

Sunday October 22nd sermon: "The Blasphemy of the Mass -- The God of All Comforts (Pt 38)"

Preached at the Lord's Table at Grace Bible Church in Greenwood, MS,  
by John Pittman Hey

Luke 22:19-20; Romans 3:19-4:8

God comforts us by the oath He made to Christ, appointing Him our high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

The old covenant portended wrath and judgment. The confrontation of the people by God on the mountain produced horrible fear in everyone.

But the reality of the New Covenant, received NOW by faith in Christ, is the heavenly Jerusalem, spiritual Zion! We are come to that glorious place even now, with Christ as our high priest there!

Most glorious of all, we have come to Jesus, the mediator of the New Covenant, and to the sprinkling of His Own blood which has taken away our sins and made us perfect before God!

The devil specializes in twisting and perverting God's Word, as he seeks to overthrow the Gospel, and destroy the exclusivity of Christ's finished work to save us.

That sacrifice is corrupted by the adding of works for salvation, and by stripping Christ's sacrifice of the truth, that He really took away our sins.

No perversion is more wide-spread and destructive than that of the Roman Catholic false religion. They appoint priests other than Christ, who sacrifice the Mass, which blasphemes the Lord Jesus' death.

Every religion that creates another priesthood to offer a sacrifice for forgiveness of sin, is trampling upon Christ's exclusive prerogatives.

Romanists twist Scripture to make up a doctrine called transubstantiation, claiming that the bread and the wine of the Lord's Table are converted by the power of their so-called priests, into the actual physical body and blood of Jesus.

But Christ was clear: the Lord's Table is a remembrance of His physical body and blood, which were sacrificed for the forgiveness of sin, only one time. Christ has already presented them to God in heaven for us.

The Romanists falsely claim that their so-called priests sacrifice the Mass, transforming it into Christ's body and blood, and that the Mass continues to work our redemption, propitiate God for our crimes, and cleanse us of our sins.

But Christ has already done all this once for all!

The fundamental error of the Romanists is their denial that Christ's sacrifice at Calvary has already perfected His people, has already forgiven our sins, and has already obtained our eternal redemption.

Thus, they create a monstrous and blasphemous sacrificial system, not approved by God, because there is in fact no more offering for sin.

Because the Mass claims to repeat those things that Christ has already finished, the Mass denies the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice. As Hebrews put it, where there is forgiveness of sin, there is no more offering for sin!

If we rely upon any other sacrifice, ritual or priest to cleanse us from sin, we have trampled Christ under foot, and sneered at the blood of Jesus.

When Christians opposed this monstrous perversion in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century, Rome responded with demonic ferocity, by burning alive those saints at the stake. Then at the Council of Trent, Rome anathematized every person who denies that the Mass is a "propitiatory sacrifice."

All of these satanic false doctrines, which deny the sufficiency and completeness of Christ's one-time sacrifice, are clearly laid down in the

latest official Roman Catholic Catechism, which claims that Christ's priesthood ended when He died, that the Mass carries out "the work of our redemption," that its power brings about "the forgiveness of the sins we daily commit," and that it is "truly propitiatory" and "cleanses us from sins."

Therefore, Rome demands that its adherents worship the Mass, bow before it, adore it, and carry it about in processions!

But the truth of it is, that Christ's sacrifice was offered only once, where it forever purged our sins, made believers perfect, and accomplished our redemption.

Therefore, there is no need for further sacrifice, and God has never authorized any priest but Christ to present before Him that unique offering for sin, which is God's dear Lamb, slain at Calvary!

The Apostle Paul's teaching in Romans 3 and 4 overthrows the blasphemy of the Roman Catholic Mass. God declares ungodly sinners righteous through faith, and not by works. Christ's righteousness is imputed to sinners. This is received by faith in the propitiatory sacrifice of Christ's blood once for all. God declares us perfectly justified, even while we are still sinners.

All those who have trusted in the sacrifice of Jesus are blessed by God, because He thereafter refuses to impute their sins against them anymore!

Rome's sacrifice of the Mass denies imputation of the righteousness of Christ. It teaches that men are justified by becoming righteous in themselves by keeping the law. Thus, when men sin, they lose their righteousness and justification, and it must be restored by the Mass, being repeatedly "re-presented" to God to take away their sins again.

Contrary to Scripture, according to the Romanists, God is continually imputing our sins to us. Therefore, there is no "blessed man" in this life, according to their false religion.

The Roman Catholics thus deny the finished work of Christ, and how it justifies and cleanses believers of their sin forever. They have constructed the blasphemous contraption of the Mass, which ensnares their adherents in an endless cycle of loss of justification and righteousness, to be restored by constant rituals and obedience to their so-called priests.

Under that system, there can be no peace with God, and believers in Christ can end up in hell at the end, because the Romanists deny that Christ's sacrifice actually justifies and redeems men with any finality.

But God has comforted us by His oath to Christ, making Him Alone our high priest, and perfecting us once for all by His sacrifice, that has taken away our sins forever!