

WHY I AM NOT A CATHOLIC
Part 2: False Gospel
(Galatians 2:16-21)

- I. BIBLICAL Doctrine of Justification
 - A. Its meaning: to declare NOT GUILTY" or "to declare INNOCENT of ALL CHARGES" (the opposite of a verdict of "GUILTY as charged")
 1. In its technical or theological sense, it represents LEGAL status before GOD (Deut. 25:1; Isa. 5:23; Micah 6:11; Rom. 8:33-34)
 2. In its general, non-technical sense, it means "to be vindicated before OTHERS" (Gen. 44:16; Job 33:2, 32; Is. 43:9; Mt. 12:37; Lk. 10:29; 16:15; cf. Ps. 51:4; Lk. 7:29; Rom. 3:4)
 - B. Its application
 1. Just as "to CONDEMN" does not MAKE someone wicked, neither does "to JUSTIFY" necessarily MAKE someone righteous
 2. None of the equivalent expressions in Scripture mean "to MAKE someone righteous"
 - a. "Transgression is FORGIVEN" (Ps. 32:1)
 - b. "Sin is COVERED" (Ps. 32:1)
 - c. "Does not IMPUTE iniquity" (Ps. 32:2)
 - d. "CREDITED TO him as righteous" (Rom. 4:3-10, 22-24; 5:9-10)
 - C. Its significance
 1. Man's justification before GOD is always based on God's GRACE through Christ's LIFE, DEATH, and RESURRECTION (Isa. 53:11; Rom. 3:4, 24, 28; 4:25; 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Titus 3:7)
 2. Justification is a FREE GIFT, not something EARNED by WORKS (Rom. 3:20-30; 4:1-12; 5:15-17; 6:23; Gal. 2:16-21; Eph. 2:8-10)
 3. The means of justification is FAITH, apart from any WORKS (Rom. 3:22, 26-30; 4:1-12, 16; 5:1; Gal. 3:8, 11; Eph. 2:8-9)

- II. The Roman Church's OPPOSITION to Biblical Justification
 - A. Misrepresent idea of *sola fide* as "by faith ONLY" rather than as intended "by faith ALONE" (cf. James 2:24)
 - B. Claim that JAMES and PAUL contradict one another
 - 1. JAMES uses "justify" in its GENERAL sense, meaning that you should VALIDATE your faith before OTHERS by YOUR OWN works
 - 2. PAUL uses "justify" in its LEGAL sense, meaning that you ACQUIRE justification only through FAITH in the finished work of CHRIST

- III. The Roman Church's ADDITIONS to Faith for Justification
 - A. One must be a MEMBER of the Roman Church
 - B. One must be BAPTIZED by the Roman Church
 - C. One must be CONFIRMED by a PRIEST of the Roman Church
 - D. One must make CONFESSION to a PRIEST of Rome
 - E. One must do PENANCE to find FORGIVENESS
 - F. One must participate in the MASS to acquire GRACE
 - G. One must receive "LAST RITES" from a PRIEST
 - H. Even then, justification is INCOMPLETE, since nearly all will go to PURGATORY for cleansing

- IV. Conclusions
 - A. Rome is WRONG on justification, the heart of the Gospel—CHRIST'S work, not OURS, is the meritorious basis of salvation
 - B. Therefore, Rome is teaching a "CONTRARY GOSPEL" and cannot be described as a true CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Gal. 1:8-9)