

# Kootenai Communicator

April  
2018

The monthly newsletter of Kootenai Community Church, Kootenai, Idaho

## Important Dates <<<

1 Resurrection Breakfast  
27-28 Ladies' Retreat

Coming up...May 19 Bridal Shower, Melina Smith

*Expounding the Scriptures, Exhorting the Saints,  
Exalting the Savior*

## The Ruinous Ruse of Rome

Selected Texts  
By Justin Peters

I'm so grateful for the fine teaching by Jim and our elders in this series on the Roman Catholic Church (RCC). It was my task to put a capstone of sorts on our study. In this article I will discuss the importance of sound doctrine, the dangers of false doctrine, summarize the Five Solas of the Reformation, the RCC's denouncement of them, briefly discuss the persecution of Christians by the RCC and conclude with what we as believers should do with the truth entrusted to us.

The importance of sound doctrine for the health of both the individual believer and corporate body of Christ simply cannot be overstated. The Greek word for doctrine, *didache*, means teaching. The doctrine of the church, then, is a body of accepted teaching. The Bible in 1 Timothy 4 instructs us to "give attention" to doctrine (vs. 13), and to "persevere" in it for in so doing we "will ensure salvation both for (ourselves) and for those who hear" us (vs. 16). Salvation is fundamentally a work of deliverance. Being obedient to sound doctrine delivers us from sin and its eternal penalty (Romans 6:17-18). Sound doctrine is a matter of salvation.

Just as sound doctrine delivers, false doctrine destroys. In 2 Timothy 2 the Bible warns of the deadly dangers of unsound doctrine. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Paul warns that unsound doctrine can lead to the "ruin" of those who hear it (vs. 14). The Greek word rendered as "ruin" is *katastrophae* which, as you can likely tell, is the word from which we derive our word, catastrophe. Unsound doctrine is, quite literally, catastrophic for unbelievers because it presents to them a false gospel. It can also be extremely dangerous for believers, particularly those who are young in the faith. False doctrine can cause confusion, discouragement and disobedience. We cannot obey God and thereby grow spiritually if we understand Him wrongly. In verse 16 Paul warns that unsound doctrine will inevitably lead to ungodly behavior and, in verse 18, further warns that it will "spread like gangrene." Error is never self-contained. Error always leads to more error.

The importance, then, of teaching sound doctrine and "accurately handling the word of truth" (vs. 15) simply cannot be overstated.

Sound doctrine delivers, unsound doctrine destroys. This leads us into our discussion of the RCC. The Protestant Reformation championed what have become known as the Five Solas: 1. Sola Gratia, grace alone 2. Sola Fide, faith alone 3. Solus Christus, Christ alone 4. Soli Deo Gloria, God's glory alone and 5. Sola Scriptura, Scripture alone. What follows is a brief overview of the Five Solas and how the RCC rejects each.

**Sola Gratia** – Biblical Christianity holds that salvation is by grace alone. Grace, briefly defined, is the unmerited favor of God. It cannot be earned by human merit. Scripture teaches that man is not spiritually sick, but spiritually dead (Rom. 3:10-11; Eph. 2:1-5) and, therefore, unable to come to God on his own. Not only is man unable to come to God, but he is unwilling to come to God. God must regenerate our hearts by extending to us His sovereign grace. Salvation is wholly the work of God (Ps. 37:39; Tit. 2:11).

The RCC rejects this by asserting that salvation is of itself, and apart from it (the RCC), there can be no salvation. And even though the RCC may use the word "grace," it redefines the term. According to Rome, grace is a thing or force that is merited by works.

The Council of Trent (CoT) was a series of meetings held by the RCC between the years of 1545-1563. It was basically Rome's answer to the Reformation. The CoT pronounced as "anathema" each of the five solas. In regards to salvation by grace alone, the CoT stated this in Canon 12: "If anyone saith that the justification received is not preserved and also increased before God through good works, but that the said works are merely fruits and signs of justification obtained, but not a cause of the increase thereof, let him be anathema."

