



Roman Catholicism – The Heresy of The Doctrine of Mary

May 25, 2025 Selected scripture

(Video 46:59)

Well, those of you who have been with us know that we are in Romans chapter 12, but were not. We're in Romans chapter 12 because what did we have? We had 11 chapters of orthodoxy and then we get into Romans chapter 12, and we get 4 chapters of orthopraxy. What does he say? Because of all those mercies that we learned about, and all the time we've waded through 11 chapters of the book of Romans, he says now, because of that, the obvious response: ***present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service of worship.*** And then he says, transitions into, ... and use your spiritual gift. And remember what we said: Quit worrying about trying to define it. I've got the definition for you. Your spiritual gift is 'you'. The gift package He's given you, that you sense the Lord's good pleasure and calling to serve and advance the gospel and to edify believers around you within the body of Christ, just do it. And then he gets to verses 9 through the end of the chapter. He gives us 25 injunctions, sort of a grocery list of injunctions, of godliness and holiness. And the first one he gave us is right there in Romans 12:9. What's he say? He says, ***Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.*** and it just so happens that we got to that verse of scripture about abhorring what is evil and some events happened here in our culture, some events happened actually also within a few people in the life of our church, and it laid upon my heart to start looking at some of the things that the Lord abhors and he calls evil. And one of those, as you know (a biggie) as we went to Isaiah chapter 1 and pointed out, in some other places as well, He abhors false religion. And with the recent events of the installation of Robert Prevost as the 267th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church and some of the things I was hearing out of the mouths of individuals who at least I thought



should be better discerning, I decided to share some things as you know last week on the papacy. The response I got from that, which quite frankly I wasn't respect expecting; I was expecting a little more of a negative response in some quarters. I got a very positive response. So much so, that I was entreated by many people actually to clarify some other things with regards to that religious system. And so I agreed and I intend to do so this morning.

But before I do, I want to take you to a passage of scripture so that you can see it with the eye gate. Go to 1 Timothy if you would chapter 4, 1 Timothy 4. If you're a visitor here today, or you're listening online through some media for the first time and you did not hear the start of this last week, I didn't know it was gonna be a series of three or four weeks. I thought it was gonna be a one-off last week, but now it's not. And so I can't repeat some of the caveats and preconditions and things that I shared last Sunday. Do me the courtesy, if you would go back and listen or watch or both last week's sermon before you judge all that you hear today. But in 1 Timothy 1:4 it says, verse 3, ***As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus*** (He's speaking to Timothy his under study) ***in order that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. But the goal, here we go, of our instruction*** (This is the goal of why I'm standing behind this pulpit every Sunday, but last Sunday and this Sunday, especially.) ***the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*** Meaning what? As an under-shepherd of the flock of God, love from a pure heart. I don't share any of the things I'm gonna share with you last week, this week, in the week to come obviously, because with communion and the timing I'm just gonna get my toe into the topic today, I'm not hateful. I'm not resentful. I'm not mad. We're not envious of other churches. It's love from a pure heart, and genuine sincere love must, at times,



confront and tell the truth. I have a tremendous love for people lost and caught up in a false heretical religious system called Roman Catholicism in which I was bound a prisoner for 26 years of my life. I'm here in gratitude for people who in love shared the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ with me. I'm here in gratitude for men who poured their heart out over the scriptures and invested time into my life to learn the truth. And I'm here to instruct you. I can't worry about who's out there. I'm worried not about the empty pews in here, I'm worried about you who are filling the pews; to instruct you in love and a sincere faith because to not do so, to not point out this heresy, would not be love, it would be indifference, okay?

