

## 2017 - 500 years after Luther (500YAL) – a Catholic Response

What has gone wrong since the time of Luther?

Revised: 05.09.2017

PART 1 - Points 1 - 24

### **Introduction**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has produced a booklet called, '2017, 500 Years After Luther - What has gone wrong since the time of Luther? ', which I shall shorten to '500YAL'. The booklet falsely represents what the Catholic Church teaches. This article is a brief response to just a few incorrect points made about the Catholic Church, exposes incorrect doctrines of the SDA Church and gives the Biblical foundation for Catholic Doctrine. Some glaring issues will be exposed first and others will be added later. Quite honestly, the SDA Church has failed to use the Catechism of the Catholic Church to teach authentically what the Catholic Faith teaches and this response shows the SDAs fail to uphold scripture themselves.

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### Point 1

Pg. 1 – 9 Is about the Reformation and scripture.

#### Answer

The Catholic Church was never against having the words of scripture being in local languages. The early Celtic scriptures and the Lindisfarne Gospels of the 7<sup>th</sup> century show early translation into local languages were allowed and did exist.\* Work by the Venerable Bede also shows this. What the Catholic Church was concerned about was Martin Luther chucking out whole books of the bible, which he did. He even wanted to chuck out the epistle of St. James and the Book of Revelation because it did not fit his own personal invented doctrine but some friends of his persuaded him to retain these. Old Testament books chucked out by Luther were many and include the Book of Wisdom, Maccabees 1 and 2. It is Maccabees which tells us how the Jewish Feast of Hanukkah - the Rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem, came about, which Jesus Himself celebrated and is recorded in the Gospels. Other Reformers changed the words of scripture rather than make an honest translation such as using the word 'elder' rather than the original Biblical word 'bishop' because they were prejudice against bishops and did not want to have them in their church and so they made their own false bibles rather than an honest translation.

SDAs have done the same thing with their Clear Water bible – not a translation of scripture but a re-writing of scripture. SDAs should be up in arms that they do not have an honest translation of the Bible. If Catholics had started changing the Bible, **which they did not**, the SDAs would be outraged, but somehow it is OK for the SDAs to do so. The Catholic Old Testament is based on the Hebrew translated into Greek made 200 years before Christ (200BC) with clear evidence that the writes of the New Testament used this as their reference, called the Septuagint, while most Reformers used much later translations. So the Catholic Old Testament is based on a much older original version of the text then the Protestant one.

\*Just to note: the authority of Rome and the papacy were venerated as strongly in Celtic areas as they were in any other region of Europe : See ([Corning, Caitlin \(2006\). The Celtic and Roman Traditions: Conflict and Consensus in the Early Medieval Church. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN 1-4039-7299-0.](#)) The Celtic Catholic Church did allow early local language text to be used as was King Alfred's Wessex Gospels of 990AD, and the Northumbrian Gloss is in the form of Anglo-Saxon spoken dialect.

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**Point 2** Pg. 9 says: ...Reformers of today continue in the path of Luther and the Reformers of his time, having the Bible and Bible alone as the foundation of faith and teaching.

### **Answer**

Where in the Bible does it say that the Bible alone is to be the foundation of faith? It does not. In fact the Bible says the opposite.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 says, ' ... *cling to the [traditions](#) we taught you whether by speech or by letter .*' What the Apostles taught by speech is what the Catholic Church calls [tradition](#) and the [written letter](#) is what has been put into the book we call the Bible. So, there is the spoken word and the written word of God. Protestant reject the 'oral teachings', the 'Spoken Word' of God and hold to the 'Written Word' only. Catholics hold to the 'Whole Word of God', both Spoken and Written, we call this the Deposit of Faith. Protestants are therefore lacking the Whole Deposit of Faith.

John 21: 25 says, '*There are many more things that Jesus did. If all of them were written down, suppose not even the world itself would have space for the books that would be written.*' Clearly Jesus said and did more which has not been written down but the spoken word of God passed on by the Apostles still lives on.

So we can ask Protestants and SDAs the question: Was the Gospel preached before it was ever written down? The answer is: Yes it was. And that is what the Catholic Church has been saying all along. Jesus preached His Gospel from before His incarnation, before it got written down; the Angel Gabriel preached the Gospel to Mary, before it ever got written down; Jesus preached His Gospel to the world and died on the cross, before it ever got written down; the Apostles preached the Gospel and yet it did not get put on paper or parchment until later. Did anybody convert to Christ without reading the Gospel or the Bible? Yes they did. So you do not need to have read the Gospel or the New Testament or even the Old Testament to become a Christian. All Christians rely on is the spoken word, the preached word of God, the written word comes later and is a good reference and teacher, and is inspired and is the Living Word of God. Yet if the Gospel was not written until later, how could there be the first Christians? They did not have the Bible to be their authority, they all relied on what the Catholic Church has always claimed, that we must all keep to the traditions of the Apostles', otherwise known as the 'spoken word of God . Nowhere in the Bible does it say Bible alone is to be your authority. So, there was no 'Bible Alone' for the first Christians, because there wasn't one. It is the deposit of faith from

Christ to the Apostles inspired by the Holy Spirit which should be your authority, yes the Apostles and their descents through he laying on of hands, is the Biblical way, not Bible Alone.

Ellen White's own writings condemn all Reformers and all Protestant Churches as 'Babylon' and the 'fall of Babylon' of Revelation 14, that they 'do not benefit from the intercession of Christ', and that Reformers and all Protestant Churches are 'the work of Satan', yet this SDA pamphlet is celebrating the Reformers as page 9 of the pamphlet states. Why is the SDA Church celebrating what Ellen White calls 'the work of Satan'?

Read more about Ellen White's condemnation of Protestants as the work of Satan.

<https://www.nonsda.org/study1.shtml>

Read more about true Christian Biblical authority <https://www.catholic.com/tract/whats-your-authority>

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**Point 3**

Pg. 12 says: ...They (*Catholics*) believe that Peter was the first pope, but imperfect Peter could not be the Vicar of Christ.

**Answer**

Jesus chose imperfect people to join Him in his ministry as Apostles. All the Apostles were imperfect. Jesus himself said, "*I have NOT come to call the righteous, but sinners ...*". (Luke 5:32). Christ calls the sinner, not the so called perfect. Which SDA minister is perfect? None of them. So why does the SDA church require the First Pope to be perfect? We are all called to perfection through the Grace of Christ. If Christ has chosen Peter, why do the SDA reject Christ's choice. To reject the Apostle Peter or to reject any other Apostle, and their authority given by Christ Jesus, is to reject Christ Himself. Jesus said, "*Whoever listens to you listen to me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me*". (Luke 10:16). In this passage Christ was talking of the Apostles. To reject the Apostle Peter, the Head Apostle and therefore the First Pope, is to reject Christ's authority to choose who He wants to lead His Church. This is the foundation of Protestantism, the rejection of Christ's appointed.

