

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

(The information in parts II-V of this outline can be found in paragraphs 27-141 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and in the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*)

I. Using the Bible

- A. Choosing a translation
- B. Tips for profitable study
- C. Bible studies and courses
- D. Tools for Scripture study

II. Man's capacity for God

- A. The desire for God (CCC 27-30)
- B. Ways of coming to know God (proofs for the existence of God) (CCC 31-35)
- C. The knowledge of God according to the Church (CCC 36-38)
 1. Human reason
 2. God's Revelation
- D. How can we speak about God? (CCC 39-43)

III. The Revelation of God

- A. God reveals His "Plan of loving goodness" (CCC 51-53)
- B. The Stages of Revelation (CCC 54-64)
- C. The Story of Salvation History
- D. Christ Jesus – "Mediator and Fullness of all Revelation"

IV. The Transmission of Divine Revelation

- A. The Apostolic Tradition (CCC 74-79)
- B. The relationship between Tradition and Sacred Scripture
 1. One common source of Revelation (CCC 80)
 2. Two distinct modes of transmission (CCC 81-82)
 - a. Sacred Scripture
 - b. Sacred Tradition
 3. Apostolic Tradition and ecclesial traditions (CCC 83)
- C. The interpretation of the Heritage of Faith
 1. Sacred deposit (*depositum fidei*) (CCC 84)
 2. The Magisterium of the Church (CCC 85-87)
 3. The dogmas of the faith (CCC 88-90)
 4. The supernatural sense of faith (*sensus fidei*) (CCC 91-93)
 5. Growth in understanding the faith (CCC 94-95)

V. Sacred Scripture

- A. Christ - The unique Word of Sacred Scripture (CCC 101-104)
- B. Inspiration and Truth of Sacred Scripture
- C. The Holy Spirit, Interpreter of Scripture (CCC 109-114)
 1. Sacred authors' intention
 2. "Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the same Spirit by whom it was written." (*DV 12*) (CCC 111)
 - i. Be attentive to the content and unity of the whole Scripture
 - ii. Read Scripture within the living Tradition of the Church
 - iii. Be attentive to the analogy of faith
 3. The senses of Scripture (CCC 115-119)

- a. The literal sense
- b. The spiritual sense
- D. The Canon of Scripture (CCC 120-130)
 - 1. The Old Testament
 - 2. The New Testament
 - 3. The unity of the Old and New Testaments
- E. Sacred Scripture in the life of the Church (CCC 131-133)

VI. Overview of Old Testament Books

- A. The Pentateuch
- B. The Historical Books
- C. The Wisdom Books
- D. The Prophetic Books

VII. Overview of New Testament Books

- A. The Gospels and Acts of the Apostles
- B. The Pauline Letters
- C. The Catholic Letters
- D. The Book of Revelation