

## The Natural Law Alone Cannot Save Men

By Richard Joseph Michael Ibranyi

### Summary

- **The Natural Law:** The natural law is the law in the hearts of all men that God puts in them from the instant their souls are created.
- **Natural Laws:** The natural laws consist of all the basic dogmas of morality and some basic dogmas of faith. They are known by reason and instinct or by reason but not instinct, both aided by God's grace. Hence they are known by internal revelation and thus without the need of learning about them from external revelations by hearing or reading about them. And the infallible meaning of the internal revelations of the natural law are also in the heart of all men and thus without the need of an infallible definition from an external source.
- **Instinctual Natural Laws:** Instinctual natural laws are known by reason and instinct, aided by God's grace. Things that are known by instinct are also known by reason. For example, men know that homosexuality is evil by instinct (by a natural repulsion) and by reason because it is against nature and against procreation. And a man knows adultery is evil by instinct (by a natural repulsion) and by reason because he would not want his wife to commit adultery and thus he should not want to commit adultery with another man's wife. Jesus says, "All things therefore whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you also to them. For this is the law and the prophets." (Mt. 7:12)
- **Non-Instinctual Natural Laws:** Non-instinctual natural laws are known by reason but not instinct, aided by God's grace. For example, men can know by God's grace, reason, and contemplation the natural law dogmas of faith that God always existed and God created all things out of nothing. But he cannot know these natural law dogmas by instinct.
- **Revelations:** Revelations are true things made known to men either internally by the natural law or externally by hearing or reading about them.
- **Internal revelations:** Internal revelations are the natural laws in the hearts of all men.
- **External revelations:** External revelations are things men hear or read about, some of which are also known by internal revelations and others which are not known by internal revelations. They consist of comprehensible and incomprehensible things. Comprehensible things can be understood by human reason, such as Cain murdered Abel, the lineage of Abraham, and homosexuality is evil. Incomprehensible things cannot be understood by human reason and thus can only be believed by faith alone; they are called supernatural dogmas, such as the dogmas of the Holy Trinity, Incarnation, and Holy Eucharist. "For many things are shewn to thee above the understanding of men." (Eccus. 3:25)
- **Reinforcement of Natural Laws:** Natural laws can also be taught to men by external revelations to reinforce the natural law. For example, the Ten Commandments were external revelations taught to men and consist of many natural laws and some laws which are not known by the natural law.

(For a list of the natural laws, see in this book “Natural-law basic dogmas.”)

### **All men have the natural law in their hearts**

The Word of God teaches that all men are created with the natural law in their hearts:

“He created of him [Adam] a helpmate [Eve] like to himself. He gave them counsel, and a tongue, and eyes, and ears, and a heart to devise. And he filled them with the knowledge of understanding. He created in them the science of the spirit, he filled their heart with wisdom, and shewed them both good and evil. He set his eye upon their hearts to shew them the greatness of his works that they might praise the name which he hath sanctified, and glory in his wondrous acts that they might declare the glorious things of his works. Moreover, he gave them instructions and the law of life for an inheritance. He made an everlasting covenant with them, and he shewed them his justice and judgments. And their eye saw the majesty of his glory, and their ears heard his glorious voice, and he said to them: Beware of all iniquity. And he gave to every one of them commandment concerning his neighbour.” (Eccus. 17:5-12)

“For when the Gentiles who have not the law [the written law] do by nature [by the natural law] those things that are of the law, these having not the law are a law to themselves: Who shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness to them and their thoughts between themselves accusing or also defending one another.” (Rom. 2:14-15)

The unwritten law that St. Paul mentions that the Gentiles have in their hearts is the natural law. He teaches that even though they never learned about these laws from an external source either orally or in writing (such as the Ten Commandments which contain many natural laws), they nevertheless have these laws written in their hearts. Hence no man can rightly claim that he is ignorant of and thus does not know the dogmas of the natural law because all men have these laws written in their heart. Therefore, men sin when they violate a natural law with no excuse for ignorance, as the natural law accuses them when they sin and defends them when they obey it.

