

The Truth About Mary

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is worshipped and revered the world over. Some claim she is appearing in visions to children. Others say she bleeds in statues, and still others say that by praying to her, you are assured an audience with God. Others believe she was without sin and now rules as the Queen of Heaven making intercession with her Son on behalf of her people.

She was a young Jewish virgin who waited for the coming of the Messiah. One day, the angel Gabriel appeared and told her that she would conceive a son by the power of the Holy Spirit who would save His people from their sins. Her response to this startling announcement places her in the hall of faith. She replied, "Be it done unto me according to your word." She accepted the divine pronouncement in faith and she became "blessed above all women" as the human mother to the Savior of the world.

Mary gave one solitary command. It was John 2: 5, "Obey my son!" If Mary is to be loved and revered, then we need to take her command seriously and find out what her Son commanded that we do.

Imagine the horrible scene of the crucifixion of Christ. Jesus had been nailed to the cross and was suspended between two criminals. In Luke 23: 39-43, "One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.' And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' And he said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'"

Notice the testimony of this criminal. He was arrested, tried, and justly convicted of his crimes and was under a death sentence. Now here's the quandary: he had Mary, the mother of Jesus, standing at his feet, and Jesus Christ hanging at his side. Notice what he did not do. He did not make supplication to Mary asking her to speak to her Son about his plight. Instead he went directly to Jesus. And it was Jesus personally who promised that he would be with him in Paradise.

Ask yourself this: whom did he look to for eternal life, Mary or Jesus? He looked to Jesus alone for forgiveness and salvation. Then whom should you be looking to for eternal life?

Mary told the workers at the wedding in Canaan where Jesus turned the water into wine, "Obey my son." Here are some of the teachings of her son Jesus that we need to obey.

John 3:3, "Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Jesus taught that a person came to faith not by keeping rituals and laws and masses, but by believing in His finished sacrifice on the Cross. He called that kind of faith in himself being 'reborn' or being 'born again.' And if you think you need someone, a priest, a dead saint, or even Mary to speak to Jesus on your behalf, again the Bible says that he HIMSELF is the mediator, the go-between, between God and man. Jesus promised, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.'

The Mass is celebrated every day to reenact the Crucifixion of Christ. Remembrance is one thing, reenactment quite another. Yet the Bible says that Jesus' sacrificial death was done once for all. Hebrews 7:27, "He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself." When Jesus died on the cross, he cried out, "It is finished!" The work of redemption was done and never to be repeated.

Mary was a chosen vessel to bring the man Christ Jesus into the world. She was remarkable, full of faith, and she believed God. She was also sinful, human, and herself in need of a Savior. When the 120 disciples were assembled in the Upper Room on Pentecost Sunday when the Holy Spirit was poured out she was among them. She needed the infilling of the Holy Spirit herself.

Remember the story of the Magi, the Eastern astrologers who followed the star of Bethlehem searching for the King of the Jews? Matthew 2:11, "And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." These men came to worship the King. Notice that the passage states that "they fell down and worshiped him," NOT her!

Mary gave one solitary command, "Obey my son." Her son said, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." If you would really honor Mary, then obey her command. Obey her Son! Mary is dishonored when she is worshipped and honored instead of her Son.

She has only one desire for you, that you obey her Son, believe in Him, and be saved!

There are those who teach that church traditions are superior to the testimony of the Holy Bible. Hear the last recorded words of Jesus in Revelation 22: 18-19. "I warn every one who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if any one adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if any one takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book."

Church tradition is not equal in authority to the Bible. God himself says so! If you would honor Mary, then obey her Son! Heed his words of His testimony regarding the trustworthiness of the Holy Bible.

John 20:31, "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name." God's promise is this: Romans 10:9, "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."