

WHAT IS THE TRUE PATH TO SALVATION

By: Mark N. Posey, Minister, Austinville Church of Christ

QUESTION: Recently the Roman Catholic Pope denounced all Churches as phonies and not founded by Jesus Christ and that the Catholic Church is the only true path to salvation. What do you think about that?

ANSWER: The church of Jesus Christ is NOT subject to the Pope or papal authority. The Pope is JUST a man! Jesus is the “author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2). Look to Him and Him ALONE for authority and salvation (Matthew 28:18; Hebrews 5:9). The church of Jesus Christ does all “in the name of Jesus” (Colossian 3:17). “In the name of” simply means, “by the authority of”. Christ’s name is above every name (Ephesians 1:20-21; 6:10ff.). There is only, ONE church (Ephesians 4:4) and it belongs to Christ (Matthew 16:18). Christ is the Savior (Ephesians 5:23) and the exclusive judge of humanity (John 12:48; Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

However, on July 10, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI restated his conviction that the Roman Catholic Church is the one Church founded by Jesus Christ and that all churches are either defective or not true Churches at all. Pope Benedict’s statement is in complete contradiction to scripture. While there are many morally good Catholic people for whom we have affection, the Roman Catholic concept of salvation stands in stark opposition to the teachings of the New Testament. The doctrines of original sin, infant baptism, sprinkling as a substitute for immersion, auricular confession, penance, the sacrifice of the mass, etc., all are alien to the revealed plan of salvation set forth by Christ and his inspired writers.

Roman Catholics call the Pope “Holy Father” (in violation of Matthew 23:9). He is revered as the head of the church on earth (though Christ possesses all authority, in heaven and on earth, and is the exclusive head of the church—Matthew 28:18; Colossians 1:18). Yet, the Pope’s words illustrate the great departure from the faith of which Paul warned (see 2 Thessalonians 2:1ff; 1 Timothy 4:1ff); a corruption of the primitive Christian system. We must look to Jesus, NOT the Pope for authority and truth!

PS: God bless you Mark! Keep telling how it is supposed to be in accordance with the Holy Word of God! I, Bill Richardson, say AMEN and AMEN! And I love you Mark—Amen!