There is something, then, inside men (the natural law), that is naturally repulsed by lies and other evils and naturally attracted to truth and other good things. However, obstinate sinners have fought against some of these repulses or attractions to the point of burying them in their hearts and thus have hardened hearts and dead consciences in regard to their obstinate sins.

“Now the Spirit manifestly saith, that in the last times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to spirits of error, and doctrines of devils, Speaking lies in hypocrisy, and having their conscience seared.” (1 Tim. 4:1-2)

“And what things soever they naturally know, like dumb beasts, in these they are corrupted.” (Jude 1:10)

“He that is hardened in mind shall fall into evil.” (Prv. 28:14)

Try as they will to ignore the natural law by drowning their misery in alcohol, drugs, sex, work, play, or food, the natural law and thus the repulse of evil and attraction to good is still there, deep in their hearts, gnawing away at them whether they acknowledge it or not.

In an act of mercy, God gives men the natural law in writing when many are ignoring, burying, or denying the natural law in their hearts as a hope to break their obstinacy. If they continue to disobey, they would be doubly guilty, guilty of violating the natural law in their hearts and of violating the written natural laws that were made externally manifest to them:

“Wherefore the law indeed is holy, and the commandment [the written law] holy, and just, and good..., that sin, by the commandment might become sinful above measure.” (Rom. 7:12-13)

*Catholic Commentary*, Rom. 2:12. **Whosoever sinned without the law:** “That is, without the written law of Moses, against their reason and conscience, against the natural law. And also those who being Jews, have sinned under this written law, shall be judged even with greater severity for having transgressed against the written law and the natural law.”

“And shall not that which by nature is uncircumcision [unbelievers], if it fulfil the [natural] law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision art a transgressor of the [the natural law and the written] law? ...[For] thou that makest thy boast of the law [written laws that are also natural laws], by transgression of the law dishonourest God. For the name of God through you is blasphemed among the Gentiles [unbelievers who keep the natural laws].” (Rom. 2:27, 23-24)

### **The natural law cannot save men**

While the natural law tells men certain things about God, it does not tell them who the true God is and does not tell them his ways and commandments that are not known by the natural law. These things can only be learned by men from an external source, and they are necessary for salvation. Hence the natural law alone cannot save men. St. Paul says that faith in these things, these external truths that cannot be known by the natural law, is necessary for salvation:

“How then shall they call on him, in whom they have not believed? Or how shall they believe him, of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear, without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they be sent, as it is written: How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, of them that bring glad tidings of good things! ...Faith then cometh by hearing; and hearing by the word of Christ.” (Rom. 10:14-15, 17)

Therefore, knowledge and faith in things that men cannot know by the natural law is necessary for salvation. Hence even if an unbeliever keeps all the natural laws, he cannot be saved because he does not have faith in these things:

“Behold, he that is unbelieving, his soul shall not be right in himself; but the just shall live in his faith.” (Haba. 2:4)

“For the justice of God is revealed therein, from faith unto faith, as it is written: The just man liveth by faith.” (Rom. 1:17)

St. Fulgentius of Ruspe and Fourteen other African Bishops to exiled in Sardina, to various of their brethren, *Letter 17*, 6th century: “51. ...If with some who know God but do not glorify God, that knowledge profits them nothing unto salvation, how should those be able to be righteous before God who, though they have some goodness in their moral conduct and actions, have goodness of such a kind that they cannot refer it to the ends of Christian faith and love? Certainly such people can possess a certain kind of goodness which pertains to the justice of human society, but because it is not the product of faith in God and of love of God, it is not able to save them... 52. ...The law which is of creatures, and which is not able to justify a man because no flesh is justified by the works of the law, can be found naturally both in the hearts of pagans and in the hearts of the unfaithful Jews; but since it is without the faith of Christ, it can in no way justify those who follow it but keeps them bound with a chain of impiety. [Footnote 13]”

