

Turn from all your reliance on yourself, your own efforts, and all your works or sacraments, and open your heart to Jesus Christ. Pray, to the God of all the earth to save you from your sins. Receive him as your own personal saviour, rely on his shed blood, and trust Him to save your soul. *'Come to me'* He says, *'all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest'* (Matthew 11:28). Never yet has he turned anyone away. *'Him who comes to me I will not cast out.'* He declares (John 6:37).

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## ROMAN CATHOLICISM AND THE BIBLE

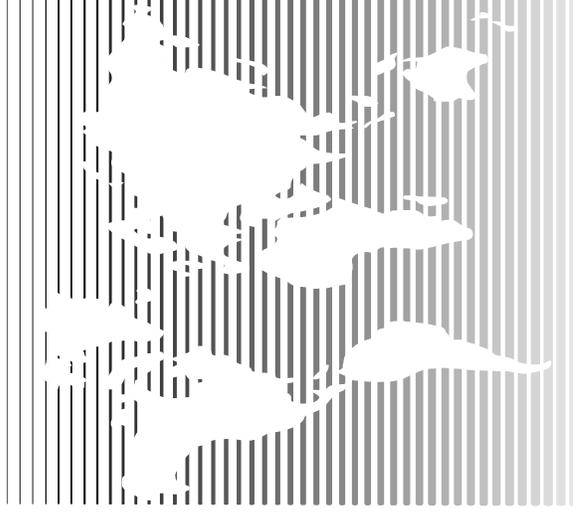
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*The answer given in Scripture*

*Smith O.J., 1953, The Roman Catholic Bible has the answer, Wickliffe Press, The Protestant truth society.*



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## The Roman Catholic Bible

This book that I hold in my hand is a Roman Catholic Bible. Let us read now from the title page: 'The New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Translated from the Latin Vulgate. A Revision of the Challenor-Rheims Version. Edited by Catholic Scholars.' Hence, it is unquestionably authoritative. It is a beautiful, accurate translation and true to the original. It is the accepted Bible of the Roman Catholic Church.

On page 4 we read these words, uttered by Pope Benedict XV. 'The responsibility of our Apostolic offices impels us to... promote the study of Holy Scripture in accordance with the teaching of our predecessors, Leo XIII and Pius X... We shall... never desist from urging the faithful to read daily the Gospels, the Acts and the Epistles, so as to gather food for their souls... *Ignorance of the Bible means ignorance of Christ.*'

## Can the Priest forgive sin?

In this Roman Catholic Bible there is a question that was once asked by the scribes. It was this: *'Why does this man speak thus? He blasphemes, who can forgive sins, but only God?'*(Mark 2:5-11). Jesus accepted that question at its face value. They were right. No man but God can forgive sins, and for a mere man to claim that he can is blasphemy. Jesus answered by saying, *'The son of man has power on earth to forgive sins.'* Hence, He was not a mere man; He was God. No man can forgive, but He did forgive, so He was God. But no priests or ministers can forgive sin because they are men. We can go direct to God through our Mediator, Jesus Christ, and be forgiven. Rebels cannot forgive rebels; it is the King who forgives both. Sinners cannot forgive sinners; it is God who forgives.

It was the chief apostle who made this clear when he stated to Cornelius, as found in this Roman Catholic Bible in Acts 10:43 *'To him all the prophets bear witness, that through his name all who believe in him may receive forgiveness of sins.'*

## Are we saved by works of by Faith?

Some say by faith, works and the sacraments. The Roman Catholic Bible says by faith. Which is right? If by works, it cannot be by faith, and if by faith it cannot be by works. Either you save yourself by works or else God saves you by faith. Are you going to afflict your body and count your beads in a vain effort to save your soul by works? Are you going to attempt to lay up merit in heaven by your tears and your prayers, long fasting's and Church observances, pilgrimages, monastic or convent living and sacraments? Are you going to suffer all this when God in this Roman Catholic Bible tells us that salvation is 'not by works?' How foolish! But now let us read once again from this marvellous book.

*'For we reckon that a man is justified (accounted just, righteous or saved) by faith independently of the works of the law'*(Romans 3:28).

*'To him who does not work, but believes in him who justifies the impious, his faith is credited to him as justice'* (Romans 4:5).

*'God credits justice without works'* (Romans 4:6).

*'Man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ... we also believe in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the Law: because by the works of the Law no man will be justified'* (Galatians 2:16).

*'For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not from yourselves, for it is the gift of God: not as the*

*outcome of works, lest anyone should boast'* (Ephesians 2: 8-9).

*'Not by reason of good works that we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us'*(Titus 3:5)

That my friend, is what the Roman Catholic Bible says. What are you going to do about it? All these verses that we have read tell you in plain, unmistakable language that you are not saved by works but that you are saved by faith.

Then where do works come in? James answers that question. *'Show me thy faith without works, and I from my works will show thee my faith,'* he says (James 2:18). Works follow faith. Faith produces works. *If you are saved your life will show it.* You work for God because you ARE saved, not in order to be saved. 'Faith without works' is dead. If there is no change, if you still commit the same sins, *if you have not been delivered and set free, then there is no evidence that you are saved.* 'If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the former things have passed away; behold, they are made new!'*(2 Corinthians 5:17).*

Well now, will you believe God's Word as recorded in this Roman Catholic Bible, or will you believe the teachings of man? It is for you to decide. Remember, there are only two religions in the entire world, man's and God's. Man's is by works- his own efforts, his fastings and prayers, his obedience to the church. That makes him his own saviour. God's is by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Jesus paid it all. *'He who is just lives by faith'* (Romans 1:17). That makes Christ his saviour.