For more info see: **Peter and the Papacy**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdbefXuvPoQ>

by Steve Ray

For more info see: **Peter, the Rock, the Keys and the Chair**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=falB-sOBDKk>

by Steve Ray

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#### Point 4

Pg. 12 says: '...The word Petra means rock. The original Greek word for the word Peter = Petro...'

#### Answer

The word Petra is a feminine word. The word had to be changed into a masculine name which is Petros rather than Petra. For instance, if the word for rock was Stephanie, Christ would have called him Stephen making a feminine word into a masculine word. Peter's mother never called him Peter, she called him Simon. Christ gave him a new name, Rock, with a masculine sound not a feminine sound. We should all celebrate what Christ is doing here – after all, God the Father had just revealed something special and unique to Peter, that Jesus was the Christ, something God would continue to do with Peter, eg. it was Peter who rejected the Old Covenant sign - circumcision, a covenant sign promise God made with Abraham, but it was St. Peter, under guidance of the Holy Spirit, who did away with circumcision.

Mat 16: 17 -19, says:

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Jesus said to Peter, "You are rock and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it". Then Jesus says, '...whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven, I give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven... ". So Christ founded His Church on Peter. Authority is given by Christ to St. Peter to make decisions here on earth and it will be bound in heaven. The keys to heaven were given to a man - Peter – but this is Christ's choice – we are to accept it as Christ's will - not what the SDA like to hear.

Interesting question for SDAs, does Peter have a successor and who was he? SDAs reject Christ's appointed leader, St. Peter and his successors, and appoint their own leader – Ellen White.

Read More: <https://www.catholic.com/tract/peter-the-rock>

What is even more concerning is that Christ giving the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven to St Peter is given as a type or a biblical or historical model, but not a prophecy, from the Old Testament by Isaiah, but SDAs and other Protestants do not tell their followers about this Biblical backdrop to Peter and the Keys. Walter Veith tells us he loves 'types and anti-types', and Doug Batchelor has preached against St Peter being the first Pope, but both do so without recognising the Biblical prophecy .

<http://spectrummagazine.org/node/3519>

The prophecy is in Isaiah 22: 19 – 23, where Shebna is removed from office and God appoints Eliakim:

<sup>19</sup> I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your post.  
<sup>20</sup> On that day I will call my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah, <sup>21</sup> and will clothe him with your robe and bind your sash on him. I will commit your authority to his hand, and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. <sup>22</sup> I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open. <sup>23</sup> I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his ancestral house. <sup>24</sup> And they will hang on him the whole weight of his ancestral house, the offspring and issue, every small vessel, from the cups to all the flagons. <sup>25</sup> On that day, says the LORD of hosts, the peg that was fastened in a secure place will give way; it will be cut down and fall, and the load that was on it will perish, for the LORD has spoken.

King David is a type of Christ and Jerusalem is the foreshadowing of the Church founded by Christ. Eliakim is a foreshadow or type of St Peter who was given the keys to the Kingdom. Jesus says to St Peter, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven. Eliakim will be called Father of Jerusalem, Peter is called Pope, meaning Papa, father. Eliakim is robed, so is Peter. Eliakim has authority from God, so does Peter. Eliakim is given a throne of honor, St Peter is given the seat of authority from God over the Church. On the shoulder of Eliakim is placed the great burden of the safety of the city of Jerusalem, so too with St Peter, Christ places the burden to protect the Church from false entry of error. Both St Peter and Eliakim have authority from God to open and to close, but SDAs reject this authority.

As Steve Ray says in his article: *The Peg in Isaiah 22 and the Petrine Succession*,

‘Jesus is King. He has an eternal kingdom. The kingdom will resemble what the Jews already know because what Jesus is founding is not a democracy but a kingdom. And kingdoms have stewards and the steward of THIS kingdom will be Peter.’

[https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0ahUKEwj7s-Hak\\_7VAhWnLcAKHUpsDVIQFggguMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.catholic-convert.com%2Fdocuments%2FPegOfisaiah22.doc&usg=AFQjCNEaVo9fwXhunW0RfTurqJkTWdOS8g](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0ahUKEwj7s-Hak_7VAhWnLcAKHUpsDVIQFggguMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.catholic-convert.com%2Fdocuments%2FPegOfisaiah22.doc&usg=AFQjCNEaVo9fwXhunW0RfTurqJkTWdOS8g)

Steve Rays own story is interesting and can be read here:

<http://www.catholic-convert.com/wp-content/uploads/Conversion-Story.pdf>

and his testimony can be seen on Youtube here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dBkKoYC2-8>

For more info see: **Peter and the Papacy**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdbefXuvPoQ>

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by Steve Ray

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### **Point 5**

Pg. 12 says: '...It is upon Christ we shall build our church...'

#### **Answer**

SDA's claim they want to 'build their own church', and they want to build it on Christ, but this would be a man-made church. SDAs do not need to build a church. Christ has already built His Church and appointed 12 Apostles to run it for Him. I want to belong to the Church founded by Christ on the Apostles, not one founded by Ellen White. Christ chose the 12 Apostles to be our teachers and the leaders of His Church, not Ellen White, and yes they were to betray him, and it is these men and those they in turn appointed, such as Matthias who was chosen to replace Judas, (Acts 1: 12-26), on whom Christ continues to maintain His Church, as His Church shall never pass away. Christ is the Cornerstone and Head of His Church, and Christ said of the Apostles, "he who hears you hears me." Clearly we are to keep to the traditions of the Apostles - not to a church founded on and by a woman - Ellen White. This is why the SDA church is a false church, not the one built by Christ on the Apostles. Jesus said in Matt 16: 16 -19

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

The Bible truth is clear - Peter is the Rock on which Christ has chosen to build His Church - to reject this is to reject Christ's chosen, it is to reject Christ and the One Who sent Him.

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## Point 6

Pg. 13 says: ‘...The Catholic Church believes that when the priest shares the bread during the Lords Supper and says some mystical words, the bread then literally turns into Jesus flesh. In this way they offer Jesus’ body as a new sacrifice every time they partake of the bread in connection with the Lords supper.

## Answer

Wrong on so many points. In the Catholic Church, at Mass the Passover of Christ is celebrated - there is NO NEW SACRIFICE. Christ IS NOT sacrificed again and again. The One Sacrifice of Christ made 2000 years ago is made present, here and now, at that Mass. Christ and His Power are not limited to time or space. See how the Jews, when they celebrate the Passover today, make the Passover of Moses present here today.

Ask an Adventist – at the Last Supper, did Jesus give the Apostles His Flesh to eat and His Blood to drink? Clearly the Bible tells us He did. The Apostles were told by Christ to do what He did, which was to take bread and take wine, and by the power of God the bread became His Body and the wine became His Blood. Jesus said so. The Apostles at the Last Supper eat the Body of Christ and drank the Blood of Christ and then Christ told them to do what He had just done, so that we all may have a Communion with the Lord. In obedience to Christ, the Apostles and their successors do what Christ did, they take bread and wine, and by the Power of God, the bread and wine become the Real Body and Blood of Christ. The Bible tells us so.

