

## **"THE HERETICAL MESS BEHIND THE CATHOLIC MASS"**

The RCC claims "the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*). Pope Benedict called the Mass "the sum and substance of our faith."

### **I. WHAT MAKES THE MASS A HERETICAL TEACHING?**

- A. The teaching that the bread and juice become the literal body and blood of Jesus.

Every time Mass is held in a Catholic Church, the pope, bishop, or priest claims that he is changing the elements mysteriously into the body and soul of the risen Lord.

"These material things are transubstantiated; they become the Body and Blood of a divine Person, a Person who represents men in a unique way, for Christ is the second head of the human race, the only victim truly capable of pleasing God" (*New Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. IX, p. 415).

The Catholic church teaches that Christ is physically present in the Mass, and so the hosts, or elements, should be worshipped as well.

- B. The claim that the Mass is a sacrifice that remits sins.

"The Mass is numerically the same act as that of Calvary. ...There can be no doubt that the Mass is a sacrifice. ...When the Church begs God to accept 'this holy victim,' it is asking Him to accept its members as part of Christ's sacrifice." (*NCE*, Vol. IX, p. 415).

To the Pope and the RCC, Mass is a propitious sacrifice. It provides pardon for sin. Catholic theologians claim that—

"The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice . . . only the manner of offering is different. And since in this divine sacrifice which is celebrated in the Mass, the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the alter of the cross is contained and offered in an unbloody manner . . . this sacrifice is truly propitiatory" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, [DoubleDay, 1994], par. 1367, p. 381).

In fact, The Council of Trent (October 1551) says of the Mass,

"Should anyone say that in the Mass there is not offered a true and genuine sacrifice, or that to be offered means nothing more than that Christ is given to us to eat, ANATHEMA SIT... Should anyone say that the sacrifice of the Mass is only one of praise or thanksgiving, or but a bare commemoration of the sacrifice offered on the cross, and not propitiatory . . . ANATHEMA SIT." (*Ibid*, p. 415).

In October of 1962, Vatican II, under the control of Pope John XXIII said,

“As often as the sacrifice of the cross by which Christ has been sacrificed is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out. It is a redeeming sacrifice, as is the cross.”

## II. HOW SHOULD WE SHOW THE ERROR OF THE MASS?

### A. By showing its incongruity with what the disciples taught.

Jesus, our High Priest, offered himself once-for-all (Heb. 7:27; 9:26, 28; 10:10).

### B. By sharing the sufficiency of Christ's death and the message of the gospel.

Either the writer of Hebrews is accurate when he says Jesus' death was expiatory and propitiatory or he was in grievous error.

Every priest who administers this "sacrament" is giving a false hope of remission (Heb. 7:27) while robbing the cross and empty grave of their power.

The Mass does not impart life; it holds one in spiritual death. The origins of this cultic ritual called the Mass is rooted in paganism, not Scripture.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Without biblical support to prove that the priest offers Jesus as a fresh sacrifice or that the juice and bread are turned into the literal body of Jesus, we can only conclude that the RCC is *"teaching as doctrine the commandments of men."*
2. The fact that the RCC makes the Mass essential for salvation robs the significance and sufficiency of the cross and presents "another gospel" (cf. Gal. 1:6-9).
3. This is not an argument over a small, insignificant point of theology. It is a fight over the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice for sins. (see Heb. 2:17).
4. All OT altars and sacrifices were shadows, types, of the complete and final sacrifice of Jesus. The temple and sacrificial system is gone. **The approach to God through Christ is eternal.** This precious fact must be pressed to the lost.
5. We must show that Jesus died, rose, intercedes, and will return. He "communes" with those in right relationship with him through faith, not works.