So we touched upon the papacy last week. And, by the way, my brother-in-law Kimber reminded me of a great RC Sproul quote that, quite frankly, I had forgotten. Sproul was asked one time: Do you think there'll be any Roman Catholics in heaven? He had a great answer, He said: *There will be thousands and thousands of Roman Catholics in heaven, but there won't be one person in heaven who believes everything the Roman Catholic Church teaches.* What's he mean by that? If you believe the dogma of the Roman Catholic Church, you will not be in heaven; you're lost. But along the way some people pick up on the truth of justification by faith alone, grace alone, in Christ alone and they, like a blind dog in a meat house who finds a bone once in a while, they pick up on the truth and they realize it's not baptism. It's not church membership. It's not the sacraments of penance, or any other sacrament. It's not the mass. It's not the priesthood, and it's certainly not good works. It is justification by faith alone, through grace alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. And they come to know Christ. So again, yes, there'll be Catholics in heaven, but there'll be no one there who believes all that the Catholic Church teaches.

Now, we talked about the papacy. I wanted to share another unbelievable idolatrous heresy. Again, one which I was caught up in practicing for 26 years, and it's called the 'veneration of



Mary'. The veneration of Mary. I say this as lovingly and as kind as I know how, and I'm going to prove it to you from their own words. Roman Catholicism, for the most part, is a huge Mary cult. I'm thinking of a man, and here's how I want to compare it for you. Have you, I know Bill you're old as I am (almost), and you may remember... do you remember a guy named Haile Selassie? Anybody? I always look... there's some hands, a couple. Let me tell you who Haile Selassie was. Haile Selassie was an Ethiopian self-prescribed Emperor who ruled in Ethiopia for 45 years from 1930 till the time he died in 1975. His actual real name was Ross Tafari Makonnen, but he crowned himself Emperor of Ethiopia in 1930. And he was an unbelievable individual. Every time he would appear at a public function, he'd be covered in a regalia of medals and awards and stuff draping all over his coat. And he made various appearances. And I remember when I was 14 years old, 13 years old, actually when John F Kennedy was assassinated and they had Kennedy's funeral, Haile Selassie came from Ethiopia to visit. I remember my dad reciting his name. I think he just liked the sound of his name, Haile Selassie. He took on the name Haile Selassie. His name was Ross Tafari Makonnen. Well, what does Haile Selassie mean in Ethiopian? It means "the power of the Trinity". He described himself as the 'King of Kings and the Lord of Lords'. He even took Revelation 5:5 and called himself "the conquering lion of Judah", a messianic title. He showed up at all kinds of world functions bedecked again in these [medals], he believed that he was a descendant of the union of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba and that he was the 225th Ethiopian King as a result of this. It may sound very bizarre to you, there's over a million people who describe themselves as 'Rastafarians' from his name, Ross Tafari. They're Rastafarians. They worship Haile Selassie. They believe that he will come again one day, that his death was a total scam. That, literally, he was the Melchizedek of the Old Testament. He was fascinated by the scriptures. By the way, in 1930, in the year of his self-coronation, this religious organization the Rastafari start,



but they didn't start in Ethiopia. They started in Jamaica among the poor there, and that's a long story. They believe in the King James Version of the Bible. They believe that half the Bible has been hidden, that the the black (versus white), the black half of the Bible was stolen by white people and is stored in the Ark of the Covenant and when The Ark of the Covenant gets discovered, we'll have the second half of the Bible. He called himself 'The black Messiah of the world', was a title he took for himself and there's over a million people that follow him. By the way, if you go to a Rastafarian service (and I have a point in taking the time and doing this), it'll involve smoking marijuana, singing, dancing, feasting, reading portions of the Bible and listening, get this, to their most popular prophet Bob Marley. Yeah, Bob Marley of reggae music fame is one of their big, big prophets. He was a Rastafarian. The idea of wearing dreadlocks was the going back to nature by never taking care of your hair sort, of a play on the Nazarite vow. Now, you say, "Why in the world would you take time in a sermon to share this? It is so ridiculous. It's so foolish. It's so perverse. It's so bizarre nobody in the Western culture (most people) would think of worshipping this dead man who today is in hell, Haile Selassie." Over a million people do, and I'll tell you why I'm starting out with that. Because It is no more perverse, no more wicked, no more ridiculous, and no more evil to worship a dead woman who's in heaven than to worship a dead man who's in hell. And Roman Catholics are caught up in the heresy of worshipping a dead woman who's gone to heaven. And it is much more deceitful, much more devious, and much more deadly because the religious system that that belief is tied to masquerades as a form of Christianity, and it's death. It's death. I prayed to Mary more than I ever prayed to Jesus for most of my life. I prayed something I mentioned last week called a rosary. What's a rosary? First of all, rosary didn't even come into existence to about 1350-1400 ad, okay? It's a string of beads; ten small beads, five sections of ten small beads, fifty of them. Five larger beads that separates each segment of ten beads, tied into a



