

# SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY

## WHAT IS GOD'S WORD

### CATHOLIC CATECHISM

- 1. God's word is made up of three separate parts: the Bible, Tradition, and the Magisterium**  
It is clear, therefore, that **Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture**, and the teaching **Authority of the Church**, in accord with God's most wise design, are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the other, and that all together and each in its own way under the action of the one Holy Spirit contributes effectively to the salvation of souls.  
(Vatican II, Revelation, Para. 10)
- 2. God's Word is not only a written word**  
  
Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God.  
(No. 96)
- 3. God's Divine Well of Tradition**  
  
Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, . . . flowing from the same divine well-spring, come together in some fashion to form one thing and move toward the same goal. (No. 80)
- 4. Both written and traditional word Must be Accepted**  
  
The Church . . . does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the Holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence. (No. 82)

## HOLY BIBLE

### CATHOLIC CATECHISM

- 1. Catholic Bible Contains 75 Books, Not 66**  
  
It was by the Apostolic tradition that the Church discerned which writings are to be included in the list of the sacred books. This complete list is called the Canon of Scripture. It includes 48 books for the Old Testament and 27 for the New. The Old Testament includes [the Apocryphal Books] Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, Daniel chapter 13 and Bell and the Dragon. (No. 120)
- 2. The Bible is useless without the Church behind it**

All that has been said about the manner of interpreting Scripture is ultimately subject to the judgment of the Church. . . But I would not believe the Gospel, had not the authority of the Catholic Church already moved me. (No. 119)

3. **1229, A.D., Council of Valencia, the *Bible* was placed on the “Forbidden Book List”**

## TRADITION

### CATHOLIC CATECHISM

1. **The teachings of the Apostles**

The apostles entrusted the “Sacred deposit” of the faith contained in the Sacred Scriptures and Tradition, to the whole of the Church. (No. 84)

2. **A part of the Church body itself**

According to a saying of the Church Fathers, Sacred Scripture is written principally in the Church’s heart rather than in documents and records, for the Church carries in her Tradition the living memorial of God’s Word. (No. 113)

3. **Teaching for all generations**

The apostles left bishops as their successors. . . . This living transmission, accomplished in the Holy Spirit is called Tradition, since it is distinct from Sacred Scripture. . . Through Tradition, “the Church, in her doctrine, life, and worship perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes. (Nos. 77-78)

4. **Contradictions?**

If the Bible contradicts God’s revelation through Tradition, then the Bible is to be laid aside and the Tradition upheld. (Dictionary of the Papal Bible)

## MAGISTERIUM

### CATHOLIC CATECHISM

1. **The Interpretation of the Church**

The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living, teaching office of the Church alone. This means that the task of interpreting has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome. (No. 85)

\*“This doctrine subjects the Bible and tradition solely to the Catholic Church’s authority.”\*

## 2. Absolute compliance is required

The Church's Magisterium . . . when it proposes truths contained in Divine Revelation or having necessary connection with them, in a form obliging the Christian people to an irrevocable adherence of faith (No. 88)

Mindful of the words of Christ to his apostles: "He who hears you, hears me," the faithful receive with **Docility** the teachings and directives that their pastors give them in different forms. (No. 87)

## BIBLICAL RESPONSE

### 1. Tradition in 2 Thes. 2:15 is "Paradosis" meaning, Divine authority, not of man. It is best thought of as God's clear revelation, "Scripture."

*Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions [God-given doctrines] which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*

### 2. Jesus on the Word and Tradition

*He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. (Mark 7:6-9)*

*But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (Matt. 4:4)*

*Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. (Matt. 22:29)*

*And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent him ye believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. (John 5:37-39)*

*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. (Matt. 24:35)*

*Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. (Luke 24:25, 44-48)*

*I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. (John 12:46-48)*

*For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Rev. 22:18-19)*

### **3. Peter on the Word and Tradition**

*And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. (Acts 10:42-43)*

*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: . . . Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: (1 Pet. 1:18-19, 23-2:2)*

### **4. Paul on the Word and Tradition**

*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13)*

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)*

*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshiping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, (Col. 2:8,18)*

*This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. (Titus 1:13-14)*

### **5. John on the Word and Tradition**

*And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (John 20:30-31)*

*But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. (1 Jn. 2:5)*

*And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. (1 Jn. 5:11-13)*

### **John's answer to mistaken traditions was to write the truth down**

*Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said NOT unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. (John 21:21-24)*

## **BIBLE READING IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*“The Catholic Church often claims that it is in the Mass readings through a three year cycle, most of the Bible is read to the people. In counting the verses read in the **New 3 Year Cycle of Readings for Sunday Mass**, in one year a total of less than 1600 verses were read. In the three-year repeated cycle, a total of less than 20% of the Bible is read at Mass.”*  
**(Bill Jackson page 35, What think ye of Rome?)**