



## DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Central Baptist Church of Orange County  
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*"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Corinthians 2:5*

### THE TRUTH ABOUT MARY

By Pastor Steve Owens

**Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.**



What comes to mind when you hear the name Mary? Do you think of baby Jesus? Do you think of Joseph? Do you think of words like *virgin*, *Christmas* or *Catholic church*? Regardless of the specific words that come to mind, there are two sources people head to for information about Mary: the Bible and "sacred" Catholic Tradition.

Let's begin with Catholic tradition. The Catholic Television Network (EWTN.com) informs us, "... that by a free decision of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary was elevated to become the Mother of His Son Jesus Christ and Jesus' worthy associate in redeeming mankind. She was prepared for this role by being preserved by God's grace from all sin, original and personal, throughout her entire life, and was rewarded at the end of her life for her cooperation with God's plan by being taken up, body and soul, into Heaven, where she reigns with her Son as Queen of the Universe,

*and whence she distributes to men all the graces which, with, through and under her Son, she helped to merit on Calvary."*

EWTN.com goes on to say... "At the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken up (assumed) into heaven, body and soul. Just as the glorious resurrection of Christ was an essential part and final sign of this victory [over sin and death by Calvary] so that struggle [Calvary] which was common to the Blessed Virgin and her Son, had to be closed by the glorification of her virginal body... As a result, just as He is now King of the Universe, she is Queen of the Universe. And her kingdom is as vast as that of her Son and God, since nothing is excluded from her dominion" (**Pius XII, *Bendito seja, May 13, 1946.***)

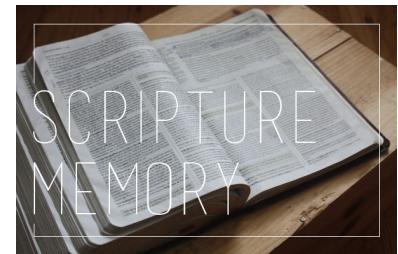
Let's boil this information down to the simplest terms. Catholic tradition would have us believe that, 1) Mary is part of our redemption process. 2) Mary was preserved from sin throughout her life. 3) Mary distributes grace to all men. 4) Mary struggled at Calvary in same manner as Jesus Christ. 5) Mary is now reigning as the Queen of the Universe.

Are these five statement true? Is Mary part of the salvation process? Was Mary sinless? Do I also need to place my faith in Mary for salvation? If these things are true, what are the necessary steps that should be taken to guarantee my salvation? Do I

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### December Memory Passage

*"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." (Luke 1:32-33)*

**"... SHE REIGNS WITH HER SON AS QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE..."**

### Monthly Events

**Phebe's Fellowship**  
(*Women's Missionary Society*)  
Postponed until January 7

**Spanish Bible Study**  
Postponed until January 14

**College and Career Bible Study**  
3rd Fri of the month 6:30 PM

**Street Preaching**  
Last Sat of the month at noon.

## THE KIDS IN QUESTION

By Elaina Atkins

Hi, my name is Elaina and my family is probably the loudest in Orange County. Between games of pirates, cops and robbers, tickle fights and random bursts of song, I am astounded that the neighbors haven't filed a complaint against us.

I have always been pretty quiet, but my life really ramped up when I was 24. I had my daughter and people would ask me: "Aren't you a little young to have a baby? So much responsibility!"

Then I had my first son at age 26 they asked, "So are you done after this one?" And now that I'm 30 and pregnant with another boy they ask, "Aren't you getting a little old to start over?"

Each time I get one of these questions I have to recover from the paradoxical whiplash. Our culture really thinks that there's a perfect window of time to have kids and once you're past it you're safe.

I suppose I do understand, kids *are* pretty inconvenient. You can hardly predict anything about them! You can't choose their exact due date, or what they'll look like, how many will come at one time, their gender *or* their temperament. Each baby is a wildcard you gamble your sanity on. And your budget.

But how does God view kids? I mean, He's the designer of this whole created system! Why did He make this process so unpredictable if He expects us to get on board? Thankfully, God's opinion is pretty straightforward. Psalm 127:3-4 says, "Lo, children *are* an **heritage** of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is his reward*.

As **arrows** *are* in the hand of a mighty man; *so are* children of the youth." (*emphasis added*). If God has blessed you with a baby, He's handed you your legacy wrapped in swaddling clothes. And with it your eternal impact on the world. No pressure!

Not only that, He is arming you with arrows with which to fight. Fight what, you ask? Two things come to mind. First off, your own pet sins. That old flesh comes under glaring scrutiny as you train up your children.

