

Is Roman Catholicism Biblical?

Roman Catholic Teaching

Purgatory: A place apart from Heaven and Hell where souls suffer and are purged of sin. (Introduced in AD 593 and decreed in AD 1439)

Indulgences: Prayers and works to release souls in 'Purgatory'. (Introduced AD 1190)

Mass: Christ is Sacrificed *again* - the '*same sacrifice*' as at Calvary. (AD 394 'Mass' instituted)

Transubstantiation: (Bread and Wine actually become the real body and blood of Christ). This belief is '*essential to salvation*'. (Made doctrine in AD 1215)

Images: '*It is lawful to have images in the church and to give honour and worship unto them - Images are put in churches that they may be worshipped*', (Affirmed in both Trent & modern Vatican Councils) (Introduced AD 786)

Confession: Confessing sins to priest, (the Priest has the power to forgive or not to forgive sins). Confession is '*necessary unto salvation*', ('*Catholic Encyclopedia*', P.625). (AD 1215 Confession of sin at least once per year - Pope Innocent III - Lateran Council)

Praying to Mary: ...and other spirits (saints) in heaven. (AD 375 - worship and prayers to saints and angels; AD 431 Worship of Mary; AD 600 Prayers directed to Mary; AD1090 Prayer Beads ('Rosary') - invented by Peter the Hermit)

Mary is a Co-mediator: Mary is '*mediatrix of all graces*' and intercedes on our behalf.

Mary was sinless: The 'immaculate Conception': Mary was sinless all her life. (Introduced AD 1854)

Assumption of Mary: Mary rose into Heaven in bodily form. (Introduced AD 1950)

Bible Teaching

No Scripture supports 'purgatory'. The Bible says there is a '*great gulf*' between *Heaven* and *Hell*, (Lk.16:19-31)

The Bible: '*...Your money perish with you, because you have thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money...*', (Acts 8:20-22); '*None can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him*', (Ps.49:7).

The Bible *condemns* this renewal of sacrifice, (Heb.6:6; 9:26-28; 10:10). It is a '*finished*' sacrifice.

The Bible says to '*do this in remembrance of me.*' Catholic church uses Lk.22:19-20 *literally*. But Jn.6:63 says *The words I speak to you are spirit and life*. Jesus also said *...I am the bread of life*. (Jn.6:48).

'Confounded be all that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him...', (Ps.97:7); *'You shall not make unto you any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above..You shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them...'*, (Ex.20:4-5)

The Bible says to '*confess your faults to each other*' (James 5:16). The apostles never heard confessions, (Acts 10:43), or forgave sins. Only God can forgive sins, (Mk.2:5-11; 1Jn.1:9; Matt.9:6).

The Bible forbids contacting other spirits or the dead, (Is.8:19-20; Dt.18:11. There is '*one mediator...Christ Jesus*': 1Tim.2:5; Jn.16:23)

'There is...one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus', (1Tim.2:5; Jn.16:23). Only through Jesus is there access to the Father, (Eph.2:18). It is *Jesus* who is '*interceding for us*', (Rom.8:34).

'All have sinned and come short of the glory of God', (Rom.3:23). Mary brought a *sin offering* to the Temple like all Jewish mothers, (Lk.2:21-24 cp. Lev.12:6-8). Mary said '*my spirit rejoices in God my saviour*', (Lk.1:47). Why would Mary need a 'saviour' if she did not sin?

'No man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven...the Son of man...', (Jn.3:13; Pr.30:4).

'To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them', (Is.8:20).

'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness', (2Tim.3:16).

'See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ', (Col.2:8-10).

'Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add you not unto his words, lest he reprove you, and you be found a liar', (Pr.30:5-6).

'But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed', (Gal.1:8).