

## **Beliefs Concerning God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit**

- x You only need to trust Christ to be saved.
- x I don't need Christ—I can negotiate with God at the Judgment.
- x The Pope is Jesus Christ on earth.
- x “Let go and let God.”
- x I have pictures of Jesus in my house and church.
- x I don't believe in God.
- x If there was a God, he would not allow bad things to happen.

## You Only Need To Trust In Christ To Be Saved

Is trust in Christ all that's needed to be saved? Is mental assent and agreement to what you've deduced from listening to a preacher going to do it?

“Just trust in Christ”—most denominations proclaim—“and you're saved.”

“Lay your hand on the radio and repeat after me!” Done that.

“Kneel with me and recite the Sinner's Prayer.” Been there—about twenty times.

According to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, the founder is credited with preaching the gospel to 215 million people. However, after walking the aisle to mutter the “Sinner's Prayer,” none followed up by attaching themselves to a church family, and only 2 percent remained faithful to their decision.<sup>1</sup>

Salvation is not a drive-through window affair. God is not a short-order cook, answering calls to 30-second prayers. Nor is it praying the Sinner's Prayer, a recipe found nowhere in scripture. Salvation is a deadly serious business.

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So, therefore, anyone of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:28 - 33)

I've known many who submitted to Christ, only to wander back to their former lives. The parable of the sower and the seed illustrates this. (Mark 4)

Trust (faith) in Christ is the first step toward salvation. However, *repentance* is also part of the process, where you determine to change your life's direction. (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 17:30) Confession of your faith is also mentioned. (Matt 10:32; Rom 10:9) Baptism is the final step, where you submit your body for burial in water.<sup>2</sup> (Acts 2:38; Rom 6:1-4; Gal. 2:20; 1 Pet 3:21) Thus, mind, spirit, *and* body all submit. Once these four conditions have been met, you're then *justified* before God—no longer guilty of sin.

---

<sup>1</sup> See the article, [Case Studies in Easy Evangelism](#), by Thomas Williamson.

<sup>2</sup> For a more detailed insight into its necessity, read the article, *Baptism*, under *Lessons*, at [bogadocious.com](#).

(Rom. 3:23-24) The process of sanctification—a life-long process—then commences, re-shaping, and molding you into Jesus' image. (Rom. 8:29)

## **I Don't Need Christ; I Can Negotiate With God At The Judgment**

Many envision the Judgment Day in a very physical sense, where they'll be in a giant courtroom and hear testimony both for and against them. Satan or some version of him is seen as the prosecutor. Then they'll be called to the stand and give their side of the story. God will then weigh the evidence and render a verdict accordingly. We anticipate the event with crossed fingers, hoping the good deeds outweigh the bad ones.

Truth be told, most of us can't talk our way out of a speeding ticket much less a holy verdict given by the Almighty. Being found righteous takes place in this life when a person is born again through Christ's blood. The idea that your "good" deeds will be weighed against your "bad" deeds contradicts what the Bible says: *There is none righteous, no not one. All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.* (Rom 3:10, 23) You're doomed. No Get-Out-Jail-Free card. Any sense of negotiating with God must be done while you're alive. Note:

(The Holy Spirit)...will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. (John 16:8-11)

Thus, the person without Christ *has already been convicted and found guilty*. There will be no negotiations. God will not answer your demands as to why you think He should have done something different. Or why He allowed such-and-such in your life. He has provided the sacrifice. If you don't accept it, prepare to face the consequences.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (John 14:6)

He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent Him. I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. (John 5:23, 24)

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. (1 John 5:12)

In other words, you don't get to God or get into heaven without Christ as your Savior. He is, in a sense, our Advocate, our Defense Attorney (1 John 2:1). Self-representation will not be an option.



## The Pope Is Jesus Christ On Earth.

Many Catholics do not know what their church teaches. When I conversed via letter to a Master's Degree graduate from a Florida Catholic college about the Pope being Christ on earth, he replied, "Get your facts straight before coming up with such nonsense." So, without further adieu, let the Catholic Church speak for itself on this matter. The following are from their own published works. Most of these are ancient but still serve as a basis for this damnable doctrine.