Earlier in the Scriptures Jesus said to a large crowd listening to Him, *“Unless you eat my Body and drink my Blood you cannot have life within you.”* The Jews were horrified that they were being asked to eat human flesh and drink human blood, so they left him and walked away. They could not take this teaching. Jesus did not call them back and say he only meant it symbolically. In fact He went on to confirm with those who stayed, that he meant his Body and Blood to be eaten because he said, *“My Body is real food and My Blood is real drink.”* Why do SDAs not want to have Communion with Blood Christ Jesus? Why do SDAs not want to eat the Body of Jesus and drink His Blood? You cannot have life within you if you do not eat. He is the True Manna which came down from Heaven. He is the Bread of Angels. And His Flesh is real food – BECAUSE HE SAID SO.

1 Corinthians 11:27-28 says:

**27** So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **28** Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 11: 27-28 that the Apostles went on to celebrate the Last Supper and they eat Christ’s Body and drank Christ’s Blood. If it was just bread how could someone sin against bread? – we sin against God not bread, so it is the Body and Blood we sin against if we receive the Body and Blood unworthily. Of course none of us is worthy of receiving the Body and the Blood of Christ so the scripture is referring to whether or not we

believe in the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ, and how we revere the Real Presence – with awe and, and whether or not we are in serious sin which need confessing before receiving.

Find out more about the Jewish roots of the Catholic Eucharist by Dr Brant Pitre.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P45BHDRA7pU&t=2s>

For more info see: **The Eucharist**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3afP72VB22M>

by Steve Ray

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**Point 7**

Pg. 13 says: ‘ ...When we eat the bread, it is to remind us of Jesus’s sacrifice on Golgotha’s cross....’

**Answer**

Once a year the Jews celebrate the Passover meal. Even today, they gather together and celebrate the time when, as slaves in Egypt, God passed over their homes and saved the lives of their first born, but of the Egyptians - God smote. The Jews were to eat their meal in a hurry, standing up, and they were to flee Egypt after the meal and start their journey to the Promised Land – Israel and Jerusalem. By the Passover, God saved the Israelites from captivity and slavery and began their journey of freedom to the Promised Land.

The sages teach: in each and every generation an individual should look upon him or her self as if he or she (personally) had left Egypt. It’s not enough to recall, in some abstract sense, the deliverance of the Jewish people in ancient Egypt, but each Jew is responsible to personally view Passover as a time to commemorate their own personal deliverance from the bondage of Pharaoh. Therefore the seder leader will call each of us to recite the following in unison:

[http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Holidays/Spring\\_Holidays/Pesach/Seder/Maggid/maggid.html](http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Holidays/Spring_Holidays/Pesach/Seder/Maggid/maggid.html)

B'-chol dor va-dor, cha-yav a-dam lir-ot,

Lir-ot et atz-mo k'-i-lu hu, k'-i-lu hu ya-tza mi-mitz-ra-yim.

[http://www.sinai-temple.org/passover/most\\_important\\_text.php](http://www.sinai-temple.org/passover/most_important_text.php)

So too when Catholics celebrate Mass, which is the Passover of the Lord, that which took place 2000 years ago, the One Sacrifice of Christ, is made present by the Power of God, here and now. Jesus said, ...’ unless you are my body and drink my blood you have no life in you.’

How are SDAs going to eat the Body of Christ and drink His Blood as he commanded us to do when they do not believe the words of Christ?

Find out more about the Jewish roots of the Catholic Eucharist by Dr Brant Pitre.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P45BHDRA7pU&t=2s>

For more info see: **The Eucharist**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3afP72VB22M>

by Steve Ray

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**Point 8**

Pg. 13 says: ' ...It is a mockery of Jesus and His sacrifice...'

**Answer**

SDA's have to decide if, when Jesus gave the Apostles the bread and said, THIS IS MY BODY, and gave them the cup filled with wine and said, THIS IS THE CUP OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND EVELASTING COVENENAT, did Jesus give them His Body and Blood to eat and drink and did the Apostles eat His Body and drink His Blood?. The Bible tells us He did and that the Apostle did eat His Body and drink His Blood. So, NO MOCKERY, but a full act in obedience to the words of Christ. Why do the SDAs not recognize Christ in the Breaking of the Bread - as at the Last Super, and at Emmaus.

Find out more about the Jewish roots of the Catholic Eucharist by Dr Brant Pitre.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P45BHDRA7pU&t=2s>

For more info see: **The Eucharist**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3afP72VB22M>

by Steve Ray

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**Point 9**

Pg. 13 says: ' ...The Catholic Church has removed the second commandment from its catechism...'

**Answer**

No it has not. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states clearly the text from Exodus. The point about graven images is that we are not to be worshipping graven images as gods. If the SDAs were to read on in the Bible they will find that after God had banned the worship of graven images He then commands the Israelites to make graven images of angels to make part of the container, a mercy seat, to hold the Ten Commandments, the Holy Bread, etc. Is God commanding the Israelites to break the commandments he had just give? Of course not. It is not the making but the worshipping of them as gods that is band. If the SDAs were only to read the whole word of God in context they would understand this. Read the following from Exodus.

Exodus 25 17 – 22

<sup>17</sup>Make a mercy seat of pure gold, 45 inches long and 27 inches wide. <sup>18</sup>Make two cherubim of gold; make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat. <sup>19</sup>Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end. At its two ends, make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat. <sup>20</sup>The cherubim are to have wings spread out above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and are to face one another. The faces of the cherubim should be toward the mercy seat. <sup>21</sup>Set the mercy seat on top of the ark and put the testimony that I will give you into the ark. <sup>22</sup>I will meet with you there above the mercy seat, between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the testimony; I will speak with you from there about all that I command you regarding the Israelites.

The prohibition in Exodus 20 is not against religious art as such, which includes things in heaven (angels) and on earth (humans or animals). Rather, it was *against* using any image as an idol.

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**Point 10** Pg. 13 says: ‘...Images of Mary are worshiped...’

#### **Answer**

No they are not. For starters the SDAs do not believe in the Communion of Saints because of their unbiblical view of the dead. The Bible tells us about the ‘Clouds of Witnesses’ in Hebrews 12: 1 which shows there are those who are not seen but are witnesses to the word of God. This is confirmed by Rev 6: 10 where the Bible tells us of the souls in heaven, under the altar of God, pleading for justice for they are the souls of the just, and they plead for justice against those still on earth, whom they can see and who killed them while they were in their bodies on earth. Clearly, this is not an event or situation happening at the end of time. Here in Revelation, a soul, separated from its body, is aware of its state, aware that it is in heaven, aware that there are those on earth guilty of their death in the body but not the death of their soul, able to plead with God Himself. They see God with the eyes of the soul, not they eyes of the body, they plead with God with their soul, not their lips, as their body is dead in the ground. This scriptural reference Rev 6: 10, is completely opposite to the SDAs beliefs on the nature of the soul and the dead in the body. Catholics believe that at death the soul separates from the body, and as stated in Ecclesiastes 12, the soul returns to God who gave it and an immediate judgement of the person takes place and the soul is then either destined for heaven or hell.