The RCC states unequivocally that grace is received, preserved and increased by good works. Works are not merely the fruits of salvation (as Scripture clearly teaches) but the means of receiving, preserving and increasing salvation. This stands in stark contrast to God's word,  
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“But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace” (Rom. 11:6). How could the Bible be any clearer? If we add works to grace then grace is no longer grace. This is exactly what the RCC does. According to Rome, if you believe grace is solely from God then you are anathema. In other words, when you die you will go to Hell.

**Sola Fide** – Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone. Biblical Christianity holds to what is known as *imputed* righteousness. This means that our sins were charged to Christ’s account on the cross. Christ was not a sinner, but on the cross God treated Him as though He were. When God grants repentance and faith to His elect, the righteousness of Christ is imputed to our accounts. Judicially God sees us as righteous even though we have no inherent righteousness of our own. As believers we have the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Romans 4:5 states, “But to the one who does not work but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness” (See also Rom. 3:28; 5:1; Eph. 2:8-9). It has been said that Romans 4:5 is the “Colt 45” to Roman Catholicism.

The RCC rejects imputed righteousness, however. Instead it holds to what is known as *infused* righteousness. Infused righteousness, according to the RCC, is gained by participating in the seven sacraments: baptism, confirmation, penance, marriage, anointing the sick, holy orders and the Eucharist. Righteousness must be secured, maintained, and increased by these works. It is almost analogous to Popeye and his spinach. When Popeye gets tired or beat up, he pops a can of spinach and is suddenly infused with strength. Roman Catholics treat the righteousness of Christ in much the same way.

Canon 9 of the CoT states, “If anyone saith that by faith alone the impious is justified...let him be anathema.” Canon 12 states further, “If anyone saith that justifying faith is nothing else but confidence in the divine mercy which remits sins for Christ’s sake; or that this confidence alone is whereby we are justified, let him be anathema.” Do not miss that. What the RCC pronounces as heresy and those who believe it as condemned to eternal destruction is the *very definition* of faith! Biblical faith is confidence in God’s mercy which forgives sins for the sake of Christ and by it alone we are justified. This is exactly what faith is and yet the RCC condemns you to Hell if you believe it.

**Solus Christus** – Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. The very heart of the Gospel is that man’s sins have incurred the righteous wrath of holy God. Sinful man cannot approach a thrice holy God (Is. 6:3; Rev. 4:8). If we, as sinners, tried to approach the blazing holiness of God on our own merit we would have no more chance of standing as would a tissue as it approaches the surface of the Sun. God’s holiness demands sin be punished so for there to be reconciliation between God and man there must be a mediator.

This mediator is and can only be the God-Man Jesus Christ. The Bible states in 1 Timothy 2:5: “For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” Jesus, God the Son, was pre-existent and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. When Jesus came to earth, He took on a human nature so that He could represent us. He was and remains one person with two distinct natures: human and divine. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life and, therefore, could offer His own life on the cross as a substitute for ours. God’s Word is crystal clear that He is the one and only mediator.

The RCC explicitly rejects this. In the RCC there are many mediators. Collectively the thousands of priests, bishops and cardinals are portrayed as mediators. The Pope is a mediator. The ultimate medi-

ator, though, is Mary. Mary is referred to by many Catholics (including Pope John Paul II) as the co-redemptrix along with Christ. They believe that she aids Christ in His role of redeeming man to God.

One of the most dramatic departures from biblical Christianity is Rome’s view of the Eucharist, what most of us would call the Lord’s Supper, or Communion. As Protestants, we rightly view the Lord’s Supper with its elements of bread and juice as a symbolic remembrance of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross (Lk. 22:19-21). Catholics, however, hold that “In the Holy Eucharist, under the appearances of bread and wine, the Lord Christ is contained, offered, and received” (Baltimore Catechism, paragraph 343). In other words, during a Catholic Mass when the priest takes the bread and wine, these elements are literally transformed into the actual flesh and blood of Jesus respectively. This is known as the doctrine of Transubstantiation. So even though the bread and wine still look like, smell like and taste like, well, bread and wine, they aren’t. “Trust us in this,” says the RCC. One must deny all common sense and rational thought to believe this.