These words appeared in the Roman Canon Law: "To believe that *our Lord God the Pope* (emphasis mine) has not the power to decree as he is decreed, is to be deemed heretical. *The Gloss "Extravagantes" of Pope John XXII Cum inter, Tit. XIV, Cap. IV. Ad Callem Sexti Decretalium, Paris, 1685.*

---

Father A. Pereira says: "It is quite certain that Popes have never approved or rejected this title '*Lord God the Pope,*' for the passage in the gloss referred to appears in the edition of the *Canon Law* published in Rome in 1580 by Gregory XIII."

---

Writers on the Canon Law say, "*The Pope and God are the same, so he has all power in heaven and earth.*"- *Barclay Cap. XXVII, p. 218. Cities Petrus Bertrandus, Pius V. - Cardinal Cusa supports his statement.*

---

Pope Nicholas I declared that "the appellation of God had been confirmed by Constantine on the *Pope, who, being God, cannot be judged by man.*" - *Labbe IX Dist.: 96 Can. 7, Satis evidentur, Decret Gratian Primer Para.*

---

"The pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that *he is not a mere man...he is as it were God on earth, sole sovereign of the faithful of Christ, chief of kings, having plenitude of power.*" -Lucius Ferraris, «*Prompta Bibliotheca*», 1763, Volume VI, 'Papa II', pp.25-29

---

"The supreme teacher in the Church is the Roman Pontiff. Union of minds, therefore, requires...complete submission and obedience of will to the Church and to the Roman

Pontiff, *as to God Himself.*” -Leo VIII, *On the Chief Duties of Christians as Citizens*, Encyclical letter, 1890.

---

“God separates those whom the Roman Pontiff, who exercises the functions, *not of mere man, but of the true God...*dissolves, not by human but rather *by divine authority.*” Decretals of Gregory IX», Book 1, Chapter 7.3

---

“Hence the Pope is crowned with a triple crown, *as king of heaven and of earth* and of the lower regions (*infernorum*).” -Lucius Ferraris, *Prompta Bibliotheca*, 1763, Volume VI, 'Papa II', p.26)

---

“Innocent III has written: “Indeed, it is not too much to say that in view of the sublimity of their offices the *priests are so many gods.*” *The Dignity of the Priesthood*, by Liguori p. 36

---

“*The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, he is Jesus Christ himself, hidden under the veil of flesh.*” *Catholic National* July 1895.

---

“*We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty*” *Pope Leo XIII Encyclical Letter*, June 20, 1894.

---

“For thou art the *shepherd*, thou art the *physician*, thou art the *director*, thou art the *husbandman*, finally thou art *another God on earth.*” Labbe and Cossart's, *History of the Councils*. Vol. XIV, col. 109

---

The title, '*Lord God the Pope,*' is found within a gloss of *Extravagantes of Pope John XXII*, title 14, chapter 4

---

In an Antwerp edition of the *Extravagantes*, the words, “*Dominum Deum Nostrum Papam*” (Our Lord God the Pope) can be found in column 153. In a Paris edition, they are found in column 140.

---

Roman Catholic Canon Law stipulates through Pope Innocent III that the Roman pontiff is “the vicegerent upon earth, *not a mere man, but of a very God;*” and in a gloss on the passage it is explained that this is because he is *the vicegerent of Christ, who is “very God and very man.”* *Decretales Domini Gregorii translatione Episcoporum*, (on the transference of Bishops), title 7, chapter 3; *Corpus Juris Canonice* (2nd Leipzig ed., 1881), col. 99; (Paris, 1612), tom. 2, *Devretales*, col. 205

---

“The pope is *the supreme judge* of the law of the land... He is the *vicegerent (replacement) of Christ*, who is not only *a Priest forever*, but also *King of kings and Lord of lords.*” *La Civiltà Cattolica*, March 18, 1871, quoted in Leonard Woosely Bacaon, *An Inside View Of The Vatican Council* (American Tract Society ed.), p.229, n.

