A scenic landscape featuring a paved road that curves through a green field towards a range of blue mountains under a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid on this background.

**JESUS CHRIST,
MARY,
and YOU**

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

John 14:6

AUTHORITY

The year was 1518. Twenty-six years earlier, Christopher Columbus had discovered America. The printing press had been in widespread use for less than 100 years. Advances were taking place in technology, exploration, and education that prior generations had never witnessed. In England, a man named **John Thatcher** was charged with a high crime, arrested, and presumably burned at the stake.

His crime - knowing and teaching one verse of an English Bible:

***“Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it”
(Luke 11:28).***

Why would a man risk death over one verse of Scripture? Why would another man kill for one verse of Scripture?

To be **Blessed** is to have a pronouncement by God of divine favor and happiness. To be blessed is not merely to feel happy but to be placed in a state of happiness.

Where can blessing be found? Is it found in whatever a man, woman, or church determines to be **blessed**? Or, does the one whose favor is pronounced have to also declare the terms of **blessing**?

John Thatcher believed that God's blessing could only be received in the way that God Himself said blessing was received. Any other blessedness would be uncertain or worse, untrue.

In contrast, the Roman Catholic Church teaches that God's blessing comes from wherever the pope and the Roman Catholic Church declare God's blessing to be.

The heart of the matter then between John Thatcher and those who arrested him was this - **who is our authority?**

For the Roman Catholic Church, there are several authorities: The pope, tradition (which includes the catechisms, creeds, and the Bible), and the magisterium. While the Bible is included in the list, it is only the pope and the magisterium who are authorized to accurately interpret the Bible. The authority of the Bible therefore becomes subordinate to the authority of the pope.

The pope says blessing can be received through Mary, praying the rosary, and the many other ways described by the church in its catechisms and papal writings.

But how do the teachings of Rome compare with the Bible?

ROME SAYS

*“Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the church under the titles of **Advocate**, Helper, Benefactress, and **Mediatrix**” (Roman Catholic Catechism #969)*

*“The Church’s **devotion to the Blessed Virgin** is intrinsic to Christian worship. The Church rightly honors the Blessed Virgin with special devotion... The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the Rosary...express this devotion to the **Virgin Mary**” (Roman Catholic Catechism, #971).*

*“The Mother of Jesus, in the glory which she possesses in body and soul in heaven, is the image and **beginning** of the church as it is to be perfected in the world to come” (Roman Catholic Catechism, #972).*

*“Finally the Immaculate Virgin... was taken up body and soul into Heavenly glory and **exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things**” (Roman Catholic Catechism, #966).*

*“**Hail Holy Queen**, Mother of mercy; **our life**, our sweetness, and our hope...” (Rosary - Part 7)*

GOD SAYS

*“For there is one God and one **Mediator** between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus”
(I Timothy 2:5)*

*“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, **Jesus Christ the righteous**”
(I John 2:1).*

*“And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, **You shall worship the LORD your God** and Him only you shall serve”
(Luke 4:8).*

*“And He (Jesus Christ) is before all things, and in Him all things consists. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the **beginning**, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence”
(Colossians 1:17-18).*

*“Thus says the Lord of hosts... you and your wives have spoken... saying, “We will surely keep our vows that we have made... to the **Queen** of Heaven... therefore hear the Word of the LORD:... Behold, I will watch over them for adversity and not for good...”
(Jeremiah 44:25-27).*

LISTEN TO ME!

From the beginning to the end of Scripture, God calls His people to **“Listen to Him.”** Far too often, the people listen to others, instead of God and perish.

God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But the Devil tempted him to ignore God and listen to himself (**Genesis 2:15, 3:1-15**). The result was the death of Adam and Eve and all mankind. God told the Israelites not to worship any other gods but Him alone (**Exodus 20:2**), but they worshipped a golden calf and 3,000 died as a result (**Exodus 32:1-4**). God said not to worship the idols of the land they were going to conquer (**Deuteronomy 27:14-15**), but the people were swiftly worshipping Baal, Ashtaroath, Molech, and all manner of other gods to their own hurt.

For these reasons, the Lord called out in **Psalm 81**, *“Oh, that my people would **listen to Me!**”* In **Proverbs 1:33**, the Lord says, *“Whoever **listens to me** will dwell safely, and will be secure without fear of evil.”* As Isaiah draws toward the close of the book, the Lord says through Him, *“**Listen carefully to Me**, and eat what is good...**Incline your ear**, and come to ME. **Hear**, and your soul shall live!”* (**Isaiah 55:3**). When Jesus took three of His disciples to the mount of Transfiguration, God spoke

from heaven saying, *“This is My beloved Son. **Hear Him!**”* (**Mark 9:7**).