Footnote 13: “Piety is the virtue by which a son accords what is due his father. Those who have an abundant share of what we call ‘natural goodness’ can easily come to trust in so-called natural virtue, bringing with it a false sense of security which can actually lure them away from seeing the need of practicing the religious

virtue of piety, that is, so trusting in God that one loves him as a Father. And the ‘natural virtue’, since it is natural, has no supernatural value or merit.”<sup>1</sup>

Even though apostate Antipope Gregory XVI was an apostate antipope, he rightly condemned the heresy that men can be saved by obeying the natural law:

Apostate Antipope Gregory XVI, invalid *Mirari Vos*, 1832: “13. Now We consider another abundant source of the evils with which the Church is afflicted at present: indifferentism. This perverse opinion is spread on all sides by the fraud of the wicked who claim that it is possible to obtain the everlasting salvation of the soul by the profession of any kind of religion, as long as morality is maintained. Surely, in so clear a matter, you will drive this deadly error far from the people committed to your care. With the admonition of the apostle that ‘there is one God, one faith, one baptism,’ may those fear who contrive the notion that the safe harbor of salvation is open to persons of any religion whatever. They should consider the testimony of Christ Himself that ‘those who are not with Christ are against him,’ and that they disperse unhappily who do not gather with Him. Therefore ‘without a doubt, they will perish forever, unless they hold the Catholic faith whole and inviolate.’ ”

### **Obeying the natural law moves unbelievers closer to God**

Even though unbelievers cannot be saved by obeying the natural law, their obedience to natural laws grants them assisting graces from God that moves them closer to God.

*Catholic Commentary* on Rom. 2:14-15: “When the Gentiles do by nature, or naturally, that is, without having received any written law, these men are a law to themselves, and have it written in their hearts, as to the existence of a God; and their reason tells them that many sins are unlawful. They may also do some actions that are morally good, as by giving alms to relieve the poor, honouring their parents, &c. Not that these actions, morally good, will suffice for their justification of themselves or make them deserve a supernatural reward in the kingdom of heaven; but God, out of his infinite mercy, will give them some graces, by which they come to know and believe.”

“But without faith it is impossible to please God. For he that cometh to God, must believe that he is [by the natural law], and is a rewarder to them that seek him.”  
(Heb. 11:6)

### **The natural law enables men to detect and reject all false gods and all false religions**

The natural law enables all men to detect and reject all false gods and all false religions. All false gods and false religions contain some obvious falsehoods that all men can know and reject by God’s grace, reason, and the natural law even if they do not know the true God and true religion. Take the following examples:

- The natural law tells all men that idols are powerless, foolish, and dead and thus false:

“Every man is become a fool for knowledge, every artist is confounded in his graven idol, for what he hath cast is false and there is no spirit in them. They are vain things, and a ridiculous work, in the time of their visitation they shall perish.”  
(Jer. 10: 14-15)

“The idols of the gentiles are silver and gold, the works of the hands of men. They have mouths and speak not: they have eyes and see not. They have ears and hear not. They have noses and smell not. They have hands and feel not. They have feet

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<sup>1</sup> Contained in *Faith of the Fathers*, by apostate Fr. Jurgens, vol. 3, 2244-45.

and walk not. Neither shall they cry out through their throat. Let them that make them become like unto them and all such as trust in them.” (Ps. 113:12-17)