Given that the RCC teaches that the bread and wine turn into the real flesh and blood of Jesus, one might wonder if the Sacrifice of the Mass is a real sacrifice. It is. According to paragraph 1367 of the Catholic Catechism, “The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Holy Eucharist are one single sacrifice. The victim is one and the same: the same now offers through the ministry of the priests, who then offered himself on the cross; only the manner of offering is different. . . . This sacrifice is truly propitiatory.”

First, it is blasphemy of the highest order to refer to Christ as a “victim.” His life was not taken from Him, He gave it (Matt. 10:28). The main point, though, is not to be missed. The RCC holds that each and every time a mass is performed that Jesus is re-sacrificed! This is not symbolic, it is real. Catholics believe they are literally sacrificing Jesus over and over and over each and every time mass is held. This would be multiplied thousands of times each and every day in thousands of Catholic churches all around the world. It is just as much a sacrifice as when Christ died on the cross. *Propitiate* means to appease or satisfy. The Bible teaches that Christ’s sacrifice on the cross provided propitiation for our sins (Rom. 3:24-25; Heb. 2:17; 1 Jn. 4:10) so when the RCC says that the sacrifice of the mass is “truly propitiatory,” it is stating that God’s wrath against sin is satiated when mass is held. This “propitiation,” though, is only temporary in Catholic doctrine. It wears off very quickly and must be repeated at the next mass.

This flies in the face of crystal clear biblical teaching that Christ’s sacrifice “once for all” (1 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 10:10) and by this “one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified” (Heb. 10:14). To hold that Christ is re-sacrificed at the mass is to deny the sufficiency of His work on the cross. It is also to deny His person, for the value of Christ’s atonement is a direct function of the value of His person. A perfect person offers a perfect sacrifice. The only way in which His sacrifice on the cross was not sufficient would be if His person was not sufficient. The RCC has a different Jesus and, therefore a different gospel. And a different gospel does not save.

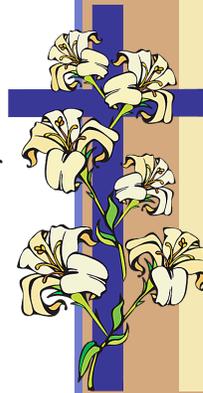
According to Canon 3 of the CoT, “If anyone says that the mass is only a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving or a bare commemoration of the sacrifice consummated on the cross (not a propitiatory sacrifice)...let him be anathema.” If you believe that communion is merely symbolic rather than an actual re-sacrificing of Jesus, then according to the RCC, you will go to Hell.

**Soli Deo Gloria** – Salvation is by grace

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**Sunday  
School  
begins  
at 9:30 a.m.**

**The Adult Sunday School Class:** In Adult Sunday School, Cornel and Jess are alternating teaching responsibilities. Jess is still progressing through Philipians and is now in chapter 3. Cornel is working his way through 1 Corinthians and is nearing the end of Chapter 15. If you miss adult Sunday school, you can subscribe to the podcast at our website. There will not be an adult Sunday school class on April 1, Resurrection Sunday. Make plans to join us for our pancake breakfast instead!



Due to the Resurrection Day Breakfast, there will

be **NO**  
**Sunday  
School  
April 1.**

## >>> *Missionary Moment*

### How to Pray for your Missionaries

#### **Sunday - Relationship with God**

...that your missionary's Christian life is evident because of a consistent, daily devotional life focused on God's Word.

#### **Monday - Family Life**

...that your missionary couple would sustain a healthy marriage, and that their children reflect their unique heritage, all for God's glory.

...that your single missionary's need for fellowship will be met through close, healthy friendships on the field.

