



From the desk of
JOHN BRADSHAW



Pope
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away on
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February 2023

Dear friend in ministry,

People were initially surprised at his resignation.

At almost 86 years old, Pope Benedict XVI was the fourth-oldest of the 260 or so popes to have ever held office. A pope had not retired in more than 700 years. Benedict cited his declining physical health as the chief reason for his resignation. He was succeeded a month later by the man who would become known as Pope Francis, the first non-European pope in 1,300 years, and the first Jesuit pope in the history of the papacy.

Pope Benedict XVI passed away on the last day of last year. While his nine years as a former pope were, understandably, years of retirement, the eight years he spent as the Roman pontiff, or, pontifex maximus, were extraordinarily significant.



St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

Like all popes, Benedict was titled Vicar of Christ, Jesus' personal representative on earth. He was also considered to be the successor of Peter, the one believed by Rome to be the "rock" upon whom Jesus would build His church.

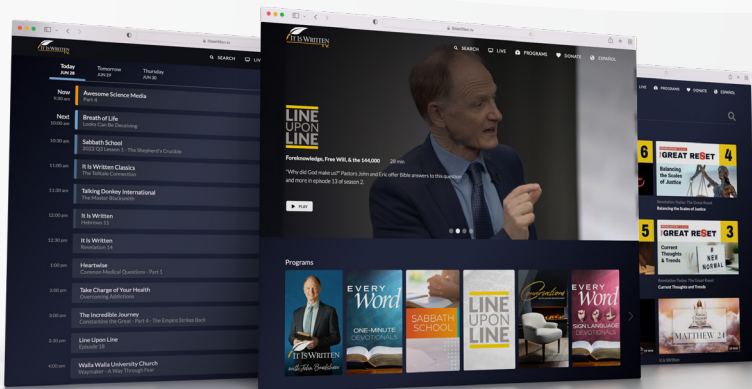
For many years prior to becoming pope, Benedict led the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, otherwise known as the Inquisition. Originally established to spearhead the Counter-Reformation, the Inquisition countered the teachings of "heretics" such as Martin Luther. Luther's teachings in favor of justification by faith alone, and his teachings against false doctrines such as purgatory and papal supremacy put the papacy in an awkward position. While Rome could have admitted its errors and acknowledged the validity of Luther's scriptural teachings, it chose to aggressively defend its own heresies and persecute many who dared to disagree.

“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14).

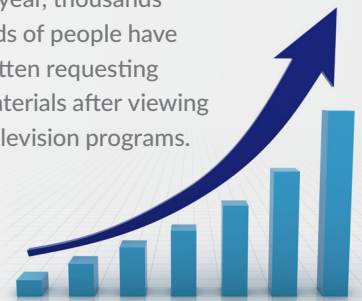
By the time Benedict led the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, it had assumed a less belligerent character. Nevertheless, it was dedicated not to advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ, but a false gospel. One need not call into question the genuineness of Benedict’s relationship with God. It is said that his final words were, “Signore, ti amo,” Italian for, “Lord, I love you.” What we do know, however, is that this extraordinarily influential man, eulogized in his death as holy, inspirational, and dedicated to Jesus Christ, was relentlessly committed to a false gospel that has no basis in the teachings of Scripture. His life’s vocation was to work to neutralize Bible teachings that countered his own.

We understand there are powerful forces at work in the world today, aiming to prevent the everlasting gospel from going to the world. Yet, as Christian believers, we press forward in the work of God, knowing that “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14). *God has committed to you and me the joy and responsibility of sharing the gift of salvation with the world.*

This is an increasingly sin-darkened world. Much of what I see happening in the world today convinces me that we are witnessing the gradual withdrawal of the Holy Spirit. Yet your support of It Is Written is resulting in major gains being made for the kingdom of heaven.



Over the past year, thousands upon thousands of people have called It Is Written requesting Bible study materials after viewing It Is Written television programs.



Over the past year, thousands upon thousands of people have called It Is Written requesting Bible study materials after viewing It Is Written television programs. We shipped many tons of materials from our warehouse. Our It Is Written TV viewing audience has grown substantially. Thousands of people have completed our online Bible studies. Hundreds of thousands of Bible school mailers have gone out. In one case, our customer service team received a Bible study request card addressed with shaky handwriting. The local Bible worker who visited the

address on the card was surprised to find it had been sent by an 11-year-old girl! She is now receiving Bible studies, along with her 12-year-old sister and 17-year-old brother, and *all three are attending church!*

This year our It Is Written team will produce more than 1,000 television programs, which will be viewed all over the world in multiple languages. Our existing resources and those we develop will lead people to faith in Jesus. The many evangelistic series we conduct—in the United States and abroad—will result in thousands of baptisms.



The local Bible worker who visited the address on the card was surprised to find it had been sent by an 11-year-old girl!



Your support of It Is Written makes all of this possible. You are investing in souls. You are growing the kingdom of God.

We hear from many people whose lives have been impacted by your support of It Is Written. Just a few days ago I was blessed to meet a woman I'll call Tania. "I can't thank you enough," she said, clearly emotional. "The It Is Written program led me to Jesus. I was recently baptized," she told me. And then she said something I will never forget: "Thank you for saving my life."

I want to pass that along to you, from Tania. Thank you for saving her life. Our team at It Is Written knows that we are only doing what you make possible. Through the blessing of God, miracles of grace occur, and lives, like that of Tania, are saved.

“Thank you
for saving
my life.”

Would you please join me this month in reaching more Tanias? Powerful forces are working to neutralize the gospel. Satan, as a roaring lion, walks about seeking whom he may devour. Six thousand years of sin are taking their toll. Yet God still works. Tania will tell you so: *“Thank you for saving my life.”*

Together, let’s work to see Jesus save as many lives as possible before He returns. Your support of It Is Written this month will enable It Is Written to reach more people and work with Jesus to save more lives, than ever before.

Thank you for your investment in growing God’s kingdom.

Sincerely,






Pastor John Bradshaw
President, It Is Written

P.S. It Is Written Bible study guides and television programs impact thousands of lives each day. From an 11-year old girl inspired to request Bible studies to Tania who was led to Jesus through It Is Written programs, your support of It Is Written makes an eternal difference in the lives of many. Please consider how you can help this month so that thousands more can say like Tania, “Thank you for saving my life.”

Click the button to



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