“The makers of idols are all of them nothing, and their best beloved things shall not profit them. They are their witnesses that they do not see, nor understand, that they may be ashamed. Who hath formed a god and made a graven thing that is profitable for nothing? Behold, all the partakers thereof shall be confounded, for the makers are men. They shall all assemble together, they shall stand and fear, and shall be confounded together. The smith hath wrought with his file, with coals and with hammers he hath formed it and hath wrought with the strength of his arm; he shall hunger and faint, he shall drink no water, and shall be weary. The carpenter hath stretched out his rule, he hath formed it with a plane, he hath made it with corners and hath fashioned it round with the compass, and he hath made the image of a man as it were a beautiful man dwelling in a house. He hath cut down cedars, taken the holm and the oak that stood among the trees of the forest, he hath planted the pine tree which the rain hath nourished. And it hath served men for fuel. He took thereof and warmed himself, and he kindled it and baked bread, but of the rest he made a god and adored it. He made a graven thing and bowed down before it. Part of it he burnt with fire, and with part of it he dressed his meat, he boiled pottage and was filled and was warmed, and said: Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire. But the residue thereof he made a god, a graven thing for himself. He boweth down before it and adoreth it and prayeth unto it, saying: Deliver me, for thou art my God. They have not known nor understood, for their eyes are covered that they may not see and that they may not understand with their heart. They do not consider in their mind, nor know, nor have the thought to say: I have burnt part of it in the fire, and I have baked bread upon the coals thereof. I have broiled flesh and have eaten, and of the residue thereof shall I make an idol? Shall I fall down before the stock of a tree? Part thereof is ashes. His foolish heart adoreth it, and he will not save his soul, nor say: Perhaps there is a lie in my right hand.” (Isa. 44:9-20)

“But unhappy are they, and their hope is among the dead who have called gods the works of the hands of men, gold and silver, the inventions of art, and the resemblances of beasts, or an unprofitable stone the work of an ancient hand. Or if an artist, a carpenter, hath cut down a tree proper for his use in the wood and skilfully taken off all the bark thereof; and with his art, diligently formeth a vessel profitable for the common uses of life, And useth the chips of his work to dress his meat. And taking what was left thereof, which is good for nothing, being a crooked piece of wood, and full of knots, carveth it diligently when he hath nothing else to do; and by the skill of his art, fashioneth it and maketh it like the image of a man, or the resemblance of some beast, laying it over with vermilion and painting it red and covering every spot that is in it. And maketh a convenient dwelling place for it, and setting it in a wall and fastening it with iron, Providing for it, lest it should fall, knowing that it is unable to help itself, for it is an image and hath need of help. And then maketh prayer to it, inquiring concerning his substance, and his children, or his marriage. And he is not ashamed to speak to that which hath no life. And for health he maketh supplication to the weak, and for life prayeth to that which is dead, and for help calleth upon that which is unprofitable. And for a good journey, he petitioneth him that cannot walk; and for getting and for working and for the event of all things, he asketh him that is unable to do any thing.” (Wis. 13:10-19)

“For whilst they trust in idols which are without life, though they swear amiss, they look not to be hurt. But for two things they shall be justly punished, because they have thought not well of God giving heed to idols, and have sworn unjustly, in guile despising justice.” (Wis. 14:29-30)

“Because that which is known of God is manifest in them. For God hath manifested it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made; his eternal power also, and divinity, so that they are inexcusable. Because that when they knew God, they have not glorified him as God or given thanks but became vain in their thoughts and

their foolish heart was darkened. For professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. And they changed the glory of the incorruptible God into the likeness of the image of a corruptible man, and of birds, and of fourfooted beasts, and of creeping things.” (Rom. 1:19-23)

- The natural law tells all men that the stars, moon, fire, and other elements are not gods:

“But all men are vain in whom there is not the knowledge of God; and who by these good things that are seen, could not understand him that is, neither by attending to the works have acknowledged who was the workman but have imagined either the fire, or the wind, or the swift air, or the circle of the stars, or the great water, or the sun and moon, to be the gods that rule the world. With whose beauty, if they, being delighted, took them to be gods. Let them know how much the Lord of them is more beautiful than they, for the first author of beauty made all those things. Or if they admired their power and their effects, let them understand by them that he that made them is mightier than they. For by the greatness of the beauty of the creature, the creator of them may be seen, so as to be known thereby. But yet as to these they are less to be blamed. For they perhaps err, seeking God, and desirous to find him. For being conversant among his works, they search; and they are persuaded that the things are good which are seen. But then again they are not to be pardoned, for if they were able to know so much as to make a judgment of the world: how did they not more easily find out the Lord thereof?” (Wis. 13:1-9)