circle. Then there's three more beads, and usually a crucifix dangling down from it. The small beads, what [did you do?] You held the first bead "Hail, Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women. And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen. Hail, Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with..." the second bead and on and on and on and on. What does Jesus say about vain repetition? That's exactly what it was; mindless, vain repetition. And think about what I was praying. Hail, Mary, full of grace the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God. There's a big heresy there I'm coming back to. Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. That is a prayer for salvation. That's a prayer to go to heaven. Who was I praying to? Who are they praying to? They are praying to Mary. And think about it: those big beads in between, that's where we would say the Our Father; Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, the kingdom come, and so forth. Then you'd go into the next ten of "Hail Mary full of grace". Hail Mary... Get it? 50 prayers to Mary. Five prayers to God the Father. You prayed to Mary ten times more than you would pray to God the Father.

Well, I submit to you that if you go... by the way, Roman Catholicism as practiced, and Mary worship in this country, is still blasphemous, but it's so much different in third world countries. It's so much different in European countries. It's so much different on many Indian reservations in our land. There's a syncretism and much more of a blasphemous nature to it than you would ever believe. It's the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Spirit of God in Western culture, that has retarded much of that belief system, as well. But it is the same, and no different than worshipping Baal or Moloch or Caesar or Buddha or Krishna or quite frankly Haile Selassie... this Mary worship.



Now, it's important for you to understand. I don't want you to hear me speak, I want you to hear Rome speak for itself. There was a Pope, I was five years old, I just started kindergarten, just started Catholic grade school. I remember like it was yesterday. 1954 was declared the year of Mary, the Marian year. And Pope Pius the 12th led all of us in a prayer, and this is the prayer (Pius the 12th's prayer to all the Catholics of the world):

Enraptured by the splendor of your heavenly beauty, and impelled by the anxieties of the world, we cast ourselves into your arms, O immaculate Mother of Jesus and our Mother, Mary...

... we admire and praise the peerless richness of the sublime gifts with which God has filled you, above every other mere creature, from the first moment of your conception until the day on which, after your Assumption into heaven (we'll get there), He crowned you Queen of the Universe.

O crystal fountain of faith, bathe our [minds with the eternal truths! O fragrant Lily of all holiness, captivate our] hearts with your heavenly perfume! O Conqueress of evil and death, inspire in us a deep horror of sin which makes the soul detestable to God and a slave of hell!

O, Well-Beloved of God, hear the ardent cry which rise up from every heart in this year dedicated to you. Bend tenderly over our aching wounds. Convert the wicked, dry the tears of the afflicted and oppressed, comfort the poor and humble, quench hatreds, sweeten harshness, safeguard the flower of purity, protect the holy Church, [maker all men feel the attraction of Christian goodness]. In your name, resounding harmoniously in heaven, may they recognize that they are brothers, and that the nations are members of one family, [upon which may there shine forth the sun of a universal and sincere peace].



Receive, O Most Sweet Mother, our humble supplications, and above all obtain for us that, one day, happy with you, we may repeat before your throne that hymn which is sung today around your altars: You are all beautiful, O Mary! You are the glory, you are the joy, you are the honor of our people! Amen."