Here is a great theme of Scripture. God speaks in His Word and calls all the world to listen to Him!

Why? For at least two reasons: **1)** Because it is only God’s Word that endures forever; and **2)** Only God’s Word shows the way to salvation and eternal life.

First, It defies reason and wisdom to follow that which is passing away but yet most people throughout history have done just that. They follow the teaching of men and women that passes away and is quickly forgotten. The Word of the Lord, however, endures forever.

*“**Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in the heavens”**”*

(Psalm 119:89)

*“**The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever”**”*

(Isaiah 40:8)

*“**Sanctify them through thy truth, thy Word is truth!”**”*

(John 17:17)

God calls us to listen to Him and tells us that the Word He spoke endures forever. **Heaven and earth will pass away but My Words will by no means pass away** (**Matthew 24:35**).

Second, Not only will God's Word endure but in God's Word we find the only way to the Father and eternal life. Jesus Christ said, *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man comes to the Father but by Me"* (**John 14:6**). The way to the Father is through the Son. The way to know the Son Jesus Christ is as He has revealed Himself in His Word. Whoever comes to the Son of God by faith, will not perish but have everlasting life (**John 3:16**).

The pope says that he and the Roman Catholic Church are the authority over your life but God in His Word tells you something altogether different.

The Word of God is the only authority for faith and life. Popes come and go but the one who does the will of the Lord and follows His Word finds everlasting life in Christ.

But isn't the Bible too difficult?

We have many close friends and relatives who are devoted to Rome and the pope. They don't read the Bible on their own because they don't believe they can understand it without a priest. The pope wants you to believe the great mystery of the revelation of God is only revealed to the pope and his priests, bishops, and cardinals. A similar lie was present in the time of the book of Romans in the Bible.

There were those in ancient Rome who believed that the only way they

could get to know God was if they went and ascended up into Heaven to hear God speak to them. Alternatively, they thought perhaps they could descend into the depths of the sea to find God speaking to them (**Romans 10:5-7**).

GOD'S WORD IS CLOSE!

The pope wants you to believe the lie that tempted ancient Rome - God is far off and only the Roman Catholic Church can bring you near to Him. But God once again says something different:

"The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved!" (**Romans 10:8-9**).

The Word of God is right near you. It's in the Bible on your phone or on your shelf. It's so close. You don't have to climb the hierarchy of Rome to find it. It's right here. Salvation is freely offered through Christ alone.

Listen to God!

ROME SAYS FURTHER

“Hail Mary, full of grace...blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Hail Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.”

(Rosary - Hail Mary)

“Mary is the Mother of the Son of God. As a result she is also the favorite daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift of sublime grace, she far surpasses all other creatures, both in heaven and on earth.”

(Pope John Paul II, Redemptoris Mater 9).

“Dear sick people, I call upon you to address a thought of servant devotion to Mary... in imitation of our lady, the co-redeemer. May Mary nourish in you sentiments of sincerity and hope, and may she strengthen also the blessing.

(Pope John Paul II - Rome, 12/10/1980).

GOD SAYS FURTHER

*“And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, **Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!** But He said, **More than that, blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!**”*

(Luke 11:27-28)

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace and truth**”*

(John 1:14)

*“And it was told Him by some, who said, “Your mother and Your brothers are outside, desiring to see You.” But He answered and said to them, “**My mother and My brothers are those who hear the Word of God and do it.**”*

(Luke 8:20-21)

*“**In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace!**”*

(Ephesians 1:7)

*“**The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**”*

(Psalm 27:1)

*“Ad Jesum per Mariam” (To **Jesus through Mary**) must be shown to be true for us too, that is, that it is really fact...”*

(Insegnamenti - February 11, 1982)

*“Hail Mary, Mother of Christ and of the Church! **Hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope!**”*

*(Pope John Paul II - Insegnamenti
December 31, 1979)*

*“Dear brothers, always remember that the Mother of Jesus is here; **she is with us today...** wherever you are, you can say: **the Mother of Christ is here!**”*

*(Pope John Paul II, Rome, January
30, 1982)*

*“Come to **Me**, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*

(Matthew 11:27)

