle of the second millennium B.C. the Aryans, the same people that developed the Greek culture, invaded and conquered much of present-day India. The Aryans brought with them their polytheistic religious practices which combined with indigenous Indian traditions of meditation to form a loose combination of beliefs and practices that later became known as Hinduism. Beliefs within Hinduism are almost as diverse as the multitude of gods that Hinduism acknowledges.

Join Christian Answers Director Larry Wessels with his special guests Mark Kass and Steve Morrison as they answer some of the following questions:

- Who is the devouring Brahman, who treats people as food, that Hindus aspire to be absorbed into?
- What is the evidence that early Hinduism was a cattle-sacrificing, warlike, racist religion?
- What is the relationship between Hinduism, early Iranian religion, and Greek mythology?
- What was the role of the narcotic drug *soma* in early Hinduism?
- What about the Hindu concept of reincarnation?
- How does a Christian share his faith with a Hindu determined to work off his karma?



Mark Kass
B.S. from Creighton University, Doctorate in Law, Apologetics Instructor — International Bible College — San Antonio, TX



Steve Morrison
B.S. from the University of Texas, M.S. from Univ. of Houston, Ph.D. candidate, 14 years in Christian apologetics

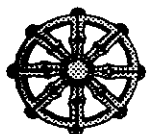
This video shows Hinduism like few have seen it before. It is our prayer that many Hindus would see this video and seek what is true. Christians can utilize this video to equip themselves for witnessing encounters with Hindu friends, co-workers and neighbors.

Part 1: Overview of Hinduism

Part 2: The Doctrine of Reincarnation

VHS, 2 hours, \$12.00 + S&H

Audio soundtracks available — AC-56 & 57, \$9.00 + S&H



Glossary of Hindu Terms



Agni - early Hindu god of fire.

Apas - waters.

Apsaras - Shapely heavenly damsels for heavenly sensual pleasures.

Arjuna - main human character of the Bhagavad Gita.

Aryans - A light skinned people, closely related to the Iranians, that invaded from their homeland east of the Caspian Sea around 1500 B.C..

Atharva Veda - One of four early Hindu scriptures.

Bhagavad Gita - a scripture of Hinduism, likened by some to the New Testament of Christianity. Some Hare Krishnas teach you should read no other Hindu scripture. Other Hindus do not consider the Bhagavad-Gita to even be a valid scripture.

Bhagavad Gita - As It Is - The Hari Krishna translation of the Bhagavad Gita, which other Hindus claim emphasizes Krishna more than the original, and Hari Krishnas emphasize is the only Bhagavad-Gita in English you should read.

Brahma - The creator god and one of the three major gods of modern Hinduism.

Brahman - a male member of the highest caste.

Brahmana - a female member of the highest caste.

Brahmin - The name of the universal self. All and everyone is a part of Brahmin, though many do not realize it.

Brhaspati - prayer.

Bungees - untouchables, outcastes.

Caste System - In Hinduism it is divinely sanctioned.

Devatah - Sanskrit for demigods.

Dharma - Duty, an important concept in Hinduism.

Dogeater - synonym for outcaste.

Dravidians - Dark-skinned, these pre-Aryan inhabitants of India and Pakistan had a level of civilization comparable to the Sumerians and Egyptians.

Dyaus - sky or heaven.

Evil - A nebulous concept in Hinduism. Many Hindus would deny it exists, others would equate it with ignorance and passion, others would accept it and try to be beyond good and evil, and a few Hindus would try to experience evil as much as experiencing good.

Gandharvas - male fairies.

Ganesh (Ganesa) - Elephant headed god of impossible situations. A few believe him to be the supreme deity, but to most he is a popular but minor god.

Gargi - a personal name.

Ghee - Clarified butter, prized as a delicacy.

Hamunan - Monkey god.

Hari Krishna - A sect of Hinduism that believes Krishna is the highest God and the Bhagavad Gita is the only Hindu scripture they need to read.

Hinduism - Not a belief, but a menagerie of many different and partially conflicting religions. Historically some things all these religions have in common are the caste system, Vedas, reincarnation, and suttee.

Hinduism - Vedic The earliest known form of Hinduism. Has many similarities to Greco-Roman mythology.

Hinduism - Vedantic (or Upanishadic) More philosophical than Vedic and focuses on both the gods and Brahman as the Supreme god who contains all.

Indra - Supreme god of Vedic Hinduism, god of war, and national god

of the Aryans. With his thunderbolts in his hands, most think he and the Greek god Zeus had common origin. He is all but forgotten in modern Hinduism.