Friends if that's not worship, I don't know what worship is. And that is worship of a human being. Roman Catholics refer to Mary as *theotokos*, God bearer. And this is that prayer I prayed 'Holy Mary mother of God', that's heresy. You got to get your thinking straight on that. Mary was not the mother of God. God has no mother. God is an eternal being always was, and always will be, three persons in one God. The second person of the Trinity is equal to the Father and the Spirit. One God in three persons. And remember we talked about His incarnation. We talked about He was not called the Son of God until He ordained to take on flesh. Mary was the mother of Jesus in His humanity, she was not the mother of God, and that needs to be so clear. Luke 1:46-48 what did Mary herself say? ***...my soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in, what? God my Savior.*** This is Mary talking. ***For He hath regard for the humble state of His bonds slave;***

Some may think I'm overstating or exaggerating the blasphemy. In 1745 a man called St. Alphonsus De LaGurie wrote a book, you can still get it on Amazon. Don't waste your time or your money. It has been reprinted and reprinted and reprinted hundreds and hundreds of times. It is adopted as a formal statement by the Roman Catholic Church on what it believes about Mary. The name of his work is called quote the *Glories of Mary*, and what he did, he went and took all the prayers and the pronouncements of the popes and the "saints" from the 500, 600 up to the 1700s and he put them in one massive volume of over 750 to 800 pages, and it sets forth various things and beliefs that the church of Rome has adopted and prays and believes concerning Mary as confirmed again at the church council subsequent to the



time it was printed. I'm going to let The Roman church speak for themselves. Here are some quotes: *O Mary, sweet refuge of poor sinners, assist me with thy mercy, banish me from the infernal enemies and come thou to take my soul and present it to the eternal judge. My Queen do not abandon me. I give you my heart and soul.* He collected all these tributes, here's another one: *O Immaculate and wholly-pure Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Queen of the world... thou art the joy of saints; thou art the Peacemaker, thou art the peacemaker, get this, between sinners and God; thou art the advocate of the abandoned, the secure haven of those who are on the sea of the world; thou art the consolation of the world, the the ransom of slaves, the comfortress of the afflicted, the salvation, the salvation, of the universe.* Really? May I remind you of what Ben just read to us in Ephesians 2:14, **He Himself**, Christ, **is our peace**, not Mary. Colossians 1:19-20 **For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him**, Christ, **to reconcile all things to Himself**, get this, **having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.** Heaven has no queen. Heaven has a king, the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 John 2:1 Mary's our advocate? Jesus is our advocate with the Father. Mary's our hope? No. Titus 2:13 Jesus is our blessed hope. Mary ransomed the slaves in sin? I think not, Matthew 20:28 Jesus's own words, **the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life a ransom for many.** It is total idolatry. It is total heresy to worship and praise Mary over the Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah 42:8, **I am the LORD, that is My name; and my glory I will not give to another.** Let me give you a few more. *'We have no confidence but in thee, O most faithful Virgin'... O great mediatrix of peace between men and God, [Mother of Jesus our Lord, who is] the love of all men and of God, to whom be honor and benediction with the Father and the Holy Ghost. Amen.* Here's another one. *O sovereign Lady, saint of all saints, our strength and our refuge. God, as it were of this world, God as it were of this world, Glory of heaven accept those who love thee. O sovereign*



Princess. Turn, O Mary, thy loving eyes on me. Look at me and draw me to thee. It just goes on and on and on. Let me just give you one more Behold, O Mother of God, at thy feet a miserable sinner, the slave of hell, who has recourse to thee, and trusts in thee. I do not even merit that thou shouldst look upon me, but I know that having seen thy Son die to save sinners, thou hast the greatest desire to aid them... I hear thee called by all, The refuge of sinners, the hope of the desperate, the help of the abandoned. Then thou art my refuge, my hope, my help. Thou must save me by thy intercession.

