

**Essay from the bold pastor  
#204 - Pope Francis's U.S. Visit -**

I was surprised by all the excitement in the U.S. over Pope Francis's visit. He became the first person to ever be greeted at an airport by both the president and the vice president, as Obama and Biden were both there at Joint Base Andrews just outside of Washington when the pope arrived there on September 22nd.

He attended an official welcoming ceremony at the White House on the 23rd, gave a speech at the Joint Session of Congress on the 24th, addressed the United Nations on the 25th in his native language Spanish instead of Italian, the official language of the Vatican, and throughout it all used his little spare time to meet with the poor and the homeless. After his U.N. speech, he also spoke at the One World Trade Center, and alongside religious leaders from Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism, urged that "we can and must build unity on the basis of our diversity of languages, cultures, and religions." When he made his way to New York's Central Park, 80,000 people gathered for the chance to see him, and tickets to his Philadelphia mass on the 27th was sold out in a mere thirty seconds after going on sale online.

But looking back, it is no wonder that his visit was such a big deal. After all, he has 23 million Twitter followers, was named the most influential leader by CBS, and CNN once called him a "rock star". One young woman said of her experience seeing the pope that she felt saved the moment she saw him. However, whether you are the pope or not, and whether people go crazy over you or not, none of that matters according to the Gospel. Jesus's disciple Paul, who wrote many of the books of the New Testament, questions

**"Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?"  
1 Corinthians 1:13,**

What really matters is this: what has the Christ Jesus done for each and every one us? Many leaders have tried to garner political, religious, and societal approval from all and have worked toward world peace, but we will not create a perfect world through powers of men.

From chapter 12 to 19 of Revelations, the last book of the Bible, talks about the coming unity of the religions, and the collapse of the world afterward. Seeing the pope's visit and the craze over it, I can't help but be in awe to think about judgment day and the second coming of Christ.

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