---

*The Bull Unam Sanctam...* Issued by Pope Boniface VIII reads as follows: “The Roman Pontiff judges all men, but is judged by no one. We declare, assert, define and pronounce: to be subject to the Roman Pontiff is to every human creature necessary for salvation that which was spoken of Christ 'thou has subdued all things under his feet' may well seem verified in me... I have the authority of the King of Kings. *I am all in all and above all, so that God himself and I, the vicar of God, are one, and I am able to do all that God can do.*”

---

“Christ entrusted His office to the chief pontiff;... but all power in heaven and in earth has been given to Christ;... therefore the chief pontiff, who is His vicar, *will have this power.*” *Corpus Juris*, chap. 1 column 29, translated from a gloss on the words, *Porro Subesse Romano Pontiff.*

---

“The pope is the supreme judge of the law of the land...*He is the vicegerent of Christ*, and is not only *a priest forever*, but also *King of kings and Lord of lords*”--*La Civiltà Cattolica*, March 18, 1871.

---

“All the faithful must believe that the Holy Apostolic See and the Roman Pontiff [the Pope] possesses the *primacy over the whole world*, and the Roman Pontiff is the



successor of blessed Peter, Prince of the Apostles, and is *true vicar (earthly replacement) of Christ*, and head of the whole church, and father and teacher of all Christians; and that full power was given to him in blessed Peter to rule, feed, and govern the universal Church by Jesus Christ our Lord.” *First Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of Christ, “Eternal Pastor,”* published in the fourth session of the Vatican Council, 1870, chap. 3, in Philip Schaff’s, *Creeds of Christendom*, vol. 2, p. 262.

---

“The Pope’s authority is unlimited, incalculable; it can strike, as Innocent III says, wherever sin is; it can punish every one; it allows no appeal and is itself Sovereign Caprice; for the Pope carries, according to the expression of Boniface VIII, all rights in the Shrine of his breast. *As he has now become infallible*, he can by the use of the little word, “orbi,” (which means that he turns himself round to the whole Church) *make every rule, every doctrine, every demand, into a certain and incontestable article of Faith*. No right can stand against him, no personal or corporate liberty; or as the [Roman Catholic] canonists put it, “*The tribunal of God and of the pope is one and the same.*” Ignaz von Dollinger, *A Letter Addressed to the Archbishop of Munich*, 1871; as quoted in MacDougall, *The Acton Newman Relations* (Fordham University Press) pp. 119,120.

---

“The Saviour Himself is the door of the sheepfold: 'I am the door of the sheep.' Into this fold of Jesus Christ, *no man may enter unless he be led by the Sovereign Pontiff; and only if they be united to him can men be saved*, for the Roman Pontiff is the Vicar of Christ and His personal representative on earth.” (Pope John XXIII in his homily to the Bishops and faithful assisting at his coronation on November 4, 1958).

---

“This is our last lesson to you: receive it, engrave it in your minds, all of you: by God's commandment *salvation is to be found nowhere but in the Church; the strong and effective instrument of salvation is none other than the Roman Pontificate.*” Pope Leo XIII, *Allocution For The 25th Anniversary Of His Election*, February 20, 1903; *Papal Teachings: The Church*, Benedictine Monks of Solesmes, St. Paul Editions, Boston, 1962, par. 653).

---

“Furthermore, in this one Church of Christ no man can be or remain who does not accept, recognize and obey the authority and *supremacy of Peter and his legitimate successors.*” Pope Pius XI, Encyclical, *Mortalium animos*, January 6, 1928, *The Papal Encyclicals*, Claudia Carlen, I.H.M., McGrath Publishing Co., 1981, pp. 317, 318.

---

“We define that the Holy Apostolic See (the Vatican) and the Roman Pontiff *hold the primacy over the whole world.*” *A Decree of the Council of Trent*, quoted in Philippe Labbe and Gabriel Cossart, *The Most Holy Councils*, col. 1167.

---

“Of what sublime dignity is the office of the Christian priest who is thus privileged to act as the ambassador and the vicegerent of Christ on earth! He continues the essential ministry of Christ; he teaches the faithful with the authority of Christ, he pardons the penitent sinner with the power of Christ, *he offers up again the same sacrifice of adoration and atonement which Christ offered on Calvary.* No wonder that the name which spiritual writers are especially found of applying to the priest is that of *alter Christus. For the priest is and should be another Christ*” *Faith of Millions*, John O'Brien, Ph.D., LL.D., 268-269; *nihil obstat*, by Rev. T. E. Dillon; *Censor Librorum and Imprimatur*, by John Francis Noll, D.D., Bishop of Fort Wayne).