Why are Catholics so caught up and tied to Mary? They can't get to heaven without her. They can't make it without her intercession. *My lady since you have done so much to save me, complete the work. Continue the aid. O, Blessed Mary. Will you help me? No, I love thee and I recommend myself to thee but no one can ever be lost who recommends himself to you. He alone is lost who has not come to you. O, Mother, do not leave me in my own hands for I should then be lost. Granted I may always have recourse to thee. Save me, my hope, save me from hell. But in the first place save me from sin which alone can condemn...* and it again goes on. I will stop right there, but I want you to know something... Oh, one more, because this gives you some insight: *All things in heaven and earth are under God's dominion so that they are, at the same time, under Mary's dominion. She has dominion and power over all creation. Jesus is king of justice, Mary is queen of mercy.* Stop right there.

I was taught that verbatim as a child. You see, Jesus is justice, and God is wrathful, but Mary is mercy. So if you really want favor with God you go to Mary, His mother, and you ask her, and she'll intercede on your behalf. Because He just, flat out, cannot resist anything His mother would say. Roman catholic theology: *Every prayer of Mary is like an established law for our Lord. She establishes the law by which God acts. Every prayer of Mary's is like an established law for our Lord obliging Him to be merciful to everyone for whom she intercedes.*



One more quote: *Mary throws open the door of God's mercies to anyone she pleases, when she pleases, as she pleases.* Who's the author of salvation? Mary. How do you get saved? Through Mary? How do you get Jesus's atoning work to apply to you? Go to Mary? ***But even though we, or an angel from heaven, Galatians 1:8, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*** And by the way, do you realize how it denigrates the cross of Christ, and how it besmirches the character of God to say that you have to go to Mary because God is wrathful and Jesus may be too busy, a little indifferent, and after all He's more of 'justice' not 'mercy'? What does it say about the character of God? Psalm 145:8 ***The Lord is gracious and merciful slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.*** To say that He's preoccupied to hear your prayer, you got to go to a human being? John 15:13, ***Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*** The God of the universe loved us so (Romans 5:8) ***much in that while we were yet sinners God,*** in the person of Christ, ***died for us.*** And in great measure, why did He pay the penalty for our sins? We're going to celebrate the Lord's table in a moment. Exchanging our sin, placed on Him, His righteous life, all of it. His righteousness placed on us, bestowed to us, and one of the mercies of God that we studied in those 11 chapters of Roman's to redeem us, and to bring us adopted into the family of God, to commune with Him. To fellowship with Him. One of the main graces that flow from His redeeming work of your soul was so that you could speak to Him, and He could speak to you. So that you could fellowship with Him, and He could fellowship with you. How much more less-indifference could anyone be than to die for you and for me? And to say that that God, who died for you, is too busy to hear your prayer? Too busy to hear the cry of His own child whom He died for so that you could cry to Him, and He would pay attention. That denigrates the character of God. It cheapens the cross of Christ. It's heresy. It's



blasphemy. It's idolatry. ***I am the LORD, thy God... Thou shalt not have other gods before me.***

