

## Wednesday Night Apologetics: Topic #1 – Mary and the Saints

Opening Prayer:

Moment of Silence for personal intentions – Our Father – Hail Mary – Glory Be

Next Session will cover Confession and Purgatory.

Rank the remaining topics (1 – 3; 1 being the most important)

- The Eucharist
- Church Authority and Doctrine
- Salvation and Other Religions

(Note that some questions will be discussed multiple times...explain)

Explain what Apologetics is and what it IS NOT...

Topic Discussion Questions:

- Why do we pray at all? Follow example set in Bible...(many of them)
- What or who do you typically pray for?
- Have you ever asked a friend to pray for you? (Vice versa?)
- Typical objections:
  - Deuteronomy 18:10-11 - Critics liken praying to saints to divination
    - BUT 1 Samuel 28:3-14 - Divination is conjuring information from the dead (not asking for their prayers)
  - 1 Timothy 2:5 - "There is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"
    - BUT Hebrews 9:15 - Specifically: "He [Jesus] is the mediator of a new covenant" (when someone prays for you they are not mediating a new covenant)
  - Why not go "Directly to God?"
    - God knows what we want and need, why pray at all?
    - Why ask for prayers from our friends?
  - Saints can't hear us
    - Revelation 5:8 and 8:3-4...yes they can!!
- Praying to Saints is supported in the Bible
- If praying to Saints is good, how much more so is praying to Mary? Eg. Wedding at Cana.

## Scriptural Support:

### Revelation 5:8

When he took it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones.

### Revelation 8:3-4

Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a gold censer. He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones, on the gold altar that was before the throne.

The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel.

### Other Scripture quotes to consider:

1 Corinthians 12:13 - "We were all baptized into one body"

Romans 12:5 - We are one body and individually members of one another

Colossians 1:18 - Christ is the head of the body

Romans 8:35-39 - Death cannot separate us from Christ (or the rest of the body either)

1 Corinthians 12:26 - If one suffers all suffer

Galatians 6:2 - We are to bear one another's burdens

James 5:16 - We are to pray for one another

James 5:16 - The prayer of the righteous has great power

Luke 15:7 - Those in heaven (very righteous) care for us

Revelation 4:8 - Those in heaven pray constantly

Matthew 18:10 - The angels pray for us

Tobit 12:12 - An angel presented Tobit and Sarah's prayer to God

2 Maccabees 15:11-14 - The deceased Onias and Jeremiah pray for Israel