*“Whatever you ask the Father in **MY** name He may give you.*

(John 15:16)

*“Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and **the life**, no one comes to the Father **except through Me.**”*

(John 14:6)

*“Now a leper **came to Him**, imploring Him... “If you are willing, You can make me clean.” Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him and said to him, **“I am willing; be cleansed.”**”*

(Mark 1:40-41)

*“Jesus came and spoke to them saying,... “Lo, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age. Amen.*

(Matthew 28:17-20)

Mary

Authority is the heart of the issue. Its importance cannot be overstated as our life depends on whom we listen to. Will we listen to God as He has said to do, or will we listen to another as He has said not to do? What happens when we take for our authority someone other than God and something other than the Word of God?

Jeremiah is a book full of God speaking to His people and His people not listening to Him. The consequences are terrible. In **Jeremiah 42:19**, God through Jeremiah said **“Do not go to Egypt!”** The people once again disobeyed and those few people who survived two sieges, insurrections, famine, and disease in Israel mostly died in Egypt.

In **Jeremiah 44** the Israelites are in Egypt where God chastised them for worshipping **“the queen of heaven”** (**Jeremiah 44:17-19**) and tells them to stop doing it. Nevertheless they would not listen and promised to keep worshipping the queen of heaven.

The people made offerings to this queen, they venerated her, made fruit cakes for her, and brought all manner of gifts to her idolatrous representations.

Sadly, the Roman Catholic Church has continued in the idolatrous way of Judah in Jeremiah’s day.

They have made a queen in their minds who would sit alongside Christ and be worthy of veneration and attributes ascribed to God only. Her name is **Mary**.

What do we know about Mary? We learn something of Mary from the few references to her in the gospels. Socioeconomically, she was not wealthy. Her lineage was renowned, for she was in the family line of David. Perhaps most of all we see her spiritual quality, for she listened to the Lord and His Word. But we also see Mary’s spiritual state. **Mary was a sinner, in need of a Savior like you and me.**

Some Roman Catholics have said that to call Mary a sinner is blasphemy. Nevertheless, we know Mary was a sinner both from her own words and God’s Word. First consider Mary’s own words:

*“And Mary said: My soul magnified the LORD, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my **Savior!**”* (**Luke 1:47**).

No one can have a Savior unless they need saving. Who needs saving but sinners? For this reason Jesus came to save His people from their sins (**Matthew 1:21**).

Mary magnified Christ the Lord because she was a sinner and He was her Savior!

This is a glorious truth of the Scripture, that Mary the mother of Jesus was saved by Jesus!

Second, consider the Lord's word: *"There is none righteous, no, not one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:10,23).*

Mary was a sinner and she was saved by the grace of God alone. To call her perfect and sinless is to listen to lying men and to deny Jesus Christ who spoke the truth in His Word.

Mary was neither sinless nor should she be venerated for both she and the Lord declared her a sinner and one saved by the blood of the lamb of God. To believe in her sinlessness is to deny the Scripture; to venerate her name, motherhood, or attributes is to practice idolatry.

The pope further teaches that Mary is full of grace. During the Rosary, the "Hail Mary" is repeated about 54 times in 88 beads and goes like this, *"Hail Mary, full of grace..."* This sounds good at one level for the angel greeted Mary in this manner: *"Blessed art thou among women...."* But what of this **"full of grace?"**

From the beginning of the Hail Mary, blasphemy is repeated over and over. In the original Greek and Hebrew Scripture, only one is ever described as **"full of grace,"** and it is not Mary. Rome gives this title to Mary through a Latin translation of **Luke 1:28** which changes the original language from the true meaning - *"Rejoice, highly favored one, The Lord is with you..."* to a false meaning - *"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you."* This title, **"full of grace"** was never given by the angel to Mary; however, it was given to one person.

There is one in the Bible who receives this title, "full of grace." His name is Jesus Christ.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

God says that Jesus is **full of grace** while Rome attributes this attribute to Mary. **Does the Lord share His glory? Whom will you believe?**

The Lord says, *"I am the LORD; that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images" (Isaiah 42:8).*

Why is Mary venerated?

Since the fall of Adam, the world has been enamored of and at times given over to idol worship. Jesus Christ and His Word have been rejected by men and replaced with all kinds of idols. A common idol in history has been a goddess. In Acts 19 we read of Paul preaching in Ephesus causing quite an uproar because the people of the city worshipped the goddess Diana.