#### **Tuesday - Relationships with Fellow Workers**

...for flexibility, compatibility, and unity, resulting in appreciation for each others' strengths, due to open, honest communication.

#### **Wednesday - Effective Ministry**

...for open doors to evangelism for your missionary to communicate the Gospel effectively, and wise use of time and resources.

#### **Thursday - Relationships with Nationals**

...for your missionary's ability in adapting to another culture and obtain fluency in the language; servants' hearts, to learn from the nationals.

#### **Friday - Emotional Needs**

...for your missionary's assurance of the Father's love and sense of Christ's continued presence.

#### **Saturday - Physical Needs**

...for your missionary's health, safety, and financial supply.

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*

*Colossians 3:17*

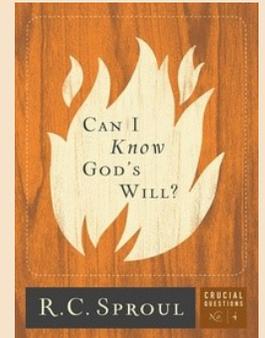


>>>Garden of Readin'



Can I Know God's Will?  
by R. C. Sproul

As Christians, we want our lives to be pleasing to God. We ponder His will and may worry that we are not doing what He wants us to do. In this booklet in the "Crucial Questions" series, R. C. Sproul outlines principles for discovering and applying God's will in day-to-day decisions, especially how they apply to the choice of a career and of a spouse.



Please contact Jenny Leo (610-2520) about donations or any library-related matter.



Women's Ministry <<<

Ladies' Retreat

April 27-28, 2018



At beautiful  
Camp Lutherhaven on  
Lake Coeur d'Alene,  
Idaho

FEATURING SPEAKER AND  
AUTHOR,  
SUSAN HECK

Wearing Christ's Wardrobe  
-lessons from Colossians 3

Register on or  
before April 15  
at the  
Welcome Table!

Cost: \$75  
Scholarships available.

Pick up a brochure  
today!



>>>Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp

Please visit the camp website at [clbcamp.org](http://clbcamp.org) for more details.

**Teen Leadership Retreat - April 13-14** This retreat is designed specifically for those who have been involved in Youth Leadership up to this point. Participants will be challenged to further advance the cause of Christ in their own lives and in the world around them

**Spring Backpacking Trip - April 19-22**

\*During the four-day, three-night trip, campers will enjoy day hikes, swimming, fishing, survival skills, and fellowship. Each day will include Bible studies, in order to focus campers on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the glory of God.  
\*The trip starts at CLBC, where we will gear up, go over the trip plan, and discuss backcountry safety and ethics.  
\*This trip is intended for backpackers of all skill levels. Beginners will enjoy a new adventure into places with mountains, lakes, fauna, flora, and no cell phone service. Experienced outdoors adventurers will enjoy a trip to one of Idaho's most beautiful mountain lakes. Campers will learn the principles of lightweight backpacking and backpacking ethics in a Gospel-centered environment.



# Student Ministries <<<



## April Dates!!

- 2 Girls' Bible Study @ Anna Botcher's, 7:30-9 p.m.
- 11 Youth Group @ Juneaus, 7-9 p.m.
- 16 Girls' Bible Study @ Anna Botcher's, 7:30-9 p.m.
- 25 Youth Group @ Osmans, 7-9 p.m.



## >>>Kootenai Thunder

[kootenaithunder.com](http://kootenaithunder.com)

For the most current information, please check our website and Facebook page.

### **SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS:**

We have started a scholarship fund for families that are unable to afford the player fee. If you would like to donate specifically to that, contact Diedre Osman.



## SPORTS AWARDS BANQUET

April 14 - invitations will be mailed out to players and coaches.

This is an opportunity for you to help out—servers, clean-up, set-up and kitchen help needed. If you would like to serve in this way, please contact Tracy Jensen.

