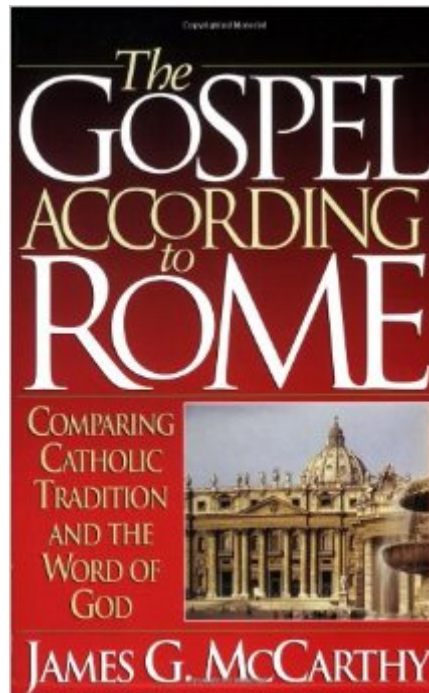


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The Gospel According To Rome: Comparing Catholic Tradition And The Word Of God



Synopsis

When Catechism of the Catholic Church broke onto the N.Y. Times bestseller list, its astonishing success confirmed the overwhelming interest of Catholics and Protestants in understanding modern Catholicism. Has the recent openness among denominations affected Catholic teachings? In the new spirit of cooperation, is there any reason why Catholics and Protestants should remain divided? This powerful and insightful examination of the Catholic Church provides: a side-by-side comparison of Scripture with the first new worldwide Catholic catechism in 400 years; a summary of how modern Catholicism views grace, works, and heaven; 24 ways the Catholic plan of salvation still stands in contrast to biblical truth; a balanced overview of how the authority structure of the Roman Catholic Church compares with that of the New Testament church; an explanation of how participation in the Mass and other sacraments is inconsistent with faith in Christ as Savior. Clear, accurate, significant information to know and share.

•The Gospel According to Rome

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Customer Reviews

McCarthy having been an informed Roman Catholic systematically unravels all the Roman rubbish. Logically tears the Roman synagog's doctrine apart and does it with a smile. Jesus said of the tax collector who was beating his chest saying: lord have mercy on me a sinner, I tell you this man went home justified. The Catholic translation is Ill tell you on the way home this man stopped by and joined the Roman church, started participating in the sacraments, meriting grace and justice, doing good works, doing masses, penance, pilgrimages and then when he ended up in purgatory without enough grace waited to see if he would be justified. And when the jailer asked Paul in Acts What

must I do to inherit eternal life? and Paul said believe in Jesus and be saved, the catholic translation is Paul told him get a copy of the Catechism, done by our hair splitting academics, join the Roman synagog, and start on the treadmill of inherent grace and perfection. Dont pay attention to Paul when he says God declares righteous the ungodly, who have no inherent righteousness, by faith. No, because if you believe Paul when he says that God justifies the ungodly by faith, then our whole system of merit and inherent righteousness would go out the window along with our man made superstitions. " For in vain glory do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. Thank God for men like James McCarthy. I always laugh when people who are converted to the Roman synagog say we found the more full experience(code word for our works are necessary for justification and im looking for pomp and circumstance). If Christ removed the veil so that we can go directly to His altar in heaven in Him, since he is the only mediator who is constantly interceding for us, and we have everything pertaining to life and Godliness and eternal life, why would we need to wait for grace to be shot out to us through a priest, or a sacrament, or Mary. The judaizers(todays Roman Catholics) needed a visible priesthood, a visible altar, and a visible sacrifice(the mass), but christianity is spiritual worship. The high priest is in heaven, His altar is in Heaven, and his sacrifice is done. Thats why he tells the Woman at the well The Father seeks worshipers who worship Him in spirit and in truth. Jesus said the things I tell you are spiritual, the flesh profits nothing. Faith comes through hearing and hearing through the word of God. I've always contended if Catholics were taught the Bible they wouldnt belong to the Roman synagog long. Of course the medieval Roman church kept the scripture from the laity and thats why they could take their selling of masses and indulgences into purgatory, because they kept their people in stupidity and fear. All who live by that system will find their souls in hell Galations 5:1-4.

There is a history of Church denominations deviating from the Word of God the older they mature. It starts by applying principles which are divergent from Word of God. This book looks into depth comparing Catholic beliefs and practices with the Word of God. These beliefs and practices are distinctly different from the Word of God and may have been responsible for one of the most terrifying 1,000 years in the history of the world. A great read and highly educational.

McCarthy's "Gospel According to Rome" is an excellent, well organized, and easy-to-use resource book on the subject. To those Roman Catholics who have bashed this book, I can only say they must be very insecure in their beliefs or very uncomfortable with the teachings of their own religious institution. For the hard truth is that McCarthy's book is not based on his own biased opinion or

interpretations of Catholic belief, but a straightforward presentation of the doctrines and teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, via its own well-referenced catechism and official documents. Though written by a former Catholic, this is not a personal rant about the Roman Catholic Church. Rather, McCarthy's main aim is to inform about the teachings and structure of the RCC. For this reason alone, many Catholics who have written disparagingly here would do well to read a book like this, as my own experience and observations have taught me that the average church-going Catholic knows little about the official teachings of his/her own Church. For example, ask ten Roman Catholics what one must do to get to Heaven, and you will typically get ten different answers. Yet, Mr. McCarthy, utilizing the Vatican's own official teaching (and, in this instance, with the aid of concise, detailed flow charts) clearly delineates the complicated criteria for justification and sanctification that the RCC has developed over the centuries. As stated, in this sense, this book would be even useful to Catholics who need a simpler understanding of a belief system that is so complicated it requires the employment of canon lawyers. McCarthy's detailing of the process which made "the Assumption of the Virgin Mary" an infallible doctrine is worth the price of the book alone. Of all the unique and peculiar doctrines that separate the RCC from Protestants, it can be easily argued that this is the most peculiar. Where is the evidence, scripturally, historically, or otherwise, that Mary was assumed bodily into Heaven? McCarthy relates with inarguable historicity how Pius XII was able to use the RCC notion of tradition to declare *ex cathedra* a new belief requirement for Roman Catholics, in spite of deafening silence on the matter from the entire body of early Christian fathers. The book is well organized, with chapters expressing in great detail the Roman Catholic teaching on a topic, followed by a Biblical response. The material is well authenticated with the Roman Catholic catechism's reference numbers indicated throughout. Every assertion is well documented. My highest rating, for a well written, interesting and informative book on official Roman Catholic teaching. The first book on my shelf I go to when I need such a resource.

A former Catholic, McCarthy obeys the bottom line as commanded in Jude v. 3: "Contend (vigorously defend) the faith once (and for all time) delivered to the saints." He tirelessly quotes Catholic documents, from the Catechism to the writings of the Magisterium, and compares them to what God says in His Word about how to relate to Himself. He uses many quotes, much Scripture, not vague declarations, but useful specifics. He also points out what the God the Son said in the Gospels: Tradition makes the worship of God null and void. Matthew 15. Not all tradition, but any that "adds to what is written." We may receive personal guidance from God, but no new doctrine, again, Jude v. 3, "the faith once and for all time delivered to the saints." For all time. All this is written

courteously and lovingly and with respect, since, again, McCarthy once believed as that church teaches and he cares about the people he left behind.

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