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By Bill Bennett

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Many of today's Roman Catholics believe the Mass to be nothing more than a celebration of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross. But what are the teachings from the Roman Catholic Mass really saying?

If we look at the various parts of the Mass, we see the Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the Concluding Rite. Let's look closely at the Liturgy of the Eucharist. After the Liturgy of the Word, and the profession of faith, we come to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. All throughout the Mass the congregation responds to the priest's prayers.

The priest begins by saying, "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life." The simplest meaning of these words is that "bread" that God has provided and "human hands have made" will become an offering unto God. Bread is made from grains; grains are fruit from the ground.

But the Bible says in Genesis 4:3-5, "And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect ..." Hebrews 9:22 says, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission (forgiveness)." God REJECTED the offering from the ground (fruit of the ground) and the work of human hands but ACCEPTED the offering of blood of a lamb (firstlings of his flock).

The priest continues, "Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink." Again, this is simply saying, God provided the grapes, and through man's efforts (work of human hands), this will be offered up to God.

Now the priest says, "Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer with humble and contrite hearts." Washing his hands, the priest says quietly, "Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin." The priest is saying he is also a sinner, and is asking God to accept this offering/sacrifice for the forgiveness of his own sin.

The priest continues, "Pray, brethren, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father." This sacrifice has a definite purpose. The forgiveness of the priest's sins as well as the congregation. The congregation responds by agreeing with the priest that this is a sacrifice, and praying that God will accept this "work of human hands," this bread and fruit of the vine (grape juice or wine). "May the Lord accept the sacrifice of your hands for the praise and glory of His name, and for our good, and the good of all His Church."

This is obviously not a celebration, but a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins of all the people and the priest! Every day this same sacrifice is offered all around the world by priests for sin.

Hebrews 10:1-12 says, "We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this man (Christ), after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God."

Jesus Christ died on the cross one time for all. He offered His own blood as the perfect sacrifice to pay the penalty for sin. Unlike the sacrifice the priests continually offer, "which can never take away sins," Jesus Christ made this perfect offering of Himself one time for all sin, not daily; thus Jesus "sat down."

The Bible says, "For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests to offer up sacrifice, first for His own sins, and then for the people's: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself." Hebrews 7:26-27

God requires a sinless, innocent, undefiled priest and a perfect sacrifice for our sins. The modern day priest is not perfect and the sacrifice of bread and wine is still not acceptable to God! These are all unacceptable because they are fruits of the ground and not blood. I Peter 1:18-19, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your fain conversation received by tradition from your fathers' But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." Note, "without blemish," signifying perfect.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." God does not accept the "work of human hands" for the forgiveness of our sins. Instead, forgiveness comes as a free gift, which only Jesus Christ, the perfect High Priest, offers.

At this point one may be saying, "I'm not so bad though, at least not as bad as some people are." However, in James 2:10 we read, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." This simply means if you sinned only one time and if your priest has sinned one time, one is as guilty as the other.

While on the cross, Jesus Christ said, "It is finished." The Mass is never a completed work but rather a continually repeated work of human hands which God has already rejected.

Hebrews 9:24-28 says, "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to

bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

Now since Jesus Christ has made the perfect sacrifice for our sins in the presence of God, and since this sacrifice of Himself has been completed, why present God with an unacceptable sacrifice? In addition, since “after this the judgment,” don’t we really want to put our faith in a finished sacrifice, instead of one that can’t take away a single sin?

Romans 5:9, “Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him (Christ).” Ephesians 1:7, “In whom (Christ) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

Moreover, to suggest that the bread and wine become the actual body and blood of Jesus Christ during the Mass is the same as suggesting that Jesus lied when He said, “It is finished” or His sacrifice on the cross was incomplete!

Hebrews 10:29-31 says, “Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be through worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know Him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, the Lord shall judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Second Person of the Trinity, died only one time for all your sins. He provided absolute proof of His deity by raising Himself from the dead. You will someday stand before Him, all alone – and you’ll have to give an account of your unbelief or your acceptance of what you’ve just read. There will be no appeals, no plea bargaining, and no excuses, just judgment – all based on His Word, the Bible.

Hebrews 7:25-28 sums up the matter: “Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens. Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for His own sins, and then for the people’s: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son who is consecrated forevermore.”

IN CONCLUSION

After reading the Scriptures presented in this tract, you now have to make a decision; to continue to believe in the Mass and its unscriptural teachings or accept the atoning sacrifice of Christ once and for all time to redeem your soul.

Realize and accept the Biblical way to eternal life by trusting the completed sacrifice of Jesus Christ as your only means of salvation. He alone made a sufficient sacrifice for sin. He alone is able to remit sin and impart the power to live a Christian life. Therefore, look back to the cross of

Calvary for it is there that your redemption was accomplished. It is there that you can receive a full and complete pardon of your sins. Do not look to another sacrifice, or a re-presentation of the sacrifice of Christ. There is no need to do so.

It's clear from Scripture that the “sacrifice made with human hands” is not the sacrifice of Christ and therefore is a counterfeit, a substitute for the real thing. The Mass does not exalt nor glorify Jesus Christ, for it teaches falsehood about His death. If you willingly partake in it after seeing the teaching of God’s Word, you are knowingly rejecting the finished work of Christ in favor of the incomplete and imperfect way of the Mass. What will your decision be? We trust it will be for Christ.

If you would like to know more about Biblical salvation or have questions concerning the Roman Catholic Mass, please write to us:

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