- The natural law tells all men that religions that violate moral dogmas of the natural law are false religions, such as religions that promote adultery, homosexuality, murder, and stealing, such as promoted by the gods and religions of mythology.
- The natural law tells all men that Hinduism is a false religion because the reward of faithful men in the afterlife is to become a cow and thus much less than when he was human.
- The natural law tells all men that religions that teach reincarnation are false religions because reincarnation essentially annihilates the memory, acts, beliefs, freewill, and life of all dead persons because the succeeding persons do not know who they previous were nor believe or act in the same ways as the previous persons. Just ask a person who believes in reincarnation “Who were you in the previous life and who were you previous to that and who were you previous to that, etc? Hence, according to this belief, all dead men actually cease to exist and thus God would not be a rewarder of the good or punisher of the wicked.
- The natural law tells all men that Churches and religions that do not claim to infallibly teach the truth are false Churches and false religions because if that were true then there would be no way to know the truth about God and religion with all certainty.
- The natural law tells all men that religions that allow each person to determine what truth is are false religions because the so-called truth of one person will conflict with the so-called truth of another person and thus either only one is true or both are false and thus there is no way to know the truth but only to have conflicting opinions each claiming to be the truth.
- The natural law tells all men that only one God and religion and Church are true and thus tells all men that the belief that all gods or religions are true, good, or to be respected is false because it presents a god who is schizophrenic or a liar—not sure of who he is, what he believes, and what he demands of men from one day to the next.

- And there are thousands if not hundreds of thousands more examples.

*Men come to know the true God by rejecting knowable falsehoods*

Men who do not know the true God and true faith come to true God and the true faith by rejecting the knowable falsehoods in their life, one after another, till they are worthy of learning about the true God and true faith. And if they are worthy, then God will see to it they eventually learn about him and the faith either orally or in writing:

“All that the Father giveth to me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me, I will not cast out... No man can come to me except the Father, who hath sent me, draw him; and I will raise him up in the last day.” (Jn. 6:37, 44)

If men refuse to believe some earthly things they do know and thus are liars, then they will likewise refuse to believe some heavenly things when taught to them because they are liars. Jesus said,

“If I have spoken to you earthly things and you believe not, how will you believe if I shall speak to you heavenly things?” (Jn. 3:12)

For example, a pagan who does not know the true God and true faith is not worthy of learning about the true God and true faith if he lies about that things he does know, such as by saying a white wall is black, a cat is a dog, an idol is God, or by refusing to believe notorious evidence when presented to him; such as, the lies that there was a Holocaust of Jews during World War II, that Hitler wanted to kill all the Jews, and that the World Trade Center buildings did not fall by demolition charges and was not an inside job authorized and covered up by high ranking members in the USA government and promoted the major media.<sup>2</sup> If you still believe the lies after looking at the evidence, you are not worthy to even learn the Catholic faith let alone even hear about it. I would not even try to convert such an obstinate liar unless he stops lying about the things he does know. Such a man is not worthy of enlightenment until he stops lying about the things he does know:

“Son of man, these men have placed their uncleannesses in their hearts and have set up before their face the stumbling block of their iniquity, and shall I answer when they inquire of me?” (Ez. 14:3)

*Catholic Commentary* on Ez. 14:3 “Idolaters must first depart from idolatry otherwise God will permit false prophets to deceive them and both shall perish together.”