## >>>Building Update

At our annual meeting in January, I explained a revision that needed to be made to the floor plan of the women's bathroom to make it ADA compliant. Ron Mauck designed a change and it was approved by the inspector. Ron made the changes by moving a door and a short section of wall. Those sections of wall will be taped and mudded and painted. Then there will be a little tile that needs to be done.

The countertops for the bathrooms have been completed. Jamie Slippy and Brad Stevens are working on fabricating the metal frames to hang them. We have purchased the sinks and ordered the toilets and valves for the women's bathroom.

High Mark Heating and Cooling installed the air supplies in the sanctuary and hooked up the furnace. The lights in the sanctuary and the control switches have all been installed. We ordered and took delivery of the speakers that will hang from the ceiling in the sanctuary. Installing those before we put the ceiling tile in will keep us from tearing out ceiling tiles to hang those speakers later. The wood casing for the windows between the sanctuary and the nursery have been stained and installed. We have ordered the glass for those openings. We have also ordered blinds for the Sunday School rooms, offices, and the sanctuary.

To keep us updated on our progress and financial needs, we are going to start having short (and I mean short) updates after the regular worship services on the last Sunday of every month (March 25, April 29, May 27). Our goal is to be in our facility by the end of June. I (Jim) believe we can do this. If the weather is conducive and the ground dries out enough to excavate, we will be able to finish our parking lot by then. **Brethren, we are so close!**

## Church News <<<



### RESURRECTION SUNDAY BREAKFAST

April 1, 8:30-9:45 a.m.  
in the school cafeteria

There will be no Sunday School. Breakfast is cooked and served by the men in our church and will consist of eggs, ham, pancakes, coffee and juice. If you would like to help in any way, serve, or donate food, please contact Thomas Leo at 208-818-0590. Please sign up for your family and any other people that you might be bringing on that Sunday (there is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table, or call the church office).

**Encouragement for our College Students:** We have many from our body who are away at college. Please consider writing a note of encouragement to these students. They are consistently facing a barrage of temptation and worldly ideas. Pray for them to remain strong in their faith. The names and addresses of all of our college students along with ideas for the boxes are on your bulletin insert, or pick one up on the Welcome Table. Please pray about encouraging these students. Items for the care packages will be collected on March 25 and April 1.



### PLEASE RESPOND SOON!

#### Church Campout

At the annual meeting, I (Jim) mentioned the quandary we face regarding our Annual Church Campout. Over the last few years, the number of people taking advantage of the private campground we rent has decreased while the cost for rental has increased. It is not financially feasible for only a few families to pay for the campground since a small number of people splitting a \$200/day rental makes it a fiscal burden. Nor is it appropriate for the church to pay for a rental that is only used by a small number of families.

So, I need your input. If you would like to see the Annual Campout continue, please let me know. If there is a reason why you cannot or do not come, I would like to know that as well. Is it the particular time of year, the age of your kids, the cost, or some other factor? Is it something you will do in the future or not? **Please drop me an email (kcc@netv.com)** and let me know your thoughts. --Jim Osman



## >>>Kootenai Classifieds

**Firewood:**  
Call John Kinne: (208) 290-4359.

**Place your ad here next month! Email the details to [lisaslippy@gmail.com](mailto:lisaslippy@gmail.com)**

**Fresh eggs for sale**  
\$3.00 a dozen. They are fed Woods non-GMO Mega Layer. Contact Dave or Melody Lynch: (208)217-1743 or (208) 217-1745

alone through faith alone in Christ alone for the glory of God alone. The Bible teaches that salvation is solely the work of God and, therefore, it is God alone who is due glory for our salvation. Consider Psalm 115:1: “Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory.” God states in Isaiah 42:8, “I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another nor My praise to graven images.”

The RCC, in stark contrast to Scripture, holds that many are due glory for our salvation. Mary is referred to as the *theotokos*, or, the God-bearer. She is called the “Queen of Heaven” and the “Mother of God” and, as we have seen, co-redemptrix with Christ. The RCC also has a legion of saints, all of whom receive glory. The best estimate is that the RCC has upwards of 10,000 saints.