I want you to turn in your old testament real quickly to Jeremiah 7. Obviously, this is a setup for where we're going to get to next time. Oh, by the way, John, you're just picking on old stuff. The church has changed. While you're going to Jeremiah 7, the present pope Robert Prevost, now Leo the 14th, he stood on a balcony on may 8th when he was elected pope and his first prayer was a hail Mary. He closed his prayer to the people by calling on Mary for wisdom and discernment. His next public act was to go to the basilica of Mary major where pope Francis had just been buried to pray to pope Francis, and to pray, as he said in his own words, for guidance from Mary. He's a part of the Augustinian order. They are the ones who care for the Our Lady of Good Counsel, which is located in Genazzano, Italy, his first public appearance after becoming pope, and when he left that balcony was to go to the Our Lady of Pompeii, in Pompeii, to seek guidance from Mary, and the very first Sunday he was a pope, he started out by reciting the regina coeli, queen of heaven, a prayer to Mary as queen of heaven. Now, and by the way, there are hymns to Mary. You haven't heard them unless you've been a part of catholic doctrine. Every prayer of Mary is like established law, God must listen to it. And, she's referred to as the queen of heaven. Jeremiah chapter 7 real quick. In a moment I'm going to have the men come up and lead us to the communion, but not just yet, men. In Jeremiah 7, you remember the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah is called upon to be a prophet warning of coming judgment on Israel for their apostasy. And the Jews in Jerusalem were told that, hey, the Babylonians are coming. And ultimately, as we know in 586 bc the third deportation, they ultimately destroy the temple and they come and do all of that and carry the Jews off and Jeremiah's prophecy comes through. But I want you to see in Jeremiah 7:16, ***As for you,*** telling Jeremiah, God is speaking, ***do not pray for this people, and do not lift up cry or prayer***



for them, and do not intercede with Me; for I do not hear you. verse 17, ***Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out libations to other gods in order to spite Me. Do they spite Me?*** And he goes on, and he goes on through all the various prophecies. Look at verse 20, ***Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold My anger and My wrath will be poured out on this place, on man and on beast on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground; and it will burn and not be quenched."*** My wrath is coming because they honor these false gods, one of whom they refer to as the queen of heaven. This is serious stuff. Flip over to Jeremiah 44. Jeremiah 44. Because ultimately the day of judgment comes. This whole idea of goddess worship, it's pagan in its origins, Astarte, and others. It's all pagan in its origins and the concept of the 'Queen of Heaven' is nothing new. Paganism has simply infiltrated Roman Catholicism over the centuries. And so in Jeremiah 44, let's just look at verse 13 real quick (men maybe you should come up and get ready to service the communion). Verse 13, Oh, by the way, so some of the people because of this judgment of Jeremiah, around Judea for a time they stopped. They got panicked and stopped. But a lot of them ran off to Egypt thinking they could run to Egypt and keep going on worshipping the Queen of Heaven, and pouring out libations to her and worshipping these false gods, and Jeremiah now says, don't think you could run to Egypt and get away from this. Verse 13. ***And I will punish those who live in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence. So there will be no refugees or survivors for the remnant of Judah who have entered into the land of Egypt to reside there and then to return to the land of Judah, to which they're longing to return and live; for none will return except a few refugees.*** Drop on down to verse 17. Oh, excuse me. But they are



arrogant, they push back. Look at verse 16. Here's what they say back to God. They tell this to God's spokesman, Jeremiah. This is what the people say to him, verse 16, ***As for the message that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we are not going to listen to you! But rather we will certainly carry out every word that is proceeded from our mouths by burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven...*** And they go on, look at verse 18: ***But since we stopped burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pouring out libations to her, we have lacked everything and have met our end by the sword and by famine.*** That is always the lie of false religions: The reason why you don't have a better life is because you're not worshipping these false gods. And that's the lie they sell, and you'd have a better life if Mary interceded on your behalf. And it's paganism, verse 19, ***"And," said the women, "when we were burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven and were pouring out libations to her, was it without our husbands that we made for her sacrificial cakes in her image and poured out libations to her?"*** In other words, they're saying, "Look, we weren't without our husbands. The men were involved in this too." That's right. It was pervasive. It was everywhere.

There are 1.7 billion people who claim to be Roman Catholics. 17.7% of the earth's population are caught up in prayers to the queen of heaven, and God calls it total idolatry.

Well, there is much more to this, but as we go to the Lord's table, and we think of this serious stuff... I have loved ones, and I'm sure you do or have acquaintances lost in this system. This is idolatry. There is horrific judgment awaiting those who put a false god before the God of the scriptures. We come to the Lord's table, we celebrate the cross of Jesus Christ. Friends, this is the ultimate Memorial Day. God, Himself, laying down His life for our freedoms. Our freedom from sin. Our freedom to be able, by His grace, to live in holiness and righteousness.