When an obstinate liar dies who never heard about the Catholic faith and is judged as damned, he will know for certain that one of the main mortal sins that prevented him from learning about the true God and true faith was lying about things he did know. He will then know that

“Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but they that deal faithfully please him” (Prv. 12:22)

“The just shall hate a lying word, but the wicked confoundeth and shall be confounded.” (Prv. 13:5)

“The evil man obeyeth an unjust tongue, and the deceitful hearkeneth to lying lips.” (Prv. 17:4)

“The spirit of the Lord hath filled the whole world. And that which containeth all things, hath knowledge of the voice. Therefore he that speaketh unjust things cannot be hid neither shall the chastising judgment pass him by.” (Wis. 1:7-8)

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<sup>2</sup> For the overwhelming evidence, see RJMI book *Hitler's Sins and Non-Sins*; RJMI video/audio *Conspiracies of the Jews*; and the conspiracy webpage on the Holocaust and 911 hoaxes on the Saint John the Baptist website at [www.JohnTheBaptist.us](http://www.JohnTheBaptist.us).

“And in all seduction of iniquity to them that perish because they receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved... That all may be judged who have not believed the truth, but have consented to iniquity.” (2 Thes. 2:10-11)

“Without are dogs, and sorcerers, and unchaste, and murderers, and servers of idols, and every one that loveth and maketh a lie.” (Apoc. 22:15)

There is a point in which God curses obstinate liars by pulling back his grace and thus allows them to fall into one lie after another and thus they will never come to the truth, which is known as the operation-of-error curse:

“[The Antichrist], whose coming is according to the working of Satan, in all power, and signs, and lying wonders, and in all seduction of iniquity to them that perish because they receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved. Therefore, God shall send them the operation of error to believe lying. That all may be judged who have not believed the truth but have consented to iniquity.” (2 Thes. 2:9-11)

However, an unbeliever, such as a pagan or Protestant, who progressively stops lying about things he does know will eventually become worthy of not only learning about the Catholic faith but also believing it and entering the Catholic Church. As he rejects one falsehood after another in his false religion, he moves closer and closer to God to the point that God will eventually reveal himself and the true faith to him:

“For God... is a protector to all that seek him in truth.” (Eccus. 2:13) “Therefore the desire of wisdom bringeth to the everlasting kingdom.” (Wis. 6:20-21)

God’s grace is certainly sufficient to motivate unbelievers to see the errors in their false religions and break off membership, even if they have not yet been exposed to Catholicism. False religions do not conform to true faith, reason, and the natural law. The lies taught in false religions should be odious to a man of good will, even if he has not yet been taught the true faith:

“My lips shall not speak iniquity neither shall my tongue contrive lying.” (Job 27:4)

False religions are strange voices that can be recognized by any man whom God’s grace enlightens. If a non-Catholic does not see the contradiction and error in his false religion, then it is his own fault, not God’s. God’s grace is sufficient; man’s will is deficient!

“Say not: It is through God, that she [wisdom/the Catholic faith] is not with me; for do not thou the things that he hateth. Say not: He hath caused me to err. For he hath no need of wicked men. The Lord hateth all abomination of error, and they that fear him shall not love it.” (Eclcus. 15:11-13)

A true story of a Protestant convert to the Catholic faith will prove this truth. A young man named Mr. X was born and raised a Protestant. I had the privilege of meeting Mr. X, and he told me the story of his conversion to the Catholic Church. Mr. X was raised in a totally isolated Protestant community and thus never learned about the Catholic faith. He had begun to question the contradictions he became aware of in his Protestant faith. One day, while reading his Protestant Bible (the King James Version), he came across Luke 1:48 in which the Blessed Virgin Mary had said, “*Behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.*” His religion did not emphasize the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary and did not honor nor venerate her, and this bothered him, especially in relation to this biblical passage he had read. He got up one day in his classroom and read this verse aloud, and asked his teacher and classmates why they did not honor and venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary as they should according to this Bible passage. He got nothing but stunned, deafening silence. We must now recognize two truths in this event.