Indo-European Languages - A family of languages that linguists think go back 6000 years. Around 2000 B.C. the Western and Eastern branches split. Around 1000 B.C. the Indic and Iranian branches were totally separate. Vedic Sanskrit, and Avestan Iranian, were both around 1500 B.C. and are similar to each other.

Kali - Wife of Shiva the destroyer, Kali dances on the corpses she kills.

Karma - Roughly the law of cause and effect. The good things you do will come back to you in a beneficial way. The bad things you do will come back to haunt you. Some might equate it with poetic justice. As one Hindu said, if you have an abortion, then you will be reincarnated as an aborted fetus. This differs slightly from the Buddhist concept of Karma.

Krishna - Krishna was an early pre-Hindu Dravidian god considered a demon by the Aryans. Later he became one of the most beloved gods, known as the Cosmic Lover, both because of tales of his sex life and the wide devotion many have for him. Most Hindus consider him an incarnation of Vishnu, though a few consider Vishnu an incarnation of Krishna and Krishna the Supreme god.

Krsna - Alternate spelling for Krishna.

Kshatriyas - The warrior caste of Hinduism. Kshatriyas are primarily of Aryan ancestry.

Kunti - A nickname of Arjuna of the Bhagavad Gita.

Kuvera - god of wealth.

Lakshmi - A popular goddess of luck.

Law of Non-Contradiction - If A is true, then A is not false. If A exists then A cannot not exist. The Hindu scriptures as a whole violate this basic principle.

Mahabharata - The Epic of the Bharata family. An important scripture in "Epic Hinduism."

Manyu - anger.

Maruts - In early Hinduism the gods of storm thunder, closely associated with the Supreme god, Indra.

New Age - A heterogeneous mixture of many small religions that have been greatly influenced by Hinduism. New Age typically differs from Hinduism in having a western, not eastern concept of reincarnation and a silence or rejection of the caste system.

Oblation - means sacrifice. In Hinduism often of clarified butter or Soma.

Pandavas - Arjuna's clan.

Pantheism - The belief that all is God.

Prajapati - A wise sage and Lord of creatures.

Prtha - Nickname for Arjuna of the Bhagavad Gita.

Prthivi - earth.

Pundit - A person who has the job of keeping the temple clean. He gets to eat the sacrifices people bring.

Rama - Incarnation of Vishnu and hero of the epic the Ramayana.

Ramayana - Along with the Mahabharata, one of the two largest epics of Hinduism.

Reincarnation, Hindu - Anything can be reincarnated as anything.

Reincarnation, Western - People can only be re-incarnated as people.

Reincarnation, Buddhist - Anything can be reincarnated as anything, but our souls are constantly changing, so in a sense your next reincarnation is not exactly the you or a previous reincarnation.

Rig Veda - (Rg Veda, Rik Veda) The earliest Hindu scripture, probably written about 1400 B.C.. It has ten books and either 1028 or 1017 hymns. There are three strata in the Rig Veda: naturalistic polytheism, monotheism, and monism.

Sama Veda - One of four scriptures of early Hinduism.

Sanskrit - The language of the Aryan invaders. Linguists see a common origin for Sanskrit, Iranian, and southern European languages. Hence all these languages are called Indo-European.

Savitr - life-giver.

Self, Personal - That which is us, our consciousness, and our individuality. Our individuality, and separateness, is really an illusion though.

Self, Impersonal - Same as the Supersoul or Brahman. All the universe is the Impersonal Self, and the real key in Hinduism is realizing there is really no difference between your personal self and the impersonal self which is the universe.

Siva (Shiva) - The destroyer god. He is worshipped as the highest God by Shivites. He is usually worshipped as a phallus (male sexual organ).

Soma - a leafless plant with hallucinogenic effects. The Rig Veda often speaks of Soma as a way of being close to the gods (10.89.5-6, 1.48.12, 10.125.2).

Sraddha - faith.

Sudras - The servant caste in Hinduism. The Sudras are of Dravidian ancestry.

Supersoul - A synonym for that which all the universe is. It is a synonym for Brahmin, except that Hare Krishnas believe that Krishna is a name for the Supersoul too.

Suray - Apollo-like god who has a chariot with 7 mares.

Surya - daughter of the sun god. Cattle were slaughtered in her honor. Rig Veda says Indra is Surya (10.89.2).

Suttee - A practice of a widow burning to death on her husband's funeral fire. Until the British outlawed this practice, this was a thing all Hindus had in common.

