



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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THE CATHOLIC WAY OR THE BIBLE (GOD'S) WAY?

April 2010

In recent months, dioceses around the world have been offering Catholics a spiritual benefit that fell out of favor decades ago - the indulgence, a sort of amnesty from punishment in the afterlife - and reminding them of the church's clout in mitigating the wages of sin. The fact that many Catholics under 50 have never sought one, and never heard of indulgences...simply makes their reintroduction more urgent among church leaders bent on restoring fading traditions of penance in what they see as a self-satisfied world. "Why are we bringing it back?" asked Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Brooklyn, who has embraced the move. "Because there is sin in the world." Like the Latin Mass and meatless Fridays, the indulgence was one of the traditions decoupled from mainstream Catholic practice in the 1960s by the Second Vatican Council, the gathering of bishops that set a new tone of simplicity and informality for the church. The indulgence is among the less noticed and less disputed traditions to be restored. But with a thousand-year history and volumes of church law devoted to its intricacies, it is one of the most complicated to explain. According to church teaching, even after sinners are absolved in the confessional and say their Our Fathers or Hail Marys as penance, they still face punishment after death, in Purgatory, before they can enter heaven. In exchange for certain prayers, devotions or pilgrimages in special years, a Catholic can receive an indulgence, which reduces or erases that punishment instantly, with no formal ceremony or sacrament. There are partial indulgences, which reduce purgatorial time by a certain number of days or years, and plenary indulgences, which eliminate all of it, until another sin is committed. You can get one for yourself, or for someone who is dead. You cannot buy one - the church outlawed the sale of indulgences in 1567 - but charitable contributions, combined with other acts, can help you earn one. There is a limit of one plenary indulgence per sinner per day. (Vitello, "For Catholics, a Door to Absolution Is Reopened,") -*The New York Times*. February 9, 2009 - From *TBC* (3/6/09).

There's so much wrong and unbiblical about this that it would take a book to answer it all. The most obvious issue is, how can one's sins be forgiven? According to the Church of Rome, partly by Christ's death (and Mary's intercession) and partly by one's good works or the works of others for him. First of all, Christ said while on the cross, **"It is finished!"** What was finished? Salvation, redemption, of course. **"But this man (Jesus), after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God"** ~*Hebrews 10:12*. But according to the Roman Catholic Church, it was not finished. Who will you believe; Christ or the Catholic Church? It can't be both. God's Word says, **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast."** ~*Ephesians 2:8,9*. God says salvation is by faith (alone) - not of works; by grace. You can't have it both ways. God speaks to that point also: **"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."** ~*Galatians 2:16*. Yes, Jesus did finish the work of salvation on the cross (He died for the sins of the whole world - I John 2:2). All one can do is **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."** ~*Acts 16:31*.

CORNERSTONE NEWS

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SUMMER

BIBLE CONFERENCE

JULY 11 – 16, 2010

SEVERAL SPEAKERS

MORNING & EVENING

FELLOWSHIP TIME

SPECIAL MUSIC

CHILDREN'S MEETINGS



YOUTH CORNER

EXCEPT! D. L. Moody said, "Notice how the Scripture puts it: "Except a man be born again..." John 3:3. From amongst a number of other passages where we find the word 'except' I would just name three. 1 – 'Except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise perish.' Luke 13:3,5. 'Except ye be **converted** and become as little children, ye cannot enter into the kingdom of God.' Matt. 18:3. 'Except your **righteousness** exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of Heaven.' Matt. 5:20." If you are going to be saved from your sins you must **repent**. That word means to change your mind about your sin; about your religion, etc. If you truly repent and believe in Christ as your Savior (if you truly repent, you also believe) you will be saved. Acts 3:19 says, "Repent ye therefore, and be **converted**, that your sins may be blotted out..." The problem is, we are all sinners, and to go to Heaven you must be righteous. God says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done..." We simply cannot be good enough! So, God has provided a perfect righteousness for us in Jesus Christ who died for our sins. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the **righteousness** of God in him." ~II Corinthians 5:21. Imagine, poor sinners given the righteousness of God! But you must repent and be converted. Do it NOW! "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.**" ~Acts 16:31.