We should note that before Christ died on the Cross, no one had access to heaven. So from Adam to Abraham to Moses to Lazarus of the New Testament, all who had died before Christ had made access to heaven possible through His death on the Cross, all those souls who had died before Christ’s death went to what is called Hades. This is confirmed by the fact that Christ went and preached the Gospel to the ‘spirits (souls) in prison’, otherwise known as the dead in Hades, this was after He had died on the cross but before His Resurrection. (1 Peter 3: 10-19 and 1 Peter 4: 6). His body was in the tomb, so His soul ‘preached the

Gospel to the dead', who had died before Him, those such as Moses, who were waiting to be released from the 'prison' of Hades and have access to heaven by Christ 's victory of Salvation. I make this clear now because you will see a reference to this in Point 20.

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**Point 11** Pg. 13 says: ' ... Mary (is) worshiped...'

**Answer**

Since all the souls, not yet their bodies, of those who have died in Christ Jesus are in heaven or are being purified, those in heaven are aware of their surroundings, worshiping God with the angels, aware of the needs of those still on earth, it is right that as the Church in Heaven, they pray for us who are the Church on earth. SDAs pray for those in need, and ask others to pray for them. Since there is already the Church in Heaven, Catholics call them the 'Communion of Saints', which are not just those who have been named saints by the Church, but are all those who have died in Christ Jesus, then it is right that we all ask them to pray for us to Christ Jesus whom they are already worshiping and already they see Him Face to face, see Him with the eyes of the soul and love him with heart of the soul.

Mary is clearly one of those Saints in heaven, and clearly the Bible tells us that she is 'Blessed among all Women. The Bible tells us she is 'full of grace'. Since it is only God that can make someone 'Full of Grace ', this means she is not lacking in any Grace given to her by God, then she is truly one who has responded fully with God's Grace. The Bible tells us so. This is no 'man made invention' but a reality. The Lord is clearly 'with her'. She is clearly 'blessed among all women', and the fruit of her womb is Jesus Christ. God became man in her. In her womb, the Saviour of the World took on flesh from her flesh. God becoming man is part God's great act of salvation, but God did not force his plan on Mary, He asked her, via an angle, and she said YES to His plan. It is her YES, her participation in the plan of God, that she is so highly favoured, not just by us but so highly favoured by God, that He chose her. He soul 'magnifies the Lord', the Bible tells us.

Mary's cousin Elizabeth, when she greets Mary, said how wonderful that the 'MOTHER OF MY LORD' should come to visit me, and Elizabeth's baby, John the Baptist, leapt in Elizabeth's womb – why? - because God Himself was present within Mary. Mary is the only person to have ever contained God within them.

To have such a person in heaven to pray for us to Christ her son, who would not ask her to pray for them? The Bible tells us that, all generations shall call Mary 'blessed' and that is what the Hail Mary prayer says:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.

It is such a Biblical prayer. SDAs should pray this Biblical prayer.

Is Mary the Mother of God? The word Lord in the Bible means God. Elizabeth proclaims, in Luke 1: 43, “ ...why am I so honoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? “ Clearly Elizabeth is saying, why should the Mother of My Lord (The Mother of My God) come to me. The Bible tells us Mary is the Mother of God.

SDAs need to see this Youtube video by Steve Ray on Mary and how Mary relates to the Bibles 2 Samuel 6 about the Ark of the Covenant.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-uGWSMgPuE>

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**Point 12** Pg. 13 says: ‘ ... just like all others who have died and await the resurrection morning.

#### **Answer**

We all await the resurrection of the body as the body is dead in the ground, but clearly the soul is not dead in the ground or wondering around in nothingness, as the SDAs falsely claim. The soul ‘returns to God who gave it’ at the moment of the death of the body. The SDA try to claim that the body and soul are dead to the world and even to God, but this is not what the Bible says since in Ecclesiastes 12 says the soul returns to God who gave it.

We should note that before Christ died on the Cross, no one had access to heaven. So from Adam to Abraham to Moses to Lazarus of the New Testament, all who had died before Christ had made access to heaven possible through His death on the Cross, all those souls who had died before Christ’s death went to what is called Hades. This is confirmed by the fact that Christ went and preached the Gospel to the ‘spirits (souls) in prison’, otherwise known as the dead in Hades, this was after He had died on the cross but before His Resurrection. (1 Peter 3: 10-19 and 1 Peter 4: 6). His body was in the tomb, so His soul ‘preached the Gospel to the dead’, who had died before Him, those such as Moses, who were waiting to be released from the ‘prison’ of Hades and have access to heaven by Christ ‘s victory of Salvation. I make this clear now because you will see a reference to this in Point 20.

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**Point 13** Pg. 13 says: ‘ ... The Bible (King James) clearly states that **“there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one”** (1 John 5:7) ....but not in the Catholic Bible...’

#### **Answer**

If you read other non- Catholic Bibles, eg NIV, you will find an explanation, the King James Bible **added** these words which are not found in the original Greek text. So the Catholic Bible has the original text while the King James bible added them. See the NIV Study Bible, Page 1872.

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**Point 14** Pg. 13 says: ' ... Jesus is the only mediator.....

**Answer**

Of course Jesus is the only Mediator but if an SDA person prays for someone are they not mediating to Christ on behalf of someone? SDAs are just trying to make mischief with the fact that we can pray for others and we can ask others to pray for use. Asking others to pray of us, especially those already in heaven, does not stop Christ being the Mediator, just because the SDA deny any soul is in heaven yet, their position has been shown in the above points to be contrary to scripture.

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**Point 15** Pg. 14 says: ' ... The Pope and the Priesthood can forgive sins..

**Answer**

SDAs seriously deny scripture on this point. Just read John 20: 22-23. The Bible tells us that after Jesus rose from the death he appeared to the Apostles and breathed on them and said receive the Holy Spirit. This was before Pentecost. Once Jesus had breathed on the Apostles He said, when you forgive sins they are forgiven, when you bind them they are bound. Clearly, Jesus breathed only on the Apostles. He never went around his followers and breather on them – only the appointed Apostles, the leaders Christ Himself chose. To them alone he said, when you forgive sins they are forgiven, when you bind sins they are bound. So which Church is keeping to the scriptures on this doctrine? - the Catholic Church with its priest, bishops and the Pope, the successor of St Peter, or the SDAs who do not have the authority from Christ to forgive sins?

The Bible goes on to say that your sins must be confessed one to another, not just to Jesus. James 5: 16 says:

<sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.

