

Week 3

Paragraphs 109–155

the authors that they consigned to no more.”⁷¹
Since therefore all are regarded as affirmers of Scripture firmly in God, for the sake of the Word.”⁷²

“origin of the book,” which is “not a way of living.”⁷³ If the Word

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THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

faith.⁸² By “analogy of faith” we mean the

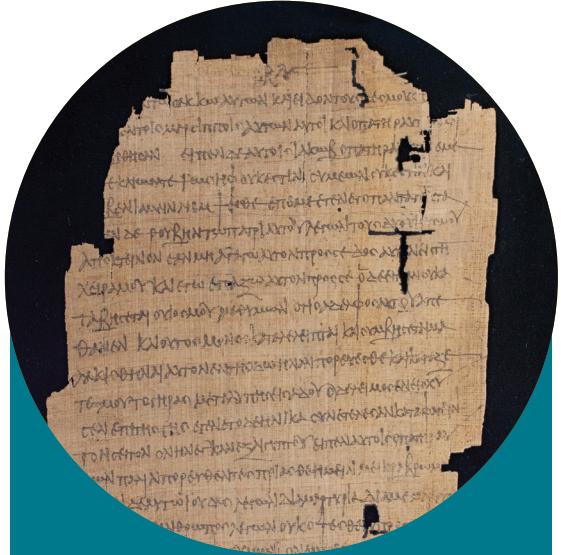
What We Believe PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

SCRIPTURE IS AN INVITATION TO FAITH

The Bible, history’s most famous book, also is God’s invitation to an intimate relationship with himself. In Sacred Scripture, “the invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses men as his friends, and moves among them” (CCC 142). Active believers read Scripture to know and interact with God—not just know *about* him.

Keep in Mind

- To really know Jesus, “the Church ‘forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful ... to frequent reading of the divine Scriptures’” (CCC 133).
- We should also read Scripture to apply its meaning to our lives (*exegesis*).
- We must read Scripture in the context of the entire Scripture and Sacred Tradition, ruling out interpretations that are contradictory or disproportionate to the Faith.
- We must read Scripture with two senses: (1) the literal sense (what the text says on a literal level), and (2) the spiritual sense (how the text applies to Jesus, to our lives, and to the end of time).
- Sacred Tradition is essential to accepting and understanding Scripture, because the canon of Scripture (forty-six Old Testament books and twenty-seven New Testament books) comes from Tradition. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles handed on Jesus’ teachings through the inspired books of the New Testament.
- As new questions about the Faith arise in history, the Church holds councils to address them in light of Scripture and Tradition.
- God employed human authors for his self-revelation in Scripture, but because the Bible also has a divine author, it is inerrant (without errors).



Papyrus with fragments of the Book of Genesis

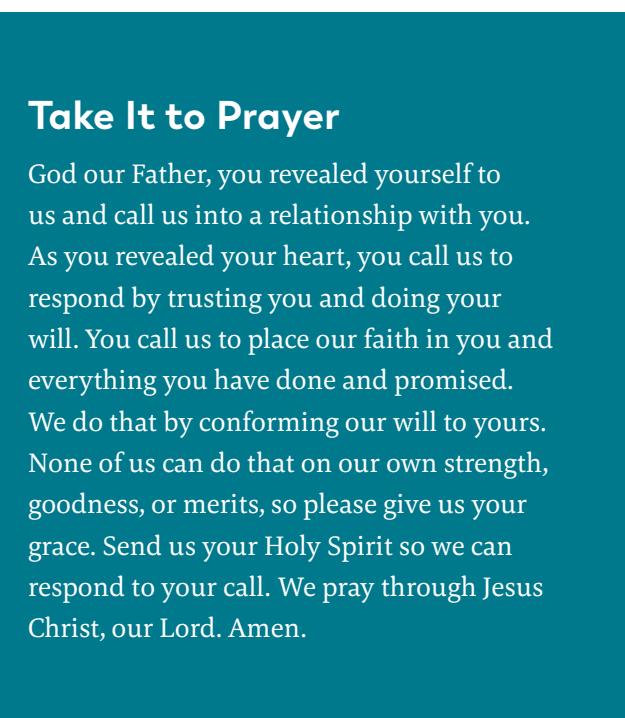
Dive Deeper

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church determined the biblical “canon,” the official list of inspired books. The image shows an ancient copy of biblical text.

The Church has always emphasized the importance of using a correct Bible translation. The Church never said, “Don’t read the Bible,” but may have said, “Don’t read *that* Bible.” Centuries ago, Bibles were locked up in churches not to prevent access to the Scriptures, but to prevent theft. Bibles were very expensive and were produced by hand before the printing press came along.

- Reading and living Scripture is essential to developing faith, which is not merely belief but an active submission of our will to God, as modeled by Mary.
- Faith is a gift of grace from God, but it is also a human act in which we freely accept and cooperate.
- Obeying God is an exercise of true freedom—not the ability to do whatever we want, but the power to do what we ought. If God exists and is good, then we ought to have faith in him and choose to follow him.

Use the space below to reflect on this week's content.



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The Catechism in a Year is a daily podcast produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us understand what it means to be Catholic by reading the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and allowing those truths to shape our lives. This bulletin was adapted from the books that complement the podcast: *The Catechism in a Year Companion* by Petroc Willey, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Matthew Doeing.