

Catholicism has misled Catholics with false doctrine in many ways, preventing them from achieving salvation:

1. *Claiming the Roman Catholic Church is the gatekeeper of salvation.*

This ridiculous claim elevates the Catholic Church over God's power to grant salvation.

2. *Preaching salvation comes through performing the seven sacraments.*

Witchcraft is defined as taking a specific action (such as repeating a spell) to cause a specific supernatural result (i.e., placing a curse on someone). This is an example of the papal Antichrist "causing craft to prosper" (Dan. 8:25). Performing the sacraments does not result in salvation, as the Bible clearly states that our works alone do not get us to heaven.

3. *Forgiveness of sin through penance instead of repentance to God.*

This is another example of Catholic witchcraft, as repeating the Rosary a certain number of times to gain forgiveness from sin is the same as repeating a spell to place a curse, and the Bible does not claim sins are forgiven through penance.

4. *The pope claims to be the head of the church and have the authority of Jesus Christ.*

The Bible repeatedly states that Jesus is the head of the church, not any man.

5. *Veneration of Mary and saints.*

The veneration of saints is a form of polytheism that is derived from the pagan Roman origins of Catholicism. The ancient Roman imperial cult deified mortal emperors who were prayed just as saints are in Catholicism.

6. *Claiming that Mary is a mediator between God and man.*

I Timothy 2:5 says, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Mary is not a mediator. Any prayers directed to or through Mary or any other saints are not directed to God.

7. *Catholicism encourages prayer to saints rather than God.*

Just as Mary cannot bring prayers to God, neither can other saints. Anthony of Padua cannot help you find your keys, no matter what the Catholic Church will have you believe.

8. *The idolatry of religious iconography.*

God is clear throughout the Bible: do not bow down to graven images and pray. We know that the Antichrist's followers practice idolatry (Revelation 9:20, 13:4, and 13:14-15). All Catholic Churches have graven images of Mary and other saints with prayer candles in front of them to encourage Catholics to pray through these idols. Ancient pagans knew their idols were not the gods themselves, but they prayed to the gods through their images, just as the Catholic Church encourages its parishioners to do. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church 2132* falsely claims, "The Christian veneration of images is not contrary to the first commandment which proscribes idols. Indeed, 'the honor rendered to an image passes to its prototype,' and 'whoever venerates an image venerates the person portrayed in it.' The honor paid to sacred images is a 'respectful veneration,' not the adoration due to God alone." The Catholic church even changed the numbering of the Ten Commandments to make it appear as if you need to both 1.) pray to a graven image and 2.) consider that image a god to violate the commandment against idols. In reality, "Thou shalt not make any graven images" is a separate commandment, not part of the first (Exodus 20:2-6, Deuteronomy 5:8-10).

9. *Confession of sin to a priest rather than to God and other Christians.*

The Bible declares that Christians are the "royal priesthood" (I Peter 2:9, Revelation 1:6), and we are to confess our sins "to one another" (James 5:16). In fact, Jesus specifically forbade priests in Matthew 23:8-9: "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."

10. *Infant baptism.*

Every example of baptism in the Bible occurs after the individual believed in Jesus and asked forgiveness for their sins. Infant baptism occurs before a person is old enough to believe in Jesus for themselves. Because infant christenings occur before a baby is old enough to have faith, it does not represent that child's faith and is not a valid baptism. Jesus said in John 3:5, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Infant christening prevents Catholics from going to Heaven, as they are never baptized.

11. *Only the Catholic Church can interpret scripture.*

This claim was designed to protect the Catholic Church from being exposed as the Whore of Babylon and the papacy as the Antichrist.

12. *Preventing people from owning or reading the Bible for centuries and conducting masses in Latin until the 1960s.*

For over a millennium, the Catholic Church punished and even killed people who were found with Bibles or excerpts of scripture in their possession. The Bible was added to the *Index of Prohibited Books* to prevent anyone from realizing the many ways that Catholicism is not a Christian religion, or identifying the Catholic Church as the Whore of Babylon and the papacy as the Antichrist.