Jesus gave authority to his Apostles to forgive sins, but the Apostles have to know what sins to forgive, so Christ's followers are to confess their sins to His Apostles. This is clearly **not a man-made policy** but a Christ made requirement. If Christ chooses to forgive people's sin through His Apostles, why do the SDAs try and change Christ's method of forgiveness? According to the Bible the Apostles can administer Christ's forgiveness since Christ has given the Apostles alone authority to do this. SDAs reject the authority of Christ and His appointment of Apostles to forgiving the sins of the faithful. SDAs have to stop rejecting the Bible on the Apostolic authority from Christ to forgive sins. How are SDAs going to

have their sins forgiven if the Bible tells them to confess their sins one to another, to the Apostles?

When a Catholic confesses his sins to Christ via the Apostles, or his decedent such as the Bishop or the priest, he is obeying Christ and the Word of God in the Bible, and Christ forgives the sin through the administrator, the priest, in obedience to the job given them by Christ. This job of the Apostles is recorded in the Bible. SDAs refuse this work of salvation of Christ in rejecting Apostolic authority – which comes from Christ. Not a man-made practice as claimed by the SDA but a God made practice instituted by Christ Himself. God has chosen to work his Grace through men He has appointed. SDAs reject this Grace.

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**Point 16** Pg. 14 says: ‘ ... Let no man deceive you by any means ... 2 Thessalonians 2: 3-4 ....He sits in God’s temple as if he were God. It is none other than the pope we are talking about...

**Answer**

SDAs conveniently do not quote the previous verse - 2 Thessalonians 2: 1 -2 which says:

Concerning the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled, or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Do not let anyone deceive you in any way for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs...

The reason SDAs do not like to quote verses 1 and 2 of 2 Thessalonians, Chapter 2 is because the Seventh-day Adventist Church was founded on a false prophesy of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Three different dates were prophesised by William Miller, (spring 1843, spring 1844, fall 1844)and when Christ still did not come on any of the different dates given, the last dated given being 22 October 1844, and still no Return of Christ, Miller said to his congregation it is all wrong, he was mistaken and he sent them away, but the founder of the Seventh-Day Adventists, Ellen Gould-White, said that the date was right (that would be the last date given not the previous dates), just the event was wrong. They had miss judged the event. This failure of Christ to return in 1844 the SDAs call the Great Disappointment. Instead of admitting false prophecy they went and give a further deception – the supposed event Ellen White gave was that from 22 October 1844 Christ in heaven began going through the books judging the souls fit for heaven. Of course this event never happened either.

Christ’s true prophets never make mistakes in dates or times or events. In addition Christ Himself forbids anyone making any prediction about His Second Coming. The SDAs are founded by an act of disobeying Christ and disobeying the Bible.

Matt 24: 36

No-one knows the day or the hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

The SDAs claim that the Pope has placed himself in the place of God but really William Miller and Ellen White are the ones who have placed themselves in the place of God by trying to predict the Second Coming since only God the Father knows when Christ will return. Does this make the Founders of the SDA the 'sons of perdition'? And what of those who are victims of SDA false prophesy and false doctrine? Come out of her we say. Since SDAs have got their foundation wrong, the whole is wrong.

SDAs think that the Catholic Church was founded by the devil himself and as a consequence, everything said and taught by a priest or bishop or member of the Catholic Church is of the devil and is a lie, even if it sounds right, it is a lie because the devil can make things sound and look like the truth even when it is a lie. As a consequence SDAs have to reject any attempt by Catholics to show them where SDAs have gone wrong and reject any attempt by Catholics to show how Catholic doctrine is based on the truth and has Biblical foundations for what it teaches.

See website links for further information on the history of the SDAs 1844 prophecy:

<https://nonsda.org/egw/miller.shtml>

<http://www.nonegw.org/egw11.shtml>

<http://www.nonegw.org/2300days.shtml>

### **Further reading**

1. How Ellen White's 'Investigative Judgement' doctrine is unbiblical and how Ellen White contradicts herself on this. <http://www.nonegw.org/egw36.shtml>
  2. How Ellen White kept changing her message down the ages each time it was show to be wrong. <http://www.nonegw.org/egw21.shtml>
  3. What the SDAs do not want you to know about 1844  
<http://www.nonegw.org/egw11.shtml>
  4. SDAs Fifteen different (false) ways to calculate the Second Coming of Christ  
[http://www.truthorfables.com/Miller's\\_Time%20Proved\\_15\\_Ways.htm](http://www.truthorfables.com/Miller's_Time%20Proved_15_Ways.htm)
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**Point 17**

Pg. 15 says: ‘ ... It (the Bible) says that humans become living souls and do not receive a soul. ...

**Answer**

SDAs seem to believe that when someone dies both body and soul die and know nothing until the resurrection of the body at the Second Coming. However, Jesus tells us differently. Jesus said in Matt 10: 28,

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

So Jesus tells us the body can be killed without the soul being killed. Clearly Jesus teaches us that the body can be killed while the soul lives on. A murderer kills the body but he cannot kill the soul. The soul is not killed by the murder. Of course we can be alive in the body but have a ‘spiritually dead soul’ in that our soul is full of sin, spiritually dead, particularly a soul rejecting God although all sin is some form of rejecting God or at least a rejection of His grace which can overcome temptation.

Ecclesiastes 12 tells us that at death, the body returns to dust while the soul returns to God who gave it. Where is God? – heaven - and outside of time, so the soul returns to God, separate from the body, but it cannot enter heaven before it is judged so God judges the soul. If the soul is so rejecting of God the soul is destined for hell, but if it is not ‘rejecting’ of God, it is destined for heaven. However, Revelation 21: 27 tells us that there is no sin in heaven, ‘nothing impure may enter it’, yet we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, so how can a soul which has sinned, even after it has been baptised we still sin, how can a soul which has sinned, even with the slightest impurity, - how can it enter heaven? – it has to be cleansed before it may enter heaven and into the presence of God. The body is still dead in the ground waiting for the resurrection of the body at the end of time at Christ’s Second Coming, but the soul is before God as Ecclesiastes 12 says. This cleansing is a purging from sin, a process of purifying the soul so it is fit for heaven and this is the pure mercy of Christ our Saviour which accomplishes such purification, the pure mercy of the Cross and Resurrection of Christ. Purgatory – being purged - is the name given to the process of being cleansed, being purified, it is not a place but a process and is outside of time because God is outside of time.

SDAs keep quoting Ecclesiastes 9 about the ‘dead in the ground know nothing’, and of course their bodies and their brains are dead and do not work so they know nothing but if SDAs were only to read on in Ecclesiastes 12 they will find the author of Ecclesiastes comes to a different conclusion to the SDAs because he says that the soul returns to God who gave it. Also see in Revelation 6: 9 that the souls of the just – without their bodies, are in heaven, underneath the alter in heaven, aware of their condition, aware that they were martyred for the word of God, and plead with God for justice. So, the soul is knowing and can plead, knowing not with their brain but with their soul, pleading not with their lips but with their soul, and there are still people on earth when these souls are pleading so this is before the Second Coming of Christ.