MARTIN LUTHER ON SEPARATION FROM THOSE WHO TEACH ERROR. "Those who boldly stand for the truth will not long remain on friendly terms with teachers of error. Unity with them would be an unmistakable sign that we have lost the true doctrine. To receive evil workers, as Paul calls them (Phil.3:3) requires that we call evil good and good evil (Isa.5:20). To do this is to plunge into confusion from which there can be no recovery until truth and righteousness are again defined and honored in Biblical terms." If there is one thing God hates it is mixture! He says, "**Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.**" ~Ephesians 5:11. In II Cor. 6:14-17. It says, "**Come out from among them.**"

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD

Why are there so many different interpretations of the Bible? Like anything else, there are right ways and wrong ways. This book will help you get the truth from God's Word. \$2 each plus \$1.50 postage. 5 for \$10 pp. U.S. currency.

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

MOSQUE OPENING AT GROUND ZERO. When the Islamically motivated murderers piloted the hijacked commercial airliners into the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, they killed a lot of people. Two thousand seven hundred fifty-one people perished that day on the spot we now call Ground Zero. While much of the world stared in shock at that tragedy, none of us could have imagined that the event would serve as a jump-start for the proliferation of Islam in America. But that is exactly what has happened. Now we learn that a new Islamic mosque is opening in a building right next to Ground Zero. It is the plan of the owners to make it a full-service Islamic Cultural Center. When will our nation awaken to the presence of the enemy in our midst and stop pretending that everything is acceptable with this? – *Sword Press* (1/8/2010).

WIFE OF BENNY HINN FILES FOR DIVORCE.

The wife of televangelist Benny Hinn has filed for divorce in California. Suzanne Hinn filed the papers in Orange County on Feb. 1, citing irreconcilable differences after more than 30 years of marriage. The papers note that the two separated on Jan. 26. Hinn's ministry released a statement saying, "Although Pastor Hinn has faithfully endeavored to bring healing to their relationship, those efforts failed." Hinn's TV broadcasts are seen by millions of people around the world and he travels the globe in his ministry's plane, named Dove One, holding events he calls "Miracle Crusades" that promise healings. Critics and watchdog groups have accused Hinn of raising money to enrich himself. He is one of six televangelists under investigation by Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley, the ranking Republican on the Senate Banking Committee, over whether he complied with IRS rules for nonprofits. Hinn has said on his website that external auditors ensure his compliance with IRS regulations. – *AP* (2/19/10)

HOW CLIMATE-GATE FANATICS CHANGED SCIENCE.

[Excerpts] First came the Climategate e-mails made public in November that showed how top-level climate scientists distorted research, plotted to destroy data and conspired to prevent publication of dissenting views. The British government concluded last week that the University of East Anglia's Climate Research Unit violated the nation's freedom of information act, although the violations occurred too long ago for prosecution. The CRU has been a major source of data for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which for 20 years has issued alarms about supposed global warming. The e-mails conclusively establish the intellectual dishonesty of the climate scientists at the CRU and their co-conspirators. Recently there have

been even more shocking revelations. The IPCC has claimed that warming will cause the Himalayan glaciers to disappear by 2035. It turns out that that claim was based solely on a pamphlet published by the World Wildlife Federation, based on no science at all. The head of the IPCC was informed that a 1996 report said those glaciers could melt significantly by 2350, not 2035, but he let the claim stand. As Christopher Booker writes in the *Telegraph* of London, "A Canadian analyst has identified more than 20 passages in the IPCC's report which cite similarly non-peer-reviewed WWF or Greenpeace reports as their authority." Similarly, the *Times* of London reports that a claim that warming could endanger "up to 40 percent" of the Amazon rainforest came from an anti-smoking activist and had no scientific basis whatever. "The global warming movement as we have known it is dead," writes Walter Russell Mead of the Council on Foreign Relations in *The American Interest*. "The movement died from two causes: bad science and bad politics." – *TBC* (3/1/10)

