

Selected Scriptures
Roman Catholicism, Mary, and Christ-Centered Evangelism
(pt. 3)

The current preaching series on Roman Catholicism, Mary, the incomparable glory of Jesus, and Christ-centered evangelism flows out of three biblical streams.

Each of these biblical streams highlights the applicational thrust of these 3 messages:

1) God's Passion for the Unrivaled Preeminence of Jesus Christ.

(Colossians 1:13-18)

2) The Church's Mandate to Reach the Lost with Gospel Truth.

(Mark 16:15; John 8:32)

3) The Berean Call to Compare Every Doctrine & Practice with Scripture.

(Acts 17:11; 1 Thess. 5:21)

How do wrong beliefs impact our worship? Our prayer lives? Our evangelism?

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.”
Pastors are called to feed & teach their congregation (how to discern, how to accurately study the bible, etc).

This AM we'll highlight two biblical denials and two corresponding affirmations concerning “the Real Mary.”

MARY IS NOT _____

MARY IS _____

5)	
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5) continued

6)

For Further Reflection/Application:

There are many former Roman Catholic converts who are now part of solid, evangelical churches (including LCBC). Ask a former Catholic to share their testimony of how God brought them out of the Catholic church (Ephesian 2:1-10)? This would make for great lunch fellowship.

When is the last time you shared the gospel with someone? Are you as intentional in your witnessing as the Lord calls you to be? If not, explain why this is such a struggle and seek out another believer who could disciple you in this important area of our Christian walks.

Explain how God's passion for the unrivaled preeminence of Jesus Christ is related to Roman Catholicism's "veneration" of "our Holy Queen of Heaven and Mother of mercy?"

Our Holy God is a *righteously jealous* God (Exodus 34:14; Isaiah 42:8). How has this doctrine of God impacted evangelistic fervor (both near and far)? "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever" (John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad, p. 11).

If our Christian friends in India loving call Hindu and Muslim friends and family members to not worship anyone but the true and Living God, shouldn't American Christian's challenge their Catholic friends about their exaltation and worship of Mary? Have you ever lovingly done this before? What kind of response did you receive? Remember, our job is simply to sow the gospel seed and to speak the truth in love.

How does the Catholic theology of Mary impact a practicing Catholic's prayer life? Their thought life? Their worship? Their hope of salvation? Their view of God and Jesus Christ?

What is the practical significance of the following quotes from prominent Roman Catholics: God's spiritual family (the Church of Jesus Christ) is "*INCOMPLETE without a loving mother!*" "*The breakaway Christian churches (speaking of evangelical Protestants) that diminish Mary's role inevitably end up feeling like a bachelor's apartment: masculine to a fault; orderly but not homey; functional and productive—but with little sense of beauty and poetry.*"

Read all the "Mary" passages listed below. Compare what Scripture (alone) says concerning Mary with what the Roman Catholic Church teaches.

In this sermon the preacher noted that "*careful bible study* (2 Timothy 2:15) *obliterates a host of errors.*" (explain why this is true and how it is related to the past 3 messages on Mary)?

"*Just because someone cites the Bible does not necessarily mean that what they're saying is biblical.*" What examples has the preacher given of how this is often the case with Roman Catholic teachers (hint: think Revelation 12; Luke 1; & 1 Kings 2 to name but a few).

Is it unloving to ask our lost friends who are religious to reconsider what God's Word actually says about the REAL Mary, the Jesus, and the TRUE gospel?

Related Biblical Texts:

Matthew 1:18-25; Mark 3:31-34; 6:1-6; 15:40; Luke 1:26-46; 2:1-52; 11:27-28; John 2:1-12; 19:25-27; Acts 1:12-14; Galatians 4:4-5; Colossians 1-2; John 19:25-27; John 1:12; Matt. 12:46-50; 1 Kings 2.