Catholics will, at this point, object and say that they do not worship Mary or the saints but this simply is not true. Roman Catholicism holds that Mary and all of the saints serve as mediators between God and man. It also holds that we as humans can pray to them. To assert that Mary and the saints can hear and act upon prayers is to ascribe to them worship for prayer in and of itself is an act of worship. Nowhere in the Bible will you find even a single example of anyone praying to anyone but God. There is a definite and obvious reason for this: only God can hear prayers, only he can act upon them, and only He is worthy of them. By praying to Mary and the saints, the RCC robs God of His due glory and gives it to others.

Especially troubling is the titles the RCC ascribes to its popes. Each pope is given three titles: 1. The Holy Father 2. The Head of the Church, and 3. The Vicar of Christ. There is only one Holy Father, God the Father (Deut. 32:39; Eph. 4:6; Matt. 23:9). There is only one Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 1:17-18; Eph. 5:22-25). The word “vicar” means substitute. The only true Vicar of Christ is the Holy Spirit (Jn. 16:7-8). Think about that. The name of each member of the triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the RCC gives to a sinful man. This is blasphemous in the extreme.

The current pope, Francis, has been heralded as “the humble pope” because he does not wear the customary papal red shoes that most popes wear. Make no mistake about it, whoever accepts titles that the Bible gives only to the members of the Godhead is not humble, regardless of the color of one’s shoes. The RCC robs Holy God of His due glory and gives it to sinful men.

**Sola Scriptura** – Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for the glory of God alone as recorded in Scripture alone. For biblical Christianity, the Bible, comprised of 66 individual books, is the inerrant, infallible and all-sufficient word of God. Everything that we as individual believers and local bodies of believers gathered in Christian churches around the world need to know God and glorify Him is found within the pages of the Bible. The Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God states, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). In short, this verse tells us that all of Scripture is equally inspired by God and is fully sufficient for us as believers to live Christ-honoring lives of obedience.

Not so for the RCC. The Church of Rome does not dismiss the Bible out of hand, but it flatly rejects the Bible as the sole source of authority and also rejects its sufficiency. In addition to the Bible (which it routinely misinterprets and takes out of context), the RCC holds as equally authoritative church tradition, Papal decrees (known as “bulls”), the findings of its various councils, and visions and miracles. Though beyond the scope of this article to include, it is an undeniable fact that despite the RCC maintaining that papal bulls and the

findings of councils are infallible, they have been proven through history to be self-contradictory. This is an inherent self-refutation of infallibility.

The RCC also views a collection of eleven books known as the Apocrypha (the word *apocrypha* means “hidden”) as canonical; i.e., regarded as scripture. It does this because only in the Apocrypha can any support for uniquely Roman Catholic doctrines such as purgatory, praying to the dead, and salvation by works be found. The books of the Apocrypha, however, are full of historical and geographical errors and they contain theology that is completely foreign to the 66 books of the Bible.

Tests for true Scripture include the following: Was the book authored by an Apostle or close associate of an Apostle? Does it contain sound doctrine? Was it regularly read and used in churches? For the accepted canonical books of the Bible, the answer to these questions is an enthusiastic “Yes.” For the apocryphal books, the answer to all of these questions is a resounding “No.” Furthermore, the New Testament writers and Jesus Himself often quoted from the Old Testament books but not once did they quote or even allude to the books of the Apocrypha. The sufficiency of Scripture, *sola scriptura*, is a concept foreign to the Church of Rome. In Canon 4 of the CoT it states, “If anyone receives not, as sacred and canonical, the said books entire with all their parts...let him be anathema.” The “said books” include the Apocrypha. The one who rejects the Apocrypha as inspired Scripture goes to Hell.

**Roman Catholic Persecution** – It is an indisputable fact that the RCC’s history is stained with the blood and littered with the bodies of those who opposed it. Though the exact numbers cannot be known, even the most conservative estimates put the numbers of those murdered by the RCC in the millions. Let us briefly consider just a few of the more notable martyrs.

