

jan 27

the name above all names

"nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." acts 4:12

exclusivity, yes that is what a true christian claims. "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." col 1:28 we don't claim it out of malice or bigotry. we claim it because He did and faith in Him precludes us from doing otherwise.

i read recently the pope had stated, "proselytizing is something pagan, not evangelical, nor christian." indeed, in december of 2015 he specifically forbade attempts to convert jews. he also has been in talks with muslims about a new religion called chrislam.

i know many out there are of the catholic faith and even though i wish to offend no one, scripture says offenses will come. there have been many spiritual giants in the catholic faith throughout the ages and even now i count several among family and friends. still, no one is infallible. we are to follow no one ever born of flesh except the God-man, Christ Jesus, and He gave us the command, "go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." matt 28:19 it is vital that no one leads you from the truth of that gospel. "if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let

him be accursed." gal 1:9

what does proselytize mean? "to convert to some religion, system, opinion, or the like; to bring, or cause to come, over; to proselyte." was the apostle paul guilty of proselytizing when he was thus accused: "but throughout almost all asia, this paul has persuaded and turned away many people." acts 17:5 every disciple Jesus sent out did nothing but try to persuade all men to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. "knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." 2 cor 5:11

if one truly believes what Jesus has said, we would be less than cruel if we did not try to persuade them to "come over" to our way of believing. if we believe in the heaven and the hell Jesus spoke of, how could we not fail to warn them of the weeping and gnashing of teeth; of the coming terror of the Lord? whether they be jew or gentile, male or female, rich or poor, all need to have a witness to what our Lord boldly spoke, exclusivity. "I am the way, the truth, and the life. no one comes to the Father except through Me." john 14:6

has the christian church deservedly earned a less than stellar reputation since it was birthed? most assuredly in cases where they sought to administer their own will and not God's. but God is purifying His bride. He is preparing her for His arrival. the same spirit that birthed the church in power will cause it to go out in glory. not the glory that will be manifested at judgement but the glory of compassion. the glory that engulfed stephen as he was stoned to

death and cried out at the end, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." acts 7:60 the glory our Lord manifested when He too ended His mission on the cross and cried out, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." luke 23:34 ignorance is not bliss; it is the devil in disguise.

you see, the glory of God lies in His mercy, in His forgiveness. i can't count the number of times He forgave me of something, knowing all the time i would do it again. He knows every step we take and all our stumbles along the way. but grace has brought us safe this far and grace will lead us home. "now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. amen." jude 24-25

so i shall continue to proselytize, evangelize, woo, win, convict and convince all. "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." eph 4:13 i hope you will too!