- One, Mr. X had responded to God’s grace and recognized this error in his Protestant religion without knowledge of the Catholic faith.
- Two, the other Protestants in Mr. X’s classroom were offered the same grace as he but did not cooperate with it. This proves that they are culpable for not

responding as Mr. X had in seeing the lies in their Protestant religion. God certainly willed that they should have seen this truth, just as Mr. X had, and supplied all of them with the necessary grace to do so, for God “will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim. 2:4). And God “enlighteneth every man that cometh into this world.” (Jn. 1:9) The fact was that Mr. X’s schoolmates, at that time, still preferred the darkness, the falsehood, and thus they would not come to the light. “And this is the judgment: Because the light is come into the world and men loved darkness rather than the light, for their works were evil. For every one that doth evil hateth the light and cometh not to the light that his works may not be reprov’d. But he that doth truth cometh to the light that his works may be made manifest because they are done in God.” (Jn. 3:19-21)

Mr. X cooperated with God’s grace and came to the light. Some of these Protestants who did not initially respond to Mr. X’s testimony could come to the knowledge of the truth at a later time by repenting of their heresy, rejecting their false religion, embracing the Catholic faith, and entering the Catholic Church. Mr. X may very well have planted a seed in some of his classmates’ souls. This started Mr. X on the road to questioning other verses regarding works and deeds that his Protestant religion said were not necessary for salvation. It was clear to him from the Protestant Bible that a Christian needs to have faith and perform deeds in order to be saved. Three of the main Biblical passages he used as proof, out of many, were as follows:

St. Paul says, “Wherefore, my dearly beloved... with fear and trembling work out your salvation,” (Philippians. 2:12) and

Jesus says, “Not every one that saith to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. But he that doth the will of my Father who is in heaven, he shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. Many will say to me in that day: Lord, Lord, have not we prophesied in thy name, and cast out devils in thy name, and done many miracles in thy name? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you. Depart from me, you that work iniquity.” (Matthew 7:21-23)

Jesus says, “If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.” (Mt. 19:17)

Now remember, Mr. X is detecting all these lies and contradictions in his Protestant religion and has not yet learned about the Catholic faith. This led him to search out other Protestant religions until he found the truth in the Catholic Church.

The key questions you should ponder regarding this story is: How come the other Protestants in his own class did not see, did not believe in, the truth as Mr. X had? Does not God’s grace work in men in order to help them acknowledge the truth? What excuse do the other Protestants in his class have, as Mr. X was able to see the contradictions in this false religion by the grace of God and they did not by the grace of God. The problem, then, is not God’s grace but their freewill. They choose to believe the lie instead of the truth. You see, all who worship false gods or belong to false religions are culpable for not seeing the contradiction and errors in them that God’s grace is motivating them to see, regardless if learned about the Catholic faith or not. If they do see and reject the lies, omissions, and contradictions in their false religions and wholeheartedly seek the truth, then God will see to it that they eventually learn of the Catholic faith and enter the Catholic Church before they die. The Prophet Jeremias says, “You shall seek me and shall find me, when you shall seek me with *all* your heart.” (Jer. 29:13) And if they are ultimately of goodwill, they will be saved and go to heaven. It would then be known that they were Jesus’ other sheep whom he called into his one flock<sup>3</sup>:

“And other sheep I have, that are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.” (Jn. 10:16)

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<sup>3</sup> See in this book “Jesus’ Other Sheep Must Hear the Word and Enter the One Fold.”