I'll give you a completely fictional scenario that definitely didn't happen in my house last week: a darling daughter was asked how her visit to Grammy's house went. She replied with an exhausted sigh and muttered, "Well, you know, that *boy*..." in reference to her brother.

It was at that point that her fictional mother felt deep conviction about her impatience in dealing with said boy. It stung! But it was necessary. And this pretend mom got right with the Lord about that sin of impatience... in theory, of course. I myself am perfect and would never need to do that. Yep, let's go with that.

But secondly, these kids are meant to be arrows of Truth to pierce our godless culture with. We live in a time where people aren't even sure if they're male or female anymore!

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The Atkins Family pictured left to right: Elizabeth, Gabriel, Elaina, Daniel and Luke Henry (on the way!)

## Don't Miss These Important Events!

### Christmas Eve Service



**December 24**  
**7:00 PM**

**Family, Friends & Guests are Invited to Attend**

### Bible Conference

**January 15-18, 2026**  
**7:00 pm**

#### Guest Preachers:

**Pastor Steve Andrus**  
*San Pedro, CA*

**Pastor Ken Bates**  
*Hutchinson, KS*

**Pastor Mike Veach**  
*Staten Island, NY*



Preaching and Bible Study services are broadcast live.

Go to:

**Central Baptist Church of Orange County**

### Weekly Schedule of Church Services

Sunday School (All Ages).....	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Preaching Service.....	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Preaching Service.....	5:00 PM

**Thursday**

Scripture Scouts (Ages 4-12) .....	7:00 PM
Prayer and Bible Study (Adults and Teens) .....	7:00 PM

## THE KIDS IN QUESTION

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People are desperate for deliverance from the wiles of the devil. They are desperate for hope. And Bible-believing families are the caretakers of that hope. We ought to be training our children in God's Word so they are protected from the allure of sin, but we should also be training them to fight against it with the Truth. They can be our strongest warriors for Christ!

Christian, God gives you your exact children when He gives them to you very purposefully. He knows what their days will hold, and if we allow God to shape their hearts and minds He can use them to rise to the challenges they will inevitably face. But *Wait!* you say. *Isn't it unfair that they should have to grow up in this era? They didn't ask to be born and certainly not in these perilous times!*

No, I don't think it any more unfair for my sweet kiddos to wrestle with today's problems than I think it was unfair for the prophet Jeremiah to wrestle with his. That lamenting prophet saw his capitol razed to the ground, the temple ransacked and his people either killed or captured before his very eyes.

God in His omniscience and sovereignty knew this would happen to him. But, He had also created the exact man to face it head-on. God said in Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed thee in the belly I **knew** thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I **sanctified** thee, and I **ordained** thee a prophet unto the nations." (*emphasis added*). God knit Jeremiah together in the womb with the intent for him to preach against idolatry and wickedness. Jeremiah was faithful to do it and became the arrow God shot for truth!

And wouldn't you know it, God comforted Jeremiah throughout his sojourning. Jeremiah 33:3 says "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." The Lord didn't throw Jeremiah into the ring and take a seat. He stayed with Jeremiah, ministered to him and led him all the way.

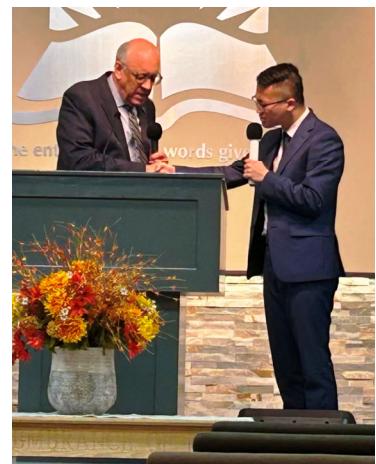
## Thanksgiving Fellowship Service



**TOP:** Singing favorite hymns is a highlight of the evening.

**LEFT:** Bro. Bustos (Spanish Pastor) enjoys the fellowship.

**RIGHT:** Shelby Beverly gives a heart-felt testimony to the blessings of God.



**ABOVE:** Pastor Owens uses Bro. Martin for a soul winning demonstration on, "How to Lead a Soul to Christ" at a recent Sunday evening service.

### THE BIBLE SAYS THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO HEAVEN

*"Jesus saith unto him,  
I am the way, the truth,  
and the life: no man cometh  
unto the Father, but by me."*

*John 14:6*

### NOBODY ELSE CAN SAVE YOU

1. Admit you are a sinner.
2. Be willing to turn from your sin (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus died for you, was buried, and rose from the dead.
4. Through prayer, ask Jesus to come into your heart to become your Saviour.