The Bible is clear that to the physical material body created by God, God breaths the spiritual soul into it. The soul is clearly distinct from the body, but both are united in the person. The soul is the breath God. The breath of God – what is it but the spirit. Ecclesiastes 12 says that when someone dies, the body returns to the dust from which it is made and the soul returns to God. Ecclesiastes 12 says nothing about the soul dying, only the body dying and the soul returning to God who gave it and Christians await the resurrection of the body at the Second Coming of Christ - so then the soul is to be re-united to the body. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that the soul, separated from the body, cannot know God.

God did not Breathe into the nostrils of any animals or plants, yet they are alive and breath without God's Breath. So God Breathing into Adam is more than making Adam alive so he can breathe. It is God Breathing a soul into Adam's body.

We know that the breath of God never dies. The breath of God in us is what makes the body a spiritual soul and so the soul of man never dies since it is the Breath of God. The soul can die a spiritual death in that it can reject God for the soul has free will. It is the soul which chooses to sin or not. We can use our body to sin but it is a free will. The soul therefore will exist for ever in hell which is an eternal spiritual death, separated from the presence of God or the soul exists for ever in heaven, so the soul is not annihilated but exists eternally either in heaven or in hell. So the soul is immortal. We have a mortal body, they die as Ecclesiastes 12 says but the soul is immortal in that it returns to God who then judges it for heaven or hell.

We should note that before Christ died on the Cross, no one had access to heaven. So from Adam to Abraham to Moses to Lazarus of the New Testament, all who had died before Christ had made access to heaven possible through His death on the Cross, all those souls who had died before Christ's death went to what is called Hades. This is confirmed by the fact that Christ went and preached the Gospel to the 'spirits (souls) in prison', otherwise known as the dead in Hades, this was after He had died on the cross but before His Resurrection. (1 Peter 3: 10-19 and 1 Peter 4: 6). His body was in the tomb, so His soul 'preached the Gospel to the dead', who had died before Him, those such as Moses, who were waiting to be released from the 'prison' of Hades and have access to heaven by Christ's victory of Salvation. I make this clear now because you will see a reference to this in Point 20.

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### Point 18

Pg. 15 says: ' ... The teaching of the immortality of the soul has its beginning from Satan's first lie in the Garden of Eden.. ...

### Answer

SDAs make a lot of mischief with this and are dishonest about what the Catholic Church teaches. The Catholic Church teaches that we all die bodily and that we can all die spiritually. The immortality of the soul 'is not the lie of Satan' because the Bible teaches us

that the soul is the Breath of God and the Breath of God never dies. As said in above points:

SDAs keep quoting Ecclesiastes 9 about the 'dead in the ground know nothing', and of course their bodies and their brains are dead and do not work so they know nothing but if SDAs were only to read on in Ecclesiastes 12 they will find the author of Ecclesiastes comes to a different conclusion to the SDAs because he says that the soul returns to God who gave it. Also see in Revelation 6: 9 that the souls of the just – without their bodies, are in heaven, underneath the alter in heaven, aware of their condition, aware that they were martyred for the word of God, and plead with God for justice. So, the soul is knowing and can plead, knowing not with their brain but with their soul, pleading not with their lips but with their soul, and there are still people on earth when these souls are pleading so this is before the Second Coming of Christ.

We know that the breath of God never dies. The breath of God in us is what makes the body have a spiritual soul and so the soul of man never dies since it is the Breath of God. The soul can die a spiritual death in that it can reject God for the soul has free will. It is the soul which choses to sin or not. We can use our body to sin but it is a free will. The soul therefore will exist for ever in hell which is an eternal spiritual death, separated from the presence of God or the soul exists for ever in heaven, so the soul is not annihilated but exists eternally either in heaven or in hell. So the soul is immortal. We have a mortal body, they die as Ecclesiastes 12 says but the soul is immortal in that it returns to God who than judges it for heaven or hell.

We should note that before Christ died on the Cross, no one had access to heaven. So from Adam to Abraham to Moses to Lazarus of the New Testament, all who had died before Christ had made access to heaven possible through His death on the Cross, all those souls who had died before Christ's death went to what is called Hades. This is confirmed by the fact that Christ went and preached the Gospel to the 'spirits (souls) in prison', otherwise known as the dead in Hades, this was after He had died on the cross but before His Resurrection. (1 Peter 3: 10-19 and 1 Peter 4: 6). His body was in the tomb, so His soul 'preached the Gospel to the dead', who had died before Him, those such as Moses, who were waiting to be released from the 'prison' of Hades and have access to heaven by Christ 's victory of Salvation. I make this clear now because you will see a reference to this in Point 20.

Please read Point 17 for more information.

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**Point 19**

Pg. 16 says: ' ... (1 Thessalonians 4 : 15 – 17) - So you see that the dead are in the graves and will be awakened by Jesus.'

**Answer**

SDAs suggest that the souls of the dead are in their graves with their bodies. This is not what the Bible says. The bodies of the dead are in their graves, as Ecclesiastes 12 says, but their souls have 'returned to God who gave them', as Ecclesiastes 12 also says. Christians are waiting for their bodies, which are in their graves to be raised from their graves and reunited to their souls at the Second Coming of Christ, but their souls are not in their graves as suggested by SDAs.

For what happens to the soul after death but before the Second Coming of Christ please read point 17.

We should note that before Christ died on the Cross, no one had access to heaven. So from Adam to Abraham to Moses to Lazarus of the New Testament, all who had died before Christ had made access to heaven possible through His death on the Cross, all those souls who had died before Christ's death went to what is called Hades. This is confirmed by the fact that Christ went and preached the Gospel to the 'spirits (souls) in prison', otherwise known as the dead in Hades, this was after He had died on the cross but before His Resurrection. (1 Peter 3: 10-19 and 1 Peter 4: 6). His body was in the tomb, so His soul 'preached the Gospel to the dead', who had died before Him, those such as Moses, who were waiting to be released from the 'prison' of Hades and have access to heaven by Christ 's victory of Salvation. I make this clear now because you will see a reference to this in Point 20.

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**Point 20**

Pg. 16 says: ' ... Jesus said to him: "Lazarus, come forth", ( John 11: 43). Lazarus did indeed come out of the grave. Many ministers preach that, when a person dies they go to heaven or hell. If the righteous dead went to straight to heaven when they died, then we would believe that Lazarus, Jesus' friend had gone to heaven, but he did not come down from heaven, or the clouds, or from space .....

**Answer**

This statement is such a glaringly obvious misunderstanding of the whole purpose of Christ becoming man.

