

A Mother & Son Talk

by
Robert E. Schoenle

**Dedicated to my mother Marie (Dolly),
for her love and loyalty
throughout her lifetime.**

“Messiah” is a Hebrew word.
“Christos” is a Greek word.
“Christ” is an English word.
All three of these words mean,
“The Anointed One.”

The *Holy Bible* is called the “Word of God” because it is a faithful record of everything God wanted man to know as a whole including those things that are evil and degenerate. The ori-ginal [autograph] was written by men inspired by the Holy Spirit, the third Personality of the Godhead. The *Holy Bible* is free from any error concerning the supernatural, science and history. The substance of the *Holy Bible* has been preserved for us and is complete! We are not to look for the writing or giving of any additional Scripture (Rom. 1:18-20; 15:4; 1 Cor. 2:12; 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:21; Rev. 22:18).

The “Word of God” advises us all to:
Search the Scriptures (Jn. 5:39, 46-47; Acts 17:10-12).
Study the Scriptures (Prov. 15:28; 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 2:15).
Meditate upon the Scriptures (Ps. 119; 1 Tim. 4:15-16).

The Holy Bible. Nothing More. Nothing Less. Nothing Else.

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Son: Mom, I really need to talk to you!

Mom: About what?

Son: About what the *Holy Bible* has to say about the Lord Jesus, and the apostles, and Mary, and about Heaven and Hell.

Mom: What's there to talk about? I'm Catholic!

Son: I know. But I'm not anymore.

Mom: What are you talking about? How can you not be Catholic anymore? You were born Catholic just like I was and everybody else in the family.

Son: But I have left the Catholic Church.

Mom: Don't be silly. We are born Catholic and we will be Catholics until we die. Your brother Billy is a priest, for God's sake, and my sister Josie is a nun. Who's more Catholic than our family?

Son: I know mom but I left the Catholic Church last year. When I became a born-again Christian.

Mom: A born-again what?

Son: A born-again Christian (Jn. 3:3-8, 14-18).

Mom: Oh my God - you've joined a cult!

Son: No mom. I haven't joined any cult. I simply believe that what the Lord Jesus did while on the cross at Calvary is enough to save me from all of my sins. And because of what He did for me, I now know that I am going to heaven (Rom. 3:24; 4:5; 5:1, 9; 8:34).

Mom: Don't be ridiculous. No one knows for sure that they are going to heaven. In fact, you are guilty of the sin of being presumptuous for saying that. Even the Pope can't say he's going to heaven and be sure of it. The Church teaches that ["Church teaching is that I don't know, at any given moment, what my eternal future will be. I can hope, pray, do my very best--but I still don't know, Pope John Paul II doesn't know absolutely that he will go to heaven, nor does Mother Teresa of Calcutta . . ." New York's John Cardinal O'Connor, *The New York Times*, February 1, 1990, pp. A1, B4].

Son: But mom - the Roman Catholic Church may teach that, but the Bible doesn't.

Mom: What do you mean the Bible doesn't teach that?

Son: Just what I said. The Bible teaches just the opposite. In fact, the apostle John wrote in his first letter that what he had written to believers, he had written so that the believers reading it would *know* that they had eternal life (1 Jn. 5:13). In other words, God wasn't going to let people wonder or be unsure about whether they were going to heaven or not.

Mom: I never heard of such a thing.

Son: Mom, you know how you have always thought that the apostles were Italians?

Mom: Yeah.

Son: Well they weren't. They were all Jewish!

Mom: Are you crazy? You did join a cult didn't you?

Son: No mom. I have simply been reading and studying the *Bible*.

Mom: Then you should stop it! To say that all of the apostles were Jewish is ridiculous.

Son: But they were Jewish! Just like Mary, Jesus and Joseph.

Mom: I suppose you're also going to tell me that Jesus wasn't Catholic.

Son: That's right mom. The Lord Jesus wasn't a Roman Catholic!

Mom: I think you've gone crazy and you want to make me crazy too. I always said you read too much. Normal boys chased girls. But not you. You would only read.

Son: That's the problem now. Not enough people read the Bible or study it! What they believe is what someone told them to believe. If you asked most people what they believe, they might be able to tell you, but they probably couldn't tell you why they believe it. They were told some-thing by someone and without checking out what they were told, they believe it to be true. You could say they have faith, but it is a blind faith. Now that is what you could call crazy. But almost everyone is guilty of doing that.

Mom: It sounds like you're preaching to me!

Son: I'm just trying to explain to you that almost everything we've been taught by the Roman Catholic Church is not true!

Mom: Bite your tongue. What is the family going to say if they hear you talk like this. Your brother Bill and your aunt Josie will probably try to find an exorcist to bring the evil spirits out of you.

Son: Mom - did I tell you that I love you today?

Mom: No. I think you're trying to drive me crazy.

Son: Mom, I love you with all of my heart. It's because I love you that I'm telling you this. The bottom line is you either believe what the Bible clearly teaches and has to say or you believe what someone else has to say and teach. In your case, it's the Roman Catholic Church. In my case, it's the Bible.

Mom: I believe some of what the Bible says.

Son: That's not good enough! You can't pick and choose what you want to believe in the Bible and what you don't want to believe that's in it. It's an all or nothing decision. Why do you think there are so many different Christian denominations?

Mom: Why?

Son: The reason why is that they don't want to believe all of what the Bible has to say or teach either. Everybody wants to pick and choose what they like and ignore what they don't like. Or they will take some obscure Bible verse and build a whole teaching around it that is absolutely contrary from what clear Bible verses have to say on the same subject. That is how new religions have been started that are supposedly Christian. It's a joke.

Mom: It really sounds like you are preaching to me and I don't like it. Don't forget - I'm your mother.

Son: Mom - how can I explain stuff to you if you're going to get defensive all of the time.

Mom: I'm not being defensive! I'm willing to listen to you. Just don't get preachy or give me a sermon.

Son: That's all I ask of you mom, really. Now what if I told you that Mary had other kids after she gave birth to the Lord Jesus?

Mom: No way! She was a virgin all of her life. Everybody knows that.

Son: Mom, she had a lot of kids after the Lord Jesus was born. Joseph was the father of those kids. The Bible doesn't say how many daughters Mary had, or even give any of their names, but Mary's four other sons are all named (Mt. 1:24-25; 12:46-47; 13:55-56; Mk. 3:31-32; 6:2-3; Lk. 8:19-20; Jn. 2:12; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 9:4-5; Gal. 1:19).

Mom: I never heard of such a thing.

Son: I know. Mary was an especially good woman. But she was still a woman. And, like all of us, she was a sinner who needed a Savior (Lk. 1:46-47).

