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How God makes saints: The pope's way and God's way compared.

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins," Ephesians 2:1.



Roman Catholics hold up cardboard cut-outs of those being made saints. The cardboard saints are as real as those supposedly made by the pope!!

On Lord's Day, November 23rd, 2014, the Pope, as arrogant as any that ever went before him, despite the media's depiction of him as a 'humble man', took upon himself the power to 'make' some new saints!

These are the words he employed during the 'ceremony'.

"We declare and define Blesseds Giovanni Antonio Farina; Kuriakose Elias Chavara of the Holy Family; Ludovico da Casoria; Nicola da Longobardi; Eufrosia Eluvathingal of the Sacred Heart and Amato Ronconi to be Saints and we enrol them among the Saints, decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the whole Church."

First of all the whole procedure is an invention of Rome and has no basis whatsoever in the Word of God. It is a concoction, a jumble, a pot-pourri of pious-sounding

phrases designed to impress the ignorant.

Secondly, the Scriptures present to us a very, very different method, employed by God, to make a sinner into a saint.

Thirdly, it is entirely wicked to call upon people to venerate any dead person, irrespective of what their moral and spiritual status was in life. Such 'veneration' or adoration is in complete defiance of the teaching of God's Word.

Reformation teaching

The 39 Articles of the old Church of England states the matter so in article 22:

"The Romish Doctrine concerning Purgatory, Pardons, Worshipping and Adoration, as well of Images as of Relics, and also Invocation of Saints, is a fond thing, vainly invented, and grounded upon no warranty of Scripture, but rather repugnant to the Word of God."

The chapter 21 of the Westminster Confession of Faith which deals with 'Religious Worship, and the Sabbath Day', states the teaching of God's Word on the subject very clearly. "Religious worship is to be given to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and to Him alone; not to angels, saints, or any other creature: and since the fall, not without a Mediator; nor in the mediation of any other but of Christ alone." (Paragraph 2).

To both these statements we say a hearty 'Amen'!

Antichristian

What the pope is doing is demonstrating the unchanged nature of Romanism. It is at heart a devil-inspired deception by which millions have been led away from God into everlasting perdition. What a monstrous wickedness it is!

What saith the scriptures?

Let me state what the teaching of the Word of God is on the matter of a sinner becoming a saint.

I. GOD MAKES SAINTS OF THOSE WHO ARE ALIVE.



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If people are not a saint before they die then there is no means by which they can be made a saint subsequently. If people die and they are not saints they are lost in hell for ever. We must be plain on this vital matter.

There is no change possible to a person's spiritual state after they death. Salvation is ONLY possible during the days of our life. Death shuts the door on all hope of salvation for those who die in their sins.

Heed what Paul said. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment," Hebrews 9:27. Death is followed by a judging of our state. That was the case in the account given by the Saviour of the rich man and Lazarus.

"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom," Luke 16:22-23. The saved man went to Abraham's bosom, a name given to the place of the departed redeemed in the Old Testament era, while the rich man, being unsaved, went to hell. Nothing could be done for him there, as the Saviour clearly taught. The rich man wanted help but none was possible. "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame," Luke 16:24. Heed what the verse 26 says. "And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."

It is during our lifetime that the obtaining of God's mercy and forgiveness of sin is ALONE possible.

It is for this reason that we urge men and women to heed the words of the old gospel hymn.

O turn while the Saviour in mercy is calling,
And steer for the harbour bright.
For how do you know but your soul may be drifting,
Over the deadline tonight.

II. WHEN GOD TURNS A SINNER INTO A SAINT, THERE IS A GREAT CHANGE WROUGHT

Think of what Paul said of the converted believers at Ephesus.

First of all note what he called them in the address of his letter. "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus," Ephesians 1:1. He addressed them as saints. They were not dead but alive, since Paul was not in the habit of writing letters to the dead!!

Furthermore, he goes on in the letter to describe what they were like before God's merciful intervention in their lives.

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus," Ephesians 2:1-7.

These wonderful changes: quickened or made spiritually alive; delivered from walking in the ways and paths of the world with its wickedness, raised them up to a life of fellowship with Christ and to the assured hope of everlasting glory in the presence of the Lord Jesus.



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Great and immediate changes

Note the changes. Dead to being alive, verse 1. From Satan's control to that of God's grace, verses 2, 5-6. From the path to hell to the path to glory, verses 2, 4-6, 10.

Saints are made in time and are made to show forth the marvellous grace of God in their changed lives while here on earth. The word "saint" simply refers to a holy person. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light," 1 Peter 2:9. This is what Peter wrote to those whom he addressed in the opening words of his epistle. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time," 1 Peter 1:3-5.

Here, living Christians are assured by Peter of the glories reserved for them in heaven. They needed no pope's pronouncement after they died to declare them to be saints. Being born again they were immediately made to be saints.

III. GOD MAKES SAINTS OF THOSE WHO DO NOT DESERVE IT

The pope made much of the "deserving character" of those he was declaring to be saints. There had been a great deal of time spent scrutinising the records of the lives of these people. Only then were they declared to be 'saints'!

Here are the pope's words regarding those whom he was making saints. "They dedicated themselves, without holding back, to serving the least and assisting the destitute, sick, elderly and pilgrims," he said. "Their preference for the smallest and poorest was the reflection and measure of their unconditional love of God."

In other words these 'saints' deserved this high honour the pope was bestowing upon them!

By grace alone

How different is the teaching of the Word of God! Again, I quote Paul's words to the saints at Ephesus. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins," Ephesians 2:1. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)" Ephesians 2:4-5.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God," Ephesians 2:8.

Could anything contrast more with the words of the pope in his "saint-making" exercise than these words of Paul?

Heed these words of Scripture also.

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," Romans 3:24.

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," Romans 5:6-8.

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost," Titus 3:5.

Just who is correct? The Pope or the Word of God.

I know which I believe to be true and who is the pedlar of the devil's lies.



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IV. GOD'S MAKING OF A SAINT TAKES BUT A MOMENT.

Rome takes a long time, sometimes centuries. The Lord takes but a moment. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life," John 5:24.

Nowhere was this 'timescale' more clearly demonstrated than at Calvary. There the Lord Jesus was crucified between two thieves. Both of them were heard to be cursing and mocking the Saviour right up until shortly before His death. Look at Matthew's record of the crucifixion scene. "Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth," Matthew 27:41-44. Both the thieves, as Christ hung on the cross, the perfect sacrifice for the sins of His elect, joined in the sneering and scoffing of the crowd at the claim that Christ made to be the "King of Israel, the Son of God."

And yet, one of those sneering, mocking thieves is now in heaven and we have Christ's word on that fact. One of the thieves came under conviction of sin, confessed his sin to the Lord Jesus and asked Him for mercy and to be remembered by Him when He came into His kingdom. He was told most definitely that his confession was heard, his sin was forgiven and when he died he would go to heaven. Here are the words of the divine record of that man's conversion. "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise," Luke 23:39-43.

Could anything contrast more vividly with the pope's pantomime at Rome than this scene of gospel mercy and pardon?

Follow in the steps of this man and be saved. Embrace the claims of Christ in the gospel, acknowledge your own sin before Him and own Him as your Lord and Master before all men and you too will be granted the assurance of heaven when you die.

I will close with these sweet promises.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon," Isaiah 55:7.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," Matthew 11:28.

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out, John 6:37.

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day," John 6:44.

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them," Hebrews 7:25.

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