Swarga - Heaven of the gods. A very sensual place.

Tantric Hinduism - A group that uses sexual practices in their worship. Most other Hindus deny that Tantric Hinduism is a true form of Hinduism.

Thuggee - An unusual sect of Hinduism.

Untouchables - Outcastes - dog-eaters, bungees. Hindus of other castes are not supposed to come near them. Hindus can freely associate with non-Hindus however.

Upanishads - Key scripture of later Vedantic Hinduism.

Usas - dawn goddess with 100 chariots.

Vaisya - Merchant class.

Vak - voice goddess.

Vala - demon of drought.

Varuna - early Hindu god of natural and moral order.

Vayu or Vata - wind god chariot.

Vedas - The four earliest scriptures of Hinduism. They are the Rig, Ather, Samur, and Yajur Vedas

Vishnu - The Creator God, who with three steps measured out the universe.

Visvakarman - world-maker god.

Vivasvan - the shining.

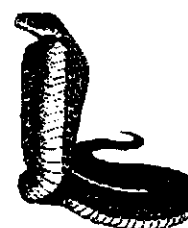
Yajur Veda - One of four scriptures of early Hinduism.

Vrta (Vrtasura) - cloud-demon killed by Indra.

Yama - god of the dead.

Zoroastrianism - An early religion of Iran. Like early Hinduism, Zoroastrians knew of Indra, but Zoroastrians called Indra an evil demon.

Vak - Goddess of voice, similar to the Latin *Vox*.



Hinduism Deep in the Heart of Texas

by Larry Wessels

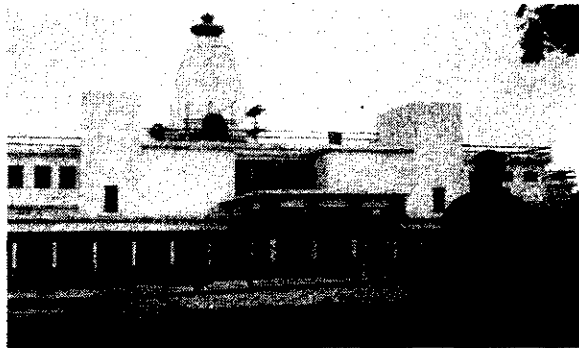


One dreary, overcast Saturday morning Jim Toungate and myself took a trip to investigate the new Hindu temple under construction about 15 miles SW of the city of Austin, Texas on FM 1826 in Northern Hayes County. The temple called *Shree Raseshwari* (Radha Rani) Temple, is being built by the International Society of Divine Love led by the Indian swami named H.D. Prakashanand Saraswati. The temple is located on a 200-acre tract of land that was formerly the Friday Mountain Boys Camp. The tract, which is now called "Barsana Dham," was purchased in 1990 and will serve as the Hindu sect's world HQ. It was interesting to note that the tract right next door is owned by the Friendship Baptist Church.

Armed with a 35mm camera Jim and myself began to explore the complex after finding the main entrance, following an ornate street lamp lined private road, and parking in the large parking lot to the side of the temple. Within 5 minutes a construction worker asked us to obtain permission from the office in order to shoot photographs. We complied with his request, and after removing our shoes, we entered the "Ashram Building" (office) and obtained permission from a very polite but suspicious office worker (who did take a second look at Jim's "J Christ" baseball cap). We were given a map of the complex and sent on our way.

Once outside we put our shoes back on

and began down the footpath leading through the interior of the complex. We saw the modest housing of the Hindu disciples spread around the North perimeter, the dining hall (I made a comment about food sacrificed to idols at the time), the vegetable gardens, the greenhouse, the orchard, a mound of dirt



Jim Toungate in front of the 35,000-sq ft Hindu Temple, one of the largest in North America.

which they call "Govardhan Hill" (their literature says this is a "holy hill" and "visitors should respect it and not allow children to climb up."), a small pond called "Prem Sarovar," the temple, of course, and generally peaceful country surroundings.

Some of the beliefs of the International Society of Divine Love are:

- ✕ God has six main forms: God Krishnu, God Ram, God Vishnu, God Shiva, Goddess Durga, and the impersonal form of God (pantheism).
- ✕ People's lives are governed by Sam-sara—a cycle of birth, death and re-birth—and that soul (atma) is reincarnated until it gains union with God, Moksha.
- ✕ There is no founder or creed. The main scriptures are the Upanishads (Vedas), the Gita and the Bhagwatam.
- ✕ Tolerance for other religions (universalism).
- ✕ Hindus who follow the Vedic traditions are vegetarians (because of their beliefs in reincarnation of ancestors in animal or insect form).