## **“Let Go And Let God.”**

The mantra, "let go and let God," has been used by religious groups to express a need to hand over all troubles to God and let Him take care of them. While it's true that God can do everything Himself, does it necessarily follow that this is His will? Let's see what the Bible says about God doing all the work.

### Example 1:

When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. (Exo 15:23-25) NIV

Get it? God did the actual miracle, but for some odd reason, He had Moses toss a stick into the water.

### Example 2:

In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah said, "...you are going to die; you will not recover." Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD...And Hezekiah wept bitterly. The word of the LORD came to Isaiah: "...I will heal you." Then Isaiah said, "Prepare a poultice of figs." They did so and applied it to the boil, and he recovered. (2 Kings 20:1-7) NIV

Who did the actual healing? God, right? But, He also required that some medicine be applied to the wound. Could God have done it without the poultice? You bet He could! But for some reason, man had a part, just as at the waters at Marah.

### Example 3:

"I will establish your borders from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the desert to the River. I will hand over to you the people who live in the land and you will drive them out before you." (Exo 23:31) NIV

This is during the time God told the Hebrews about the Promised Land. God's part: "I will hand you over to the people." Man's part: "You will drive them out." Again, could not God simply have wiped the land clean of the Canaanites, without the Jews having to do all that killing? Of course, He could have! But we have a part also. God is not going to do everything for us.

#### Example 4:

“Give us this day, our daily bread...”

We don't pray for bread and then stand with our mouths open to heaven, do we? God will do His part and we have to get to work.

When it comes to the issue of salvation, this same attitude crops up: *God does it all...we don't have to do anything*. Denominational preachers wring their hands, crying out, “We're saved by faith, not by works!” Has God provided the sacrifice for our sins? Sure has. Christ died to save all men. So what is our part? How about reaching out and grabbing that gift? Grace reaches down (God's part) and faith reaches up (our part).

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:37-38)

Peter didn't say, “Pray the Sinner's Prayer, brothers!” He said, “Change your evil ways (repent) and go get baptized!”

Don't be misled by the "faith only" movement. You have a part to play and that part involves forcing your mind AND body into compliance with God's will. If you're too embarrassed to get baptized in front of people you don't know, then perhaps you're not at the point where you need a savior. A person coming to Christ has to forsake everything, including their pride. The truly brokenhearted don't care what others think; all they know is that they need a Savior to remove the load of guilt they've been lugging around.

## I Have Pictures Of Jesus In My House Or Church

Since no one knows what Jesus looked like, does it matter having his likeness hanging on the wall? I don't mind the scenes—Jesus dragging a cross, preaching on a hill, etc—but portraits are not per scripture. And yes, the Bible does have something to say about this:

Therefore from now on, we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, *yet now we know Him in this way no longer.* (emphasis mine) (2 Cor 5:16)

Isaiah sheds some light on Christ's physical description:

For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face. He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (Isa 53:2-3)

The whole idea of Jesus coming into the world was that He gave up His heavenly glory and became a servant. (Phil 2:6-11) Part of that included his physical appearance. Note again Isaiah words: *He has no stately form or majesty...nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.* In other words, Jesus probably looked like a common man, a guy who could disappear in a crowd. (Luke 4:29 – 30; John 5:13) He wasn't some blond-haired, blue-eyed “surfer Jesus,” as Matt Slick<sup>3</sup> likes to pointedly remind people.

The NLT translates Isaiah 53:3, *We turned our backs on him and looked the other way when he went by.* Was this while Jesus was on his way to the cross? Or is the text speaking to his humble appearance as a man, one of the “invisible” people whom society tends to ignore?

Bottom Line: There's nothing wrong with art that inspires, but it can get carried to the extreme.

If you haven't been baptized through faith and repentance, where you are given the Holy Spirit, no picture, Rosary, prayers to Mary, or anything else will save you from your sins. (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-6, Galatians 3:26-28, etc)

---

<sup>3</sup> Matt Slick is the founder of CARM.org. (Christian Apologetics Research Ministry)

## **I Don't Believe In God**

Guess what? I used to think the same way. Why did I change? Because I'm dim-witted? (A lot of folks think we Christians are.) Because I don't believe in science? Because I'm some kind of namby-pamby, pie-in-the-sky sort of dude? I changed because I started studying the issue. One word, one verse, one sentence, one page at a time. In a word, I wanted to know. And some helped me along the way.