In Roman's 1 it says clearly there will be worship of people. Sinful, depraved hearts that reject the truth of the gospel start out by running and worshipping people. There's a group of Hasidic Jews that are called Lubavitchers, named after the town in Russia where it started in the 1700's. They worship a dead rabbi. Romans chapter 1:18 Those ***who suppressed the truth in unrighteousness***, what do they do? They exchange the glory of the incorruptible God for the corruptible, and worship the creature instead of the creator, and form their gods in the image of men. Worshipping a dead Ethiopian in hell, or worshipping a dead woman in heaven, is not the gospel of Jesus Christ. And they lead all such believers and followers to an eternal damnation. Acts 4:11-12, ***He, Christ, is the STONE WHICH IS REJECTED BY YOU, THE BUILDERS, BUT WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER STONE. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name*** (no entity, no being, no other name) ***under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.*** If you're going to be saved you must be saved through the person and work of Christ alone. That is the gospel.

The night before He was crucified the scriptures say that the Lord took the bread, and He broke it, and He gave it. Actually it says 'kept on giving it' to His disciples. Why? For many reasons, but He says, ***"This is my body which is given for you..."***, and as we talked about the last few times, that resurrected body of Christ, that actual fleshly resurrected body of Christ, exists forever and ever and ever. Will reign on the throne of David in a new kingdom forever and ever and ever, and we will be, and are now a part of that. So when He says ***"This is my body which is given for you"*** in a spiritual sense, it's literal. We always said that every offering that they gave in the Old Testament (whether it was a sin offering, a guilt offering, a trespass offering...) always had a second offering with it; a grain offering for thanksgiving. And therefore this little product of grain, this little cracker we hold, literally symbolizes, or should remind us I should say, of the gratitude we should have. Gratitude for being freed from



the blindness of caught up in a religious system. Gratitude for seeing the truth of our sin in His holiness. Gratitude for His grace and loving us so. Gratitude for His attentiveness to hear our prayers. The gratitude because we have a faithful high priest who has acquainted with our own sufferings, and has been tempted in all points, just like you and me. Not hear your prayers? Gotta run to Mary to get His attention? May such blasphemy be eradicated. We love Roman Catholics. We hate their wicked theology. This is My body, He said, which is given for you as often as you do this you do it in remembrance of Me. All of Me; everything I said, everything I did, everything I am. Let's gratefully remember the body of Christ.

The scriptures, in similar fashion, say that He took the cup. He said this is a cup of a new and an everlasting covenant. A covenant that in a few hours, was going to be sealed with His shed blood, His atoning work, His death. And in that glorious promise of resurrection life, He says I will not drink it again with you until I drink it anew with you, in My Father's kingdom. So when we come to the Lord's table, we remember His death. We also remember the great exchange; the righteousness He placed to our account. We come with a sense of gratitude, but also with hearts prompted by His grace, to rededicate ourselves. To live in holiness before Him. With that thought in mind I trust we can all worthily participate in remembering the blood of Christ.

Father, on this Memorial Day weekend, we pause and thank You for the men and women for the past 250, or more, years who shed their own blood for the freedoms that we enjoy as a people. And despite all the fun and the barbecues and the races and the ball games and fellowship that you have given us to enjoy, and we will, pray father that we always maintain that sense of respect and gratitude for the sacrifice of others. For the freedoms we enjoy. But father the greatest sacrifice of all, for the greatest freedom to be enjoyed of all, was to be free from the power of sin through the sacrifice of Christ. There is only one God. There is only one



gospel. And there is only one mediator between God and man, the resurrected man, Christ Jesus. And all God's redeemed people confirmed that truth by saying amen and amen.