John Huss (1369-1415) was the first true Reformer. He was a Czech priest who challenged the RCC, its popes, and system of indulgences. He was arrested by Catholic authorities and though given multiple opportunities to recant, refused to do so. He was tied to the stake and said, “Lord Jesus, it is for thee that I patiently endure this cruel death. I pray thee to have mercy on my enemies.” He was then lit on fire. It is said that he recited the Psalms as he burned.

William Tyndale (1494-1536) was a talented English linguist, proficient in eight languages. He was converted and became a chaplain. He came to oppose the RCC. When challenged by a Catholic clergyman, Tyndale said, “I defy the Pope and all his laws; and if God spares my life, ere many years, I will cause the boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scriptures than thou dost!” Tyndale was the first to take the original Hebrew and Greek texts and translate them into an English Bible. For this act of treason, the RCC tied him to a stake. His last words were “Lord, open the eyes of the King of England!” He was then strangled to death and his body burned.

Hugh Latimer (1487-1555) began as a devoted Catholic and fiercely defended both the RCC and the papacy. But then, in 1520, he got saved. Latimer began to preach the true gospel and for this he and his friend, Nicholas Ridley, were arrested by the RCC. They refused to recant and were both tied to the stake. Latimer’s last words were, “Play the man, Master Ridley. We shall this day light such a candle, by God’s grace, in England as I trust shall never be put out.” And they did just that.

It is on the broad shoulders of these men and countless others like them that you and I stand today. May God



## Kootenai Community Church

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*Continued from page 7* be praised for giving these Reformers the courage to stand up against the cultish RCC and preach the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

The entire history of the RCC is one of it doing its dead-level best to keep the word of God *out* of the hands of everyday men and women. Once the RCC failed in its efforts to keep a stranglehold on Bible publishing and distribution, it did everything it could to discourage people from reading it.

In 2012 I preached in Ecuador. The missionary with whom I worked took me to a village up in the mountains to show me a market there. He told me, "Now, Justin, almost everyone here is Catholic and this is old school Roman Catholicism. If you were to get out of the car here and start handing out gospel tracts or witnessing to people, they would stone you." He did not mean that figuratively. He said they would literally stone me. Had I been single, I might have considered it. In some parts of the world, Roman Catholic persecution of Christians continues to this very day.

**Conclusion** - The RCC has pronounced as anathema all five of the Solas. If you believe in salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for the glory of God alone as recorded in the scriptures alone you have no hope of being saved and will perish for all of eternity. These anathemas have never been rescinded. They remain official Roman Catholic doctrine to this very day.

So, what is our position to be towards Roman Catholicism? In a word, hatred. We are to hate Roman Catholicism because we are commanded to hate it. Romans 12:9 states, "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor (hate) what is evil; cling to what is good." Roman Catholicism has anathematized the very Gospel of Jesus Christ and, by extension, has anathematized Jesus Himself. Roman Catholic doctrine is wholly antithetical to the Gospel and it keeps people in spiritual bondage. If that is not the embodiment of evil, then I truly do not know what is. So, yes, we hate it and we must oppose it.

But, dear ones, we are not to hate *Roman Catholics*. No, no, no – a thousand times no. We must *love* Roman Catholics. But we should

love them enough to tell them the truth. That is the most loving thing we can possibly do for them. We must tell them that they are deceived and that if they are trusting in their own works even in the slightest for their salvation then they must repent and believe the true Gospel of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

God has saved some of you out of Roman Catholicism. My own wife, Kathy, God delivered out of Roman Catholicism. God is calling His own out of this and other false religions. Let us love Roman Catholics by giving them the true Gospel that can and will set them free if they repent and believe. In Romans 1:16 Paul states, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." So *love* your Roman Catholic friends and family members enough to tell them the Truth. Unleash the power of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sometimes God saves people in the most unexpected of times. You never know when the Light will break through the darkness.



Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him."  
-Mark 16:6