Regarding the temple itself, the March 5, 1995 *Austin American-Statesman* stated,

A granite-faced tower topped by a bronze and gold-leaf spire will stand 90 feet above the Hill Country. Pink marble will rest under foot in the lobby and veranda. A reflecting pool will resemble a lotus when seen from the open roof of the six-level complex.

Those touches are yet to be completed. For now, construction workers are concentrating on interior finish work, and the shilpis (traditional Hindu sculptors from India) are busy adding the details.

"We are trying to make the whole property a representation of the holy place we take our name from — Barsana, India," said Priya Dasi, a lecturer for the society.

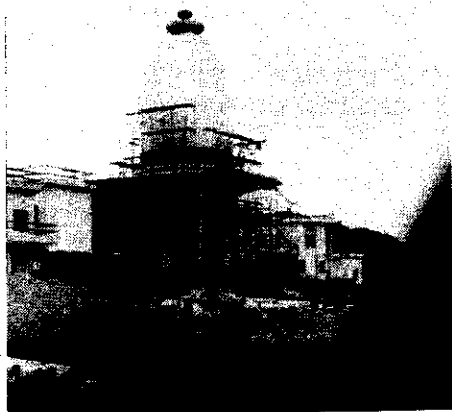
Through doorways that become progressively more ornate as they approach the temple deities, visitors will pass through a lobby and into a prayer hall that can seat 2,000. Lodging for residents and visitors will be on the second floor, and the roof will serve as a terrace, providing access to cooling breezes and a beautiful vista.

When the structure is finally completed, it will be a focal point for Austin's Hindu community, many of whom have come from India and must travel to San Antonio to attend the nearest temple. Religious events, cultural programs and holidays already celebrated at Barsana draw hundreds of participants.

"This is good for the next generation," said Geeta Goel of Austin, who moved to the United States from India 25 years ago. "Because of this temple, they will be under one roof and will learn from each other."

Jim and myself completed our tour after having used up our roll of film. As we drove back to Austin through the country-side of Central Texas, we were amazed that something like a Hindu community and temple that once seemed so far away was now just a short drive away. †

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."
(1 John 4:1 NASB)



Larry Wessels at the rear of the Temple.

Here they come!



Need help dealing with Mormons who come to your door? Ever wonder how to carry on a conversation with Mormon missionaries without immediately turning them off to anything you have to say? The Christian Answers audio cassette series, "Discussions with Mormon Missionaries," featuring Christian Answers Director Larry Wessels and some of his friends may be the very help you have been looking for. This six-tape series features actual discussions with real Mormon missionaries over a wide variety of subjects, such as:

- AC-41 "Mormon Beliefs and Changes"
- AC-42 "Marriage, Feelings, and Revelations"
- AC-43 "Contentions, Testimony, Book of Mormon"
- AC-44 "BOM Changes, Prophethood, and Works"
- AC-45 "The Godhead, Jesus, and the Devil"
- AC-46 "Missions, False Prophecies, and Gods Many"

Each individual cassette is just \$5.95 + S&H.

Get the entire series at the discounted price of \$29.00 + S&H.

(1 Peter 3:15)

If you have a question, or if there is a topic that you would like to see addressed in the CHRISTIAN ANSWERS JOURNAL, or if you just have a comment — feel free to write us. Selected letters received will appear in future editions of the journal.

How to contact us:

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS
P.O. Box 144441
Austin, TX 78714

Office
(512) 218-8022

E-mail

If you have a computer with a modem, you can contact us by E-mail via the Internet or America Online:

canswr@aol.com

We are working on setting up a home page on the World Wide Web. This will enable you to access information online and order products quickly. As soon as this service is available we will let you know.

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS JOURNAL

P.O. Box 144441

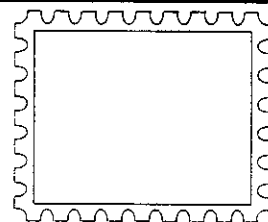
Austin, TX 78714

Postmaster:

Address Correction Requested

Please return entire magazine

Postage guaranteed



Inside this Issue:

*When Is Another Gospel,
Another Gospel?*

"Surprised by Truth"

*The Roman Catholic
Church In History*

Cultic Definitions

Major Errors of Campbellism

The Many Faces of Hinduism

"Give to every man an answer..." 1 Peter 3:15