Before Christ died no one had access to heaven. No one went to heaven because no one had access to Salvation. It is Christ alone who brought Salvation, on His Cross by His Death. Lazarus' soul went to where all the dead souls went before Christ made access to heaven possible, which is what we call Hades. It is called Hades because all who are 'there' or in that 'state' are deprived of the vision of God. Heaven is where we see God Face to face. Adam and Abraham and Moses were not in heaven until Christ Himself had died on the cross

for them. Jesus Himself went to Hades to bring the souls of those who had died before His own death with Him to Heaven. This is confirmed by the fact that Christ went and preached the Gospel to the 'spirits (souls) in prison', otherwise known as Hades, (1 Peter 3: 10-19 and 1 Peter 4: 6)

We should note that before Christ died on the Cross, no one had access to heaven. So from Adam to Abraham to Moses to Lazarus of the New Testament, all who had died before Christ had made access to heaven possible through His death on the Cross, all those souls who had died before Christ's death went to what is called Hades. This is confirmed by the fact that Christ went and preached the Gospel to the 'spirits (souls) in prison', otherwise known as the dead in Hades, this was after He had died on the cross but before His Resurrection. (1 Peter 3: 10-19 and 1 Peter 4: 6). His body was in the tomb, so His soul 'preached the Gospel to the dead', who had died before Him, those such as Moses, who were waiting to be released from the 'prison' of Hades and have access to heaven by Christ 's victory of Salvation. I make this clear now because you will see a reference to this in Point 20.

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#### **Point 21**

Pg. 16 and 17 says: ' ... The Bible says that it is only Jesus that has immortality.... (1 Timothy 6: 15 – 17 and also 1 Corinthians 15 : 51 – 54.) ... and that humans become dust.. the Bible completely rejects the teaching of immortality...

#### **Answer**

The Bible teaches us that our bodies are mortal, they die a physical death, but our souls, since they are the Breath of God and the Breath of God never dies, so the soul, being the Breath of God, is immortal. Jesus spoke with Moses and Elijah and yet both had passed from this life, Matt 17, 1 – 13. Where were they before they had access to heaven through Christ's death? - we call it Hades.

We should note that before Christ died on the Cross, no one had access to heaven. So from Adam to Abraham to Moses to Lazarus of the New Testament, all who had died before Christ had made access to heaven possible through His death on the Cross, all those souls who had died before Christ's death went to what is called Hades. This is confirmed by the fact that Christ went and preached the Gospel to the 'spirits (souls) in prison', otherwise known as the dead in Hades, this was after He had died on the cross but before His Resurrection. (1 Peter 3: 10-19 and 1 Peter 4: 6). His body was in the tomb, so His soul 'preached the Gospel to the dead', who had died before Him, those such as Moses, who were waiting to be released from the 'prison' of Hades and have access to heaven by Christ 's victory of Salvation. I make this clear now because you will see a reference to this in Point 20.

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**Point 22** Pg. 18 says: ‘ ... The Catholic Church frightens people with the teaching of eternal torment...

**Answer**

Not just the Catholic Church but most denominations, because the Bible says so. However, what Bible evidence shows that hell is a torment for those who go there – Jesus says so Himself. Just because SDAs do not like the idea that being separated from God as an experience of torment, in reality, there can be no GREATER TORTURE than being separated from God, deprived of the ‘Beatific Vision’, deprived of seeing God Face to face, deprived of being in His presence. Hell is separation from God. Heaven is seeing God Face to face.

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**Point 23** Pg. 18 says: ‘ ... During the Reformation period, purgatory was understood to be a place where people were punished for their wrong doing... ...Luther was of the opinion that such a teaching was totally unbiblical... Those who end up in purgatory cannot come out by themselves but can have help from others...

**Answer**

No it was not. Purgatory is not a place, nor is it a punishment but a cleansing. The Bible tells us that in heaven there is nothing impure there, Rev 21: 27, so we all need to be made pure by the Mercy of Christ who gained Mercy for us on His Cross.

Read Point 17 for a full explanation, however:

Ecclesiastes 12 tells us that at death, the body returns to dust while the soul returns to God who gave it. Where is God? – heaven - and outside of time, so the soul returns to God, separate from the body, but it cannot enter heaven before it is judged so God judges the soul. If the soul is so rejecting of God the soul is destined for hell, but if it is not ‘rejecting’ of God, it is destined for heaven. However, Revelation 21: 27 tells us that there is no sin in heaven, ‘nothing impure may enter it’, yet we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, so how can a soul which has sinned, even after it has been baptised we still sin, how can a soul which has sinned, even with the slightest impurity, - how can it enter heaven? – it has to be cleansed before it may enter heaven and into the presence of God. The body is still dead in the ground waiting for the resurrection of the body at the end of time at Christ’s Second Coming, but the soul is before God as Ecclesiastes 12 says. This cleansing is a purging of sin, a process of purifying the soul so it is fit for heaven and this is the pure mercy of Christ our Saviour which accomplishes such purification, the pure mercy of the Cross and Resurrection of Christ. Purgatory – being purged - is that name given to the process of being cleansed, being purified, it is not a place but a process and is outside of time because God is outside of time.

So 'Purgatory' is a GOOD experience in that we are purged of our sins, made pure by Gods Mercy, so we are fit to see God Face to face.

As for praying for those in Purgatory, no one can save themselves, only Christ and His Mercy can do that, and we should all pray for each other, that we may all see the Face of God, this is the most basic act of charity we can do for someone else, but it is Christ's Mercy doing the cleansing.

We should note that before Christ died on the Cross, no one had access to heaven. So from Adam to Abraham to Moses to Lazarus of the New Testament, all who had died before Christ had made access to heaven possible through His death on the Cross, all those souls who had died before Christ's death went to what is called Hades. This is confirmed by the fact that Christ went and preached the Gospel to the 'spirits (souls) in prison', otherwise known as the dead in Hades, this was after He had died on the cross but before His Resurrection. (1 Peter 3: 10-19 and 1 Peter 4: 6). His body was in the tomb, so His soul 'preached the Gospel to the dead', who had died before Him, those such as Moses, who were waiting to be released from the 'prison' of Hades and have access to heaven by Christ 's victory of Salvation. I make this clear now because you will see a reference to this in Point 20.

Biblical evidence for Purgatory is found here <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/is-purgatory-in-the-bible>

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**Point 24** Pg. 18 says: ' ... The Pope also offered forgiveness in exchange for money. This was known as indulgences.

#### **Answer**

No it was not. As shocking as it may seem to SDAs and others, indulgencies have nothing to do with paying money. Indulgencies are very closely linked with penance and an understanding of penance helps to understand indulgencies.

Protestants often object to penance claiming penance is 'salvation by works' since Christ paid the price for our sins on the cross, we have nothing to pay, we do not have to pay anything - Christ paid the price. However, far from being 'salvation by works', penance and indulgences are 'salvation by God's grace'. How can that be?

In Baptism we have repented of our sins but what about sin after Baptism? How are we to be forgiven of our daily sins? The Gospel calls us not only to confess our sins, which is to list them, but also to repent of our sins, which means to be sorry form them.

