



WHO SHALL BE SAVED?

Am I saved? This is the most important question for the seeker of truth. The seeker of truth is, also, the seeker of God because God is truth. And the seeker of truth wants to be with God.....i.e. he wants to go to heaven when he dies.

Every man knows by nature that there is a God and the place where He dwells is heaven. It is immaterial what word he uses for these but every man knows this. Therefore, it has been man's great quest to find out who is this God and where is heaven.

Man's exploratory adventures are merely the expressions of his desire to know God and know where heaven is. But man, also, knows that this knowledge is beyond his capability.

So it is instilled in all man the desire to know Divine Revelation because he knows that what he wants to know can only be found there.

I myself [Christ] am Beauty Supreme from which all other beauty is derived. Yet so enchanting is the beauty of the souls of men that I gladly came down upon this earth and shed my Blood in order to redeem them.

St. Catherine of Siena

AM I SAVED?

The answer to this question is part of Divine Revelation, all of which is in the supernatural level. It cannot be learned by pure human means or efforts. God has to take pity on man for Him to reveal this to man. So man knows deep down that he must pray.

But prayer is, also, in the supernatural level. God, again, has to teach him how to pray. So man begins to be in complete quandary on what he must do in a situation where he is completely helpless to do anything right. This forces him to be humble. In being humble wherein he realizes his complete helplessness in knowing God is what will make God take pity on man.

When God takes pity on man, He grants him graces. With these graces are three theological virtues called Faith, Hope and Charity. These are supernatural virtues than can only come from God and will bring us both to the knowledge and love of the invisible God.

ARE WE SAVED?

There are many ways by which we can know that we are saved; or that when we die we shall go to heaven and be with God for all eternity. Among these many ways there are two ordinary ways by which we can know that we are destined to go to heaven.

The first way is by possessing the three theological virtues. Since these are supernatural virtues, a soul can only know if he is destined to go to heaven if he has the three virtues. We cannot know if we are saved if we do not have the three theological virtues.

These three theological virtues can only be known by those who possess them. That is why when we possess these virtues we can be very certain that we are predestined to go to heaven.

ANOTHER WAY OF KNOWING IF I WILL BE SAVED.

Most men do not have the three theological virtues. So it is impossible for most men to know if they are destined to heaven or not.

But God had given us a hint by which we can know if we have a chance to be saved. And that is for us to find out if we are inside his true Church.

The true Church established by Christ, the Catholic Church, is a spiritual reality so we cannot describe it. But God wants us to know which His true Church is. So He gave His Church visible signs by which ordinary men can know which is His Church.

The visible signs God gave His Church by which it can be recognize by all men are: it is One, it is Holy, it is Catholic and it is Apostolic.

These four signs are, also, spiritual and are not as visible as we want them to be. Like 'Holy' is a very spiritual sign so it is difficult to know, still, which is the true Church. So some of the great saints of the Catholic Church gave us some help. They tried to describe these spiritual signs as concretely as they could so it would be easier for the ordinary man to understand them. Among the many saints who described the true Church we shall concentrate on one; St. Robert Bellarmine. He was a Jesuit saint and Doctor of the Church. And he expanded the four original visible signs of the Church into fifteen marks or signs.