*Hence only the humble who love truth can be saved*

Jesus Christ is the living Truth, the living Word of God:

“Jesus saith to him: I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me.” (Jn. 14:6)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (Jn. 1:1)

Hence no one can truly know and adore God if he does not know and believe the truth, the Catholic faith:

“True adorers shall adore the Father in spirit and in truth. For the Father also seeketh such to adore him.” (Jn. 4:23)

“Sanctify them in truth. Thy word is truth.” (Jn. 17:17)

“But he that doth truth cometh to the light that his works may be made manifest because they are done in God.” (Jn. 3:21)

“The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.” (Ps. 144:18)

“The truth shall make you free.” (Jn. 8:32)

To come to the truth, one must be humble and thus admit when he is wrong and embrace the truth:

“Where pride is, there also shall be reproach; but where humility is, there also is wisdom.” (Prv. 11:2)

##pride

Conversely, Satan is the father of pride and lies:

“Thou [Satan] wast in the pleasures of the paradise of God... Thou a cherub stretched out, and protecting, and I set thee in the holy mountain of God... Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day of thy creation until iniquity was found in thee... And thy heart was lifted up [pride] with thy beauty: thou hast lost thy wisdom in thy beauty, I have cast thee to the ground.” (Ez. 28:13-17)

“But by the envy of the devil, death came into the world. And they follow him that are of his side.” (Wis. 2:24-25)

Jesus said to the unbelieving Jews, “You are of your father the devil and the desires of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning and he stood not in the truth because truth is not in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father thereof.” (Jn. 8:44)

Hence only the humble who love truth will be saved. God will see to that they are. This fact along with the fact the very, very few are saved is one proof that very, very few men are humble and love truth. Instead, most men are pride-filled liars. Indeed, the Word of God says most men are pride-filled liars:

“The beginning of the pride of man is to fall off from God: Because his heart is departed from him that made him, for pride is the beginning of all sin. He that holdeth it, shall be filled with maledictions, and it shall ruin him in the end.” (Eccus. 10:14-15)

“Every proud man is an abomination to the Lord.” (Prv. 16:5)

“For the sin of their mouth and the word of their lips...let them be taken in their pride. And for their cursing and lying they shall be talked of. (Ps. 58:13)

“But vain are the sons of men, the sons of men are liars in the balances that by vanity they may together deceive.” (Ps. 61:10)

“The Lord hath looked down from heaven upon the children of men to see if there be any that understand and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are become unprofitable together: there is none that doth good, no not one.” (Ps. 13:2-3)

“There is none that calleth upon justice, neither is there any one that judgeth truly. But they trust in a mere nothing, and speak vanities. They have conceived labour, and brought forth iniquity.” (Isa. 59:4)

“He that worketh pride shall not dwell in the midst of my house: he that speaketh unjust things did not prosper before my eyes. (Ps. 100:7)

“Where pride is, there also shall be reproach; but where humility is, there also is wisdom. (Prv. 11:2)

Indeed men must not only love the truth but must also be humble:

“And do you all insinuate humility one to another, for God resisteth the proud, but to the humble he giveth grace.” (1 Pt. 5:5)

Men who say they love the truth but are not humble do not really love the truth nor holiness and will never ultimately arrive at truth and holiness because their pride prevents them from admitting when they are wrong about this or that and admitting when they sin here or there. Only the humble who love truth ultimately arrive at the truth and holiness because they admit when they are wrong, embrace the truth, and sincerely confess their sins and amend their lives and thus die in truth and holiness and hence die as good Catholics:

“Love justice... Think of the Lord in goodness and seek him in simplicity of heart. For he is found by them that tempt him not, and he sheweth himself to them that have faith in him. For perverse thoughts separate from God; and his power when it is tried, reproveth the unwise. For wisdom will not enter into a malicious soul nor dwell in a body subject to sins. For the Holy Spirit of discipline will flee from the deceitful and will withdraw himself from thoughts that are without understanding, and he shall not abide when iniquity cometh in.” (Wis. 1:1-5)

“Blessed is the man whose trust is in the name of the Lord and who hath not had regard to vanities and lying follies.” (Ps. 39:5)

“And incorruption bringeth near to God. Therefore the desire of wisdom bringeth to the everlasting kingdom.” (Wis. 6:20-21)

*For the glory of God; in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Michael, St. Joseph, Ss. Joachim and Anne, St. John the Baptist, the other angels and saints; and for the salvation of men*

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