Acts 19:34, tells us that for two hours the Ephesians cried out, *“Great is Diana of the Ephesians!”*

There are cults that worship God the Father and God the Mother as two distinct entities (World Mission Society Church of God).

Since Christ’s early ministry, people heard Him preach and saw Him work miracles and praised His mother instead of Him.

This brings us back to the verse for which John Thatcher was willing to die and for which the pope was willing to kill – **Luke 11:28**.

Just before Jesus pronounced this blessing, He was preaching:

Luke 11:27. *“And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!”*

Here is the context for Luke 11:28: A woman blessed Mary’s motherhood. She thought she was giving honor to Christ by proclaiming honor and blessing to Mary. She blessed the one who bore the Savior instead of the Savior who was born.

Roman Catholicism would have you think that Jesus responded to this woman by saying, “Amen! All Hail Mary, Queen, Advocate, Mediatrix!” They stop at verse 27 and ignore verse 28.

Jesus, however, corrected this confused woman who was praising the wrong person. Jesus answered, **“More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Luke 11:28)**

Mary is not the one to be blessed by men. She was favored by God and called to the high calling of bearing Christ! But Mary was a sinner saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, and she desired all not to look to her but to look to Jesus Christ for salvation.

The first attempt at a Hail Mary took place in Luke 11:27. Jesus shut it down immediately. Will you listen to Jesus now and call upon Him alone who hears, answers, and saves; or will you call on her who cannot hear, cannot answer, and cannot save? **Jesus says, “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”**

Don't We Need Prayer Help?

Sometimes when discussing the topic of Mary and prayer, Roman Catholic priests ask something like this: *Who would you rather go to, the Son who is busy governing the world or His kind and gracious mother?*

The implication is that someone can be equally or more kind and gracious than Jesus Christ the Son of God. But no one is equal to or greater than Christ. He alone is the most kind God who hears the cry of His people and saves.

Jesus tells us that, ***“There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”***

If there is one Mediator between God and man, why does Rome go to Mary and numerous other dead Christians for help? They cannot help. **Christ is the only Mediator** between us and God and the only one who can help us and save. Look to Christ alone. Go directly in prayer to Christ alone. **Listen to Christ alone and be saved!**

In this pamphlet we have focused on authority and Mary. The pope wants you to listen to his teaching, but God calls you to listen to Himself as He speaks in His Word.

If you would turn your ear towards God's Word and find your authority

where God calls you to find it – you will be delivered from the false religion of Roman Catholicism and **brought near** to the glorious kingdom of God.

If you would listen to God in His Word, repent of your sins, and believe in Jesus Christ alone for salvation as He is freely offered to you in the Gospel, **you will be saved** and **brought into** the glorious Kingdom of God.

John Thatcher was willing to die in order to know the blessing of Christ and the power of His resurrection... and he did die. Rome was willing to kill in order to limit the spread of Word of God to the common people... and they did kill.

The truth of God's Word is well worth dying for - for all who die in Christ will surely live again at the last day. On that day, will you be standing with the Lord or will you be cast into the fires of Hell with those that have venerated and worshipped the queen of heaven and Mary before you?

Life is presented to you in Christ alone found in the Scripture alone. Death is presented to you in the lies of Rome. As Moses called out long ago so we plead with you in the name of Christ today, ***“I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life... for He (God) is your life!”*** (Deuteronomy 30:19)

We have given you this pamphlet today because we love you and want you to know the true Christ in the true way so that you might not perish but have everlasting life. The true way of knowing Christ is through the Word of God. The Lord says in Romans 10:17 that *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”* Will you hear God’s Word today and believe in Christ Jesus alone for salvation, or will you continue in the way of the perishing?

The world, your own flesh, and the devil desire you not to listen to God’s Word lest you discern the way of good and evil and embrace Jesus Christ as He is freely offered in the gospel. This pamphlet calls you, according to God’s Word, to listen to God’s Word; and it calls you, by God’s Word, to reject all that is contrary to God’s Word.

May the Lord enable you today to believe in Jesus Christ alone for salvation who said, *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes unto the Father except through Me (John 14:6).*

Look to the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved, for He is God and there is no other!

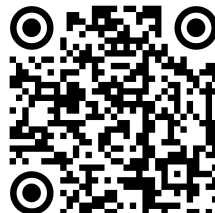
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