COOPERATING WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

Christian Today reports that American evangelist Luis Palau will return to China this month to address a crowd predicated to reach 20,000. Palau will return to Chong Yi Church, a registered church in Hangzhou, where he first preached to about 8,000 people in 2007. The church is only designed to hold about 5,400 people, but the event is expected to fill up every church building and be projected outside via loudspeaker. Palau has preached at various registered churches in China before, with the stated goal to eventually hold an open-air festival in China as the evangelist is allowed to do in other countries. Palau has focused on relationships with registered churches, hoping to build relationships with government officials. The evangelist's spokesman says Palau met with underground church leaders in 2004, when they encouraged him to gain China's ear through the mostly-genuine registered church. – *Religion Today* (3/5/10). Ed. Palau, Franklin Graham, and their like have absolutely no understanding of the Biblical concept of separation. Can you believe that God is going to accomplish anything for His glory when it is mixed up with *atheistic Christianity*? God's Word is so clear that even a child could understand it. God says, "**Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.**" ~ *Ephesians 5:11*. But these new evangelicals are wiser than God! What a sad spectacle their compromises have been over the last 65 years. Of course, that is the very nature of compromise – once you start there is no stopping without true repentance.

WOULD YOU LIKE A DEEPER LIFE?

“I almost shrink from hearing the expression, ‘the deeper life,’ because so many people want to talk about it as a topic - but no one seems to want to know and love God for Himself. God is the deeper life! Jesus Christ Himself is the deeper life, and as I plunge on into the knowledge of the Triune God, my heart moves on into the blessedness of His fellowship. This means there is less of me and more of God - thus my spiritual life deepens, and I am strengthened in the knowledge of His will... You’d like to have a deeper life that could be given to you with a syringe, or a glass of water and a pill. ‘Take one pill three times a day.’ You just can’t do that. But that is the way some people get their religion. They want it in pill form, so they can buy books. Brethren, there is no such thing. There’s a cross and a gallows, there’s a man with stripes on His back; there’s an apostle with no property. There’s a tradition of loneliness and weariness and rejection and glory. But there are no pills. It is only Himself, Himself, Himself.” -A.W.Tozer. There is talk about revival, and has been; there’s been preaching on revival (I have preached it and written about it many times). Why do we Bible believers not have revival? It certainly is needed, desirable, and Scriptural. I believe the sad truth is we don’t really want it! It is going to cost something; No, it will cost everything! We simply won’t pay the price. We like our soft, easy-going Christianity. There’s only one way! **“If my people which are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land.”** ~II Chronicles 7:14.

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WHAT REALLY MATTERS

In his Gospel meetings, D. L. Moody often had a time for testimonies. During one of these times a man got up and said: “I have been for five years on the Mount of Transfiguration.” Immediately, there was a searching question from Moody: “How many souls did you lead to the Lord Jesus Christ in the last year?” The dumbfounded man paused and said, “Well, I don’t know.” Mr. Moody persisted, “Have lead any to Christ.” The man answered, “I don’t know that I have lead any.” “Well,” said Moody, “We don’t need any of your mountain top experiences. When a man gets so high that he can’t reach down to some poor sinners, there is something wrong with his Christian experience.” There are any number of things a Christian can do - and ought to do. But if we are not trying consistently to win others to Christ, we are neglecting the main thing. We often speak about having our priorities right. Surely soul-winning is a high, if not the highest, priority of the true Christian. Our Lord gave us His commission: **“Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”** ~Mark.16:15. The apostle Paul said, **“...I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”** ~I Corinthians 9:22. We may not be as successful as Paul, but we can all do our best to win some poor lost souls. Jesus said, **“Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”** ~Acts 1:8. Are you being obedient to the last words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?