To repent of our sins means to move away from them with sorrow and tears. It is an act of rejection of our sin, a detestation of our sin and an act of moving spiritually toward God, which can only be done by God's Grace. So repentance is an act of prayer and submission

to Christ's Mercy. Daily sin needs daily repentance. The word penance means sorrow for sin, a root requirement for repentance.

In addition to sorrow, the Bible tells us in 1 Peter 4: 8 'loving others covers a multitude of sins', and God Himself is the source of true spiritual love, which the Bible calls charity. We cannot just confess our sin to God and then do nothing about it. For example, how can you be repentant, and yet refuse to return stolen goods. You cannot. Penance is the act of putting repentance into action, correcting a wrong as far as possible. God forgives the guilt of the sin, but if we refuse to return the stolen goods, it is not true repentance and God will not forgive an unrepentant heart, so penance is needed. We have to return the stolen goods to repair the damage. Does confessing the sin and receiving God's forgiveness return the stolen goods? No it does not. So God forgives the guilt of the sin but the damaged done needs our attention, needs to be corrected. It is called 'satisfaction' for the sin. Such 'satisfaction', or penance, or corrective action, '...must correspond as far as possible with the gravity and nature of the sins committed. It can consist of prayer, works of mercy, self-denial, service of others, but above all, acceptance of the cross we must bear. Such penances help configure us to Christ, WHO ALONE EXPIATES OUR SINS ONCE FOR ALL. Such penances allow us to become co-heirs with the risen Christ, 'provided we suffer with him'.

The biblical reference for 'suffering with Christ' is:

**Romans 8: 17**

if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

**1 John 2 : 1 -2**

My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Remembering that penance means satisfaction and satisfaction means corrective action, Protestants might be heartened by the words of the Council of Trent:

The satisfaction that we make for our sins, however, is not so much ours as though it were not done through Jesus Christ. We who can do nothing ourselves, as if just by ourselves, can do all things with the cooperation of "him who strengthens" us. Thus man has nothing of which to boast, but all our boasting is in Christ . . . in whom we make satisfaction by bringing forth "fruits that befit repentance." These fruits have their efficacy from him, by him they are offered to the Father, and through him they are accepted by the Father.

So, acts of penance, corrective action, are part of repentance. How is penance and repentance linked to indulgencies? Remembering that when Jesus had risen from the dead but before He had ascended into heaven, He appeared to the Apostles, He breathed on

them and said, "If you forgive sins of any, they are forgiven, if you retain the sins of any, they are retained", John 20: 23. Christ himself entrusted the Apostles with the ministry of reconciliation and so the bishops who are their successors, have the power from Christ to forgive sins, 'in the name of the Father, and of the So, and of the Holy Spirit. The confessor, (priest or bishops) is not master of God's forgiveness but its servant.

In this sacrament, the sinner, placing himself before the merciful judgment of God, *anticipates* in a certain way *the judgment* to which he will be subjected at the end of his earthly life. For it is now, in this life, that we are offered the choice between life and death, and it is only by the road of conversion that we can enter the Kingdom, from which one is excluded by grave sin. In converting to Christ through penance and faith, the sinner passes from death to life and "does not come into judgement as John 5: 24 says:

<sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

And Ephesians 4 : 22 & 24 shows that:

..... He should strive by works of mercy and charity, as well as by prayer and the various practices of penance, to put off completely the "old man" and to put on the "new man."

The 'putting off of the old man and the putting on of the new man' is a daily decision and a personal daily act of the will in union with God's Grace. The Christian who seeks to purify himself of his sin and to become holy with the help of God's Grace is not alone. "The life of each of God's children is joined in Christ and through Christ in a wonderful way to the life of all the other Christian brethren in the supernatural unity of the Mystical Body of Christ, as in a single mystical person," we call the Church.

Clearly Christ has paid the price for sin. For sin to be forgiven we need both confession and have 'satisfaction' for true repentance. The consequence, or punishment of sin is death but sin also harms others and ourselves. To understand this doctrine and practice of the Church, it is necessary to understand that sin has a *double consequence*. Grave sin deprives us of communion with God and therefore makes us incapable of eternal life, the privation of which is called the "eternal punishment" of sin. On the other hand every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death in the state called Purgatory. This purification, either here on earth or after death, frees one from what is called the "temporal punishment" of sin, *because God forgave the sin due to our honest confession and sorrow, but have we 'returned the stolen goods', that is, made corrective action?* These two punishments must not be conceived of as a kind of vengeance inflicted by God from without, but as following from the very nature of sin. A conversion which proceeds from a fervent charity can attain the complete purification of the sinner in such a way that no punishment would remain. Read **Point 23** for information and Biblical reference for Purgatory.

The word *indulgence* from the Latin *indulgentia*, from *indulge*, means to be kind or tender, primary sense to signify the kindness and mercy of God. But in the special sense in which it

is here considered, an indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment due to sin, the guilt of which has been forgiven.

The Bible shows us penance and indulgences being given to Christians. The Pathos website has a good article on penance and indulgences and I quote the following:

***'Did Paul even publicly name sinners to whom he assigned penance?'***

**1 Timothy 1: 19-20** holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting, certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith, [20] among them Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.'

Here Paul is saying that some have made 'shipwreck of their faith', and he has given him penance, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

***'Does the Church have the authority to grant an indulgence?'***

**2 Corinthians 2: 6-11** For such a one this punishment by the majority is enough; [7] so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. [8] So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. [9] For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. [10] Any one whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, [11] to keep Satan from gaining the advantage over us; for we are not ignorant of his designs.'

On these verses of 2 Corinthians 2: 6 – 11, the NIV Study Bible says this:

'Speaks of a particular person who has been the cause of serious offence in Corinth and upon whom **church discipline has been imposed**. Paul admonished the Corinthians that because the offender has shown genuine sorrow and repentance for his sin the punishment should be discontinued and he should be lovingly restored to their fellowship.'

Clearly the early Church gave penance and brought people back after corrective behaviour, and 'to keep Satan from gaining the advantage over us', so the Apostle delivers the sinner from Satan, providing an indulgence, a corrective time of penance.

In addition:

Matt 12: 32 says:

"Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, **either in this age or in the age to come**"

This implies that other sins may be forgiven in the age to come, i.e., in the next life. Since that can't apply to anyone who dies outside the grace of God –after death it's too late to be saved – and anyone who dies in the grace of God has already had his eternal debt forgiven, it must be to the temporal debt of those who die in God's Grace.

1 Corinthians 3: 13-15, St Paul writes that Christ-centred works will survive the test of fire, but self-cantered works will be consumed. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

Christ said of Peter, "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Indulgences, a purification by penance, are an act in obedience to the words of Jesus Christ and is a Biblical act. If you do not have indulgences you are not living out the Bible.

Read **Point 23** for information and Biblical reference for Purgatory.

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<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/davearmstrong/2015/11/the-bible-on-confession-absolution.html>

**The Rest Of This Response - Part 2 - Is Still Being Written.**