

Letters to Champions of the Truth July 2008

james@gotruth.com www.gotruth.com

Dear James,

I pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will open your understanding to this comment that you have claimed. Quote: The Catholic Church is the only way to Salvation. Please read these scripture verses and ask the Lord for your Salvation while you are reading these verses. These verses are in no particular order, they just proclaim to everyone and the world that Jesus is the only Savior & the only way to Salvation. Note: Not one of these scriptures mention Church. Not Catholic, not Protestant, Baptist etc. No not one. The Church is not a building or fraternity or group of Religious people. No, the Church is the true believers of Jesus Christ that through him have been saved. We are also called the Bride of Christ. Remember Salvation is through grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, not of anything we could do or of works. So, I pray that the Lord Jesus Christ opens your eyes of understanding!

Luke 1:69

Ephesians 5:32; 2:30

1John 4:14; 1:47

Psalms 27:1; 2:11; 37:39

John 10:9; 62:2; 4:42; 89:26; 3:16; 25:9

Acts 15:11

Isaiah 12:2; 6:68; 43:11; 8:24

Jeremiah 3:23

Zep 3:17

1Cor 3:11

Hosea 13:4

Romans 5:9

1Timothy 4:10

1Thes 5:9

Hebrews 5:9; 9:28

Matthew 28:18 - 20

The authority I have is through Jesus Christ. He said to go and preach his Gospel to all the world. So to you, where is your authority, a dead Pope that has wrote words for you to believe in. Trust God's words, not mans.

Praise God

Concerned Viewer

Dear Viewer,

Thanks for taking the time to share your comments, and scripture passages, with me. I looked up and read every one of the passages and, of course, agree with each and every one 100%. I'm not sure why you shared them -- did you suppose that I did not agree with them?

And I would never make the stand-alone statement: the Catholic Church is the only way to salvation, because such a (stand-alone) statement can be easily misunderstood. That is why I spent four minutes in the previous week's show, and ten minutes this past show, properly explaining, clarifying, and addressing the topic, as the Catholic Church has done for the last 2,000 years, and particularly in the last 1,000 years. The Catholic Church is Christ's Church, his Bride, and she alone teaches the fullness of Christ's teaching and possesses, as a gift from her husband, the surest means of salvation and sanctification, by teaching the whole truth and administering the seven sacraments in every age.

To be sure, many through the centuries, though bearing during their life the name of some other branch of Christianity, have been saved, but if so, not *because* of the errors they held, but *in spite of them*, and because they may have, during their life, not had the benefit of hearing the full gospel of Jesus Christ (the Catholic gospel). This is not a very safe path (the path of remaining outside Christ's Catholic Church and clinging to errors, and counting on a defense of "I didn't know any better"), because such persons would only be excused of their ignorance if they were not responsible for it. But you and I both know that a person can willfully turn away from the truth, and if they are guilty of that (and Christ only is the judge) then they cannot be saved.

But really, as I pointed out in my last show, who wants to settle for anything less than everything Christ teaches?

continued on page 2

So, some people may live on earth as a Baptist or Methodist or Jew or Muslim for that matter, but if they are saved, at death, they must have some relationship with Christ *and* his Catholic Church, even if they might not have had the opportunity to embrace it before death, due to ignorance, less-than-willful prejudice, or lack of opportunity. As I have often said, there are many non-Catholics who are better Catholics than many Catholics. Some Catholics may know of the truth and fatally fail to live it (and will go to hell), and some non-Catholics may more successfully live Catholic Truth (and show by their lives, perhaps, their unconscious belief in the Catholic truth of Jesus) and if so, will go to heaven (after, if necessary, a time of purification in purgatory).

There is some truth in your statement that the Church is the community of true believers. But, as I have often said, we are poor judges of who and who is not a "true" believer, because we can easily deceive ourselves. Jesus alone is qualified to distinguish between the two, and judge the hearts of men. The problem, however, is not just one of sincerity, but of "what" is believed. If someone believes, for example, something fatally false about Jesus (for example, that Jesus is not fully human; or that he is not divine, but only the most excellent and perfect man), then they are not really believing in Jesus, but in a mental construction of their own mind -- which has no power to save. That is why Our Lord, in his infinite wisdom, to guarantee that his truth would be faithfully presented to all generations, founded a Church (Matthew 16) and gave his Church (Bride) a visible leader, Peter. He invested Peter and the Church with the power to govern and teach (go therefore into the whole world, and teach them to observe.... He who hears you hears me..... If they do not listen to the Church, treat them as you would a tax collector....)

So, the Church is a visible society with a visible leader, but there are some who appear to be in it but who may in fact be dead members (Catholics living in serious sin, for example) or those who appear to belong but secretly are clinging to some non-Catholic and fatal error (they would, by their obstinate clinging to a fatal error, exclude themselves even from the Church). And likewise, there are some who do not appear to belong to the Catholic Church (they may appear to belong to some other group) but who may, in fact, by their lives of authentic love and fervent belief in Jesus (so long as their faulty belief in and knowledge of Jesus is not so faulty as to fatally cloud their understanding, as noted earlier-- in other words, so long as their picture of Jesus in their heads and hearts is not so

false that it is no longer the real Jesus they love, but an illusion) but they may in fact be enough of a Catholic to be, as you say, a "true believer" and if so, they would be, as you may imagine, an invisible member of the one true Church of Jesus Christ (they would be in that case, in some mysterious way, a Catholic) and if they die in that condition, they may be saved.

So, there will be many people who lived as Catholics but who in fact were not, and if they die in that condition, they will be lost. Likewise, there will be many who lived as non-catholics, but in fact, secretly, were, and if they die in that condition, they will be saved.

So, it's wrong to say that only those who (in the eyes of the world) are Catholics will be saved. Likewise, it is wrong to say that all (in the eyes of the world) non-Catholics are going to hell. It is right to say that only those who are connected in some mysterious way at death with Christ and his Catholic Church will be saved. It is also right to say that if someone, knowing that Christ established the Catholic Church as the sure means of salvation, willfully and with sufficient knowledge refuses to join it or remain in it (and similarly, willfully rejects her teaching); such a person cannot be saved.

Even all of the above does not fully and fairly address all of the nuances and exceptions, but it is a better representation of your quote below, that "the Catholic Church is the only way to salvation."

The more important point, as I stressed on my show: why would anyone want to take any path that was risky? Why would anyone want to drink water that was largely pure, but contained just a little bit of poison? We should be focusing on embracing the whole, pure (Catholic) truth of Jesus, and not focus on the many exceptions that may allow a person to escape the judgment of Christ for clinging to error, great or small. Jesus and his truth are too beautiful and important to settle for anything less than the whole truth..

Hope this helps. Again, I appreciate that you watch the show, and take the time to ask these questions.

God bless

James Louviere

P.S. I used several times above the term "fatal" error. That is my way of distinguishing between a lesser truth or a minor misunderstanding or half-hearted rejection of it and a central and/or more important truth and a full-knowledge and willful rejection of it — the latter would more likely be "fatal" or deadly (to the salvation of your soul) than the former.

Letters to Champions of the Truth July 2008

james@gotruth.com

www.gotruth.com