There are two classes of people when we speak of belief in God: those who *want* to believe and those who don't care. I'm not referring to active atheists, but to those who sort of sashay through life, never thinking about death and the Beyond. In my 60-some years, I've known many young men and women who met early deaths, who laughed and said, "When you're dead, you're dead!" They took a great gamble in their foolish thinking, never realizing that Eternity is a long time to be wrong.

My only suggestion is to pick up that Bible and start with the gospel of John. Don't start in Matthew—the genealogy stuff will make you lose interest. Read John. Then decide from there. And get a modern English translation!

If you are one of those who have bought into the idea that the Bible is a bunch of fairy tales, you've not studied the issue. Many smart men—scientists from all disciplines—have challenged the archaeological data, the historical stuff, even the weather patterns mentioned in the Book of Acts, all concluding that the Bible is accurate. Don't just sit there and feel comfortable in the company of the crowd who has decided the Bible is fiction.

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." (Psalms 14:1)

## **If There Was A God, He Wouldn't Allow Evil In The World**

This is perhaps the most-asked question by folks. They see God as an omnipotent being, and He is! But if he has all this unlimited power, why can't he just swoop down out of heaven and set things straight? There are several reasons.

1. *God is not our mother.* He is not some genie in a bottle who does our bidding every time something goes wrong in the world. Neither does He play favorites. (Rom 2:11) God sees each of us the same way and is not impressed by credentials, social status, talent, or educational level. That being the case, if God were to "step and fetch" every time someone prayed, He would have to do it for every man, woman, and child on the planet. Some may argue that this wouldn't be a problem for an Almighty, Omniscient God.

2. *God wants us to come to Him.* There is a verse in Genesis that gives us a clue:

The LORD said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years." (Gen 6:3)

In other words, at that time, the Holy Spirit (God's Spirit) could no longer abide with humanity. Why? Because we are made up of minds and bodies enslaved by sin. (Rom 6:17, 22) He is too holy to "pal around" with sinners. In the beginning, God had fellowship with certain individuals. (Gen. 3:8; 5:22) Eventually, however, He had to pull back and let us run our inevitable course.

3. *We would have no reason to repent.* If God was running around the globe putting out fires for every conflict and wrongdoing, the earth would be fat, dumb, and happy. The urge to seek forgiveness for our sins just wouldn't exist, however. If any *did* seek Him, it would be for daily physical care, much like the crowds who followed Jesus for bread. (John 6) This is why it's difficult for the wealthy to seek salvation—all of their needs are met. (Luke 18: 24, 25) Never experiencing the calamities that befall the rest of us, rich folks go through life, for the most part, self-satisfied. They are not driven by hardship to seek out God, drop to their knees, and cry out for mercy. Why worry? Money is the answer to everything! (Ecc 10:19)

4. *Hard times are what bring people to Christ.* Riding behind reason #3, it is hardship that oftentimes brings us to repentance. I've heard alcoholics testify that it was only after they had "hit bottom" that they finally realized their condition and were driven to find a remedy. Where do you find people praying to God? Around a hospital bed, where a

loved one is slipping into Eternity. In the cockpit of an aircraft as it plummets to earth. When the money runs out and hunger lurks nearby. In a prison cell.

The excuse of God allowing Evil is rationalization by many to avoid coming to terms with their sin. "If there *was* a God, he wouldn't allow such-and-such to take place." When Adam and Eve sinned, they essentially handed Satan the keys to our world. It then became his world. That is why he is called the Prince of this World. (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) It is not God's world. He gave it to us and we gave it to the devil. Because of that, the Creator allows for terrible things because of the choices that we made and are still making. One has only to look at the court decisions made against Christianity and biblical teachings to verify who runs this world. And yet folks want God to run around like some scullery maid cleaning up our messes.

It's not up to God to try and make this world a better place to live. We need to come to Him on His terms. You want God to clean up a mess? Then heed the call to salvation. Come to Christ and accept the sacrifice He made for your sins.