

## Parson to Person

**GUEST SPEAKER: MIKE GENDRON**

*“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it” (2 Corinthians 11:2–4 NKJV).*

Mike Gendron is a former Catholic who shares a great passion for those still in or influenced by the Roman Catholic Church. His trust in Jesus for the complete salvation God offers, by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ Jesus alone, as described in the Scriptures alone, for the glory of God alone, sets Mike, his wife Jane, and his ministry apart as one of the clearest voices for the Biblical Gospel in the country. I trust you will enjoy hearing from Mike today.

One of the biggest problems with the American gospel is that we, like others around the world, have Roman Catholic remains in our thinking and doctrine. For example, we are still manipulated by guilt and shame when falling short of sinless living, feel the need to agonizingly confess each sin in detail before the Lord (lest we go unforgiven), concern ourselves with repercussions regarding a future condemnation and judgment after death, or have too lofty a view of the clergy and their distinction from the laity.

Herein I refrain from mentioning the confusions concerning Mary’s so-called sinlessness—and worse—the misconceptions of her playing a part in the salvation process, the false idea of transubstantiation (the communion elements of bread and wine literally or even mystically transformed in the body of Christ rather than understood as a representation), Replacement Theology (the belief that Israel has been replaced by the Church), Preterism (the belief that most Bible prophecy has been fulfilled in the past and therefore the study of the end times is neglected or allegorized), etc. There is so much to cover here! Worst of all is the fact that Roman Catholicism fails to recognize the complete sacrificial work of Jesus as thorough and complete—thus teaching that the flames of Purgatory (where the “redeemed believer’s” sins are said to be finally and ultimately purged by our personal sufferings) are required to obtain the promise of everlasting glory and the complete forgiveness of sins. Moreover, in the “Mass,” Jesus is viewed as perpetually dying on the altars in Catholic churches wherein death is thematically and repeatedly emphasized rather than the proper focus being given to the resurrection. In fact, it is noted that in most Catholic churches a bone of a dead “saint” is retained as a talisman or symbol mystically significant. (Death is a big focus in Catholicism; Protestant/Evangelicals focus on life.)

My friends, we who are Protestant are in need of a greater reformation. We need to see the truth of the Biblical Gospel—believe it and proclaim it. This is the mission of our guest today. He comes motivated by love for those who don’t know the Lord, the confused believer, and those needing further doctrinal “reformation.” His message is often tough to hear but needed nonetheless. Give him your attention today.

I love you all,  
Pastor Paul