

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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CATHOLIC MASS AND THE ORACLES OF GOD

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One of the ways in which “God is glorified” is in our “speaking” “as the oracles of God” (I Peter 4:11). Obeying this divine command is not speaking our words and claiming them to be the word of God, but speaking the words that have originated with God.

A clear indication of the Catholic Church not respecting this Divine decree, is their teaching concerning the Mass. Under the heading of *The Dogmatic Doctrine of the Mass*, they write, “The word Mass (missa) first established itself as the general designation for the Eucharistic Sacrifice in the West after the time of Pope Gregory the Great (d.604), the early church having used the expression the ‘breaking of bread’...” (*The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. X, page 6*).

The word “Mass” is derived from “missa” which means “dismissal”. The word, denoting the ritual of dismissal, took on a specific meaning in the following way: “Popular speech gradually applied the ritual of dismissal, as it was expressed in

both the Mass of Catechumens and the Mass of the Faithful, by synecdoche to the entire Eucharistic Sacrifice, the whole being named after the part” (*The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. X, p. 6*).

The Catholic Church does not speak as the oracles of God, for in their Mass they are sacrificing Jesus’ body and blood. God commands in the New Testament that Christians break bread remembering the body and blood of Christ (Acts 20:7, Luke 22:19, I Cor. 11:25), not offering it up again. In partaking, Christians “proclaim the Lord’s death” not offer up his sacrifice again (I Cor. 11:26).

Not only is the term “Mass” not found in the New Testament, the religious practice that it is connected with, is not found in the Oracles of God. Where do you find in God’s word where we are to offer up the sacrifice of Jesus in addition to and connected with the partaking of the Lord’s supper? Speaking as the oracles of God, Jesus offered the sacrifice of his body “once and for all, when he offered up himself” (Hebrews 8:4). Where

does God speak in His word of commanding Christians to “plead and represent before the Father the Sacrifice of the Cross” (*The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. X, p. 6*). Jesus’ “once for all” offering of himself is always before Father sanctifying us and perfecting us (Hebrews 10:10,14). We are to *remember* and *proclaim* the Lord’s death when we partake of the Lord’s supper, not *present the sacrifice of Jesus to God* again and again.

Catholicism today conducts “Mass daily”, while the Oracles of God teach that New Testament Christians partook of the Lord’s supper on “the first day of the week” (Acts 20:7). When a Catholic goes to Mass and partakes of the Lord’s supper on days Monday through Saturday, he or she is practicing religion based upon man’s words, not the oracles of God.

The Catholic Church is the result of men being comfortable in no longer speaking as the oracles of God. A glaring example of this is their teaching regarding the “Mass”—a word and practice that never occurs in the New Testament.