### WHAT TO PRAY

*"Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus shed His blood and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from my sin. I now ask Christ to come into my heart and save me. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

## THE TRUTH ABOUT MARY

*Continued from page 1*

accept *sacred* Catholic Tradition as the absolute truth?

These are not trivial, Christmas season questions. The truthful answer to these questions will ultimately determine your eternal destiny in Heaven or Hell.

Let's take a moment to look past *tradition* and read the Bible. The Bible makes it clear what God thinks about the *tradition of men*. Jesus said, “....ye [have] made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition” (Matthew 15:6).

You can call tradition *sacred* all you want. The dictionary defines the word *sacred* as “holy” or pertaining to God, but the word “sacred” is not found a single time in the Bible.

### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

Catholic tradition says, Mary was “Jesus’ worthy associate in redeeming mankind...” But the Bible says, “**Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:**” (Romans 3:24). Redemption is found ONLY in Christ Jesus.

Catholic tradition says, “*Mary was preserved...from all sin...throughout her entire life.*” But the Bible says, “**For all have sinned...**” (Romans 3:23). That includes Mary! Jesus Christ is the only one who knew NO SIN. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Catholic tradition says, “Mary... distributes to men all the graces...” But the Bible says, “... grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17).

Catholic tradition says, the struggle at Calvary was “common to the Blessed Virgin and her son.” But the Bible says, Jesus, “...by himself purged our sins...” (Heb 1:3) Mary had no part of the painful ordeal and the struggle of the cross.

Catholic tradition calls Mary the “Queen of the Universe.” The only “queen of the universe” was a wicked goddess to whom Old Testament Jews burned incense. Jeremiah says they committed great evil against their souls and provoked God to wrath. (Jeremiah 44:7-8, 17-18)

Mary was not *blessed* because she was sinless or because she is a “co-redemptrix” with Jesus Christ. Mary was *blessed* because she needed a Saviour and she “**believed**” on Him. (Luke 1:47.)

In the moral sense, Mary was a good woman. Mary was a concerned, loving mother. Mary was chosen by God to give birth to the Saviour. But Mary needed to trust her Son for salvation like every person who was ever born into this world.

A person would do well to heed the advice that Mary gave to the servants in John 2:25, “... **Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.**” That’s the truth about Mary.

### **ARE YOU 100% CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL GO TO HEAVEN WHEN YOU DIE?**

THIS IS AN URGENT QUESTION! It is the most important question you will ever answer. *Please do not take this lightly.* Please read the inserted gospel tract and contact us if you have a question. If you make a decision after *carefully* reading the tract, please let us know right away. Thank you!

### VITAL BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

Every church service is unique from the others and emphasizes a different area of Bible knowledge. In order to receive a well-rounded diet from the Word of God, we encourage you to attend all four services.

*Survey of the Old Testament* ..... Auditorium Sunday School (9:00 AM)  
*Lessons from the Life of Christ* ..... Sunday Morning Preaching (10:00 AM)  
*Lessons on the Local Church* ..... Sunday Evening Bible Study (5:00 PM)  
*The Book of Revelation* ..... Thursday Evening Bible Study (7:00 PM)



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### What Members are Saying

*My family and I started attending Central Baptist Church of Orange County in February 2023. Before then, we tried out a couple of other churches but we did not feel a deep spiritual conviction to continue attending them. We got to know about Central Baptist Church using Google search. The question that is of interest will be, “What is different about this church that made you stay”? The answer is, the mode of fellowship and the way the undiluted word of God from the 1611 authorized King James Version is being taught, provides a deeper understanding of His word and what it means to be a Christian. The whole family came to the same conclusion that this is it after our very first time worshiping at Central Baptist Church, and it has been this way since then. I thank God for his grace upon my family, because I see us growing in the Lord. The Lord is teaching me day by day on how to give him total control of my affairs, how to practice being patient, a virtue which I struggle with, in all, teaching me how to serve him better.*

**Peter and Tega Igbedo  
Efuo, Noel and Precious**

*We first visited Central Baptist about a year ago, and what drew us in right away was its warm, close-knit family atmosphere. We were looking for a small Baptist church that faithfully teaches sound doctrine, sings the timeless hymns of the faith, and has a heart for missions, and we found exactly that here. Over the past year, we've been blessed not only by the clear, Bible-based preaching, but also by the genuine fellowship of believers who love the Lord. We've also been thankful for the opportunities to serve—my husband plays guitar for the Spanish ministry (even though he doesn't speak Spanish), and I teach children's church. We are so grateful that God has led us here.”*

**Robert and Maria Franco**