

Reading Scripture with the Church



Read the Scripture within "the living Tradition of the whole Church". According to a saying of the 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, and it is the Holy Spirit who gives her the spiritual interpretation of the Scripture. (CCC 113)

Reading scripture with the Church is more than just an intellectual exercise it consists of several aspects that were used by the Fathers of our faith to receive and meditate upon God's organic revelation to us through scripture, tradition and the living magisterium.

1) Reading Scripture as the work of the Holy Spirit.

"the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." John 14:25-26

The same Holy Spirit that guided the human hands that authored God's work also animates the hearts of the faithful who read His word, and gives the to the Church the authority to interpret and illuminate God's word to the faithful (DV 10,11).

When reading scripture we should ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance, and trust in the commentary and interpretation offered by in Church's living tradition.

2) Reading Scripture with Tradition

"So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter." 1 Thess 2:15

God's word is revealed completely in Jesus Christ who is the "Word made Flesh" (John 1:14, cf DV 2). This revelation of God's word and will for us is not only contained in scripture "there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." John 21:25)

When reading scripture we should seek to see the connections and unity of faith. (cf CCC 134 & 1602)

3) Encountering Christ through the Word

The primary intention of all scripture is to communicate God's love and will to us (2 Tim 3:16). This intention is perfected in Christ who is the Word made Flesh (John 1:14). When we read scripture we are encountering Christ in a deep and profound way (PD 3).

When reading Scripture seek to grow in your relationship with Christ who is the source of all Scripture (CCC 134).

