

Chapter 1

The Holy Bible Is All True

Catholics and Protestants agree that the Holy Bible is Gods word, and that it “is all true.” This is stated in the booklet *What You Should Know About the Catholic Church*, page 19, sponsored by the Catholic Information Service, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

American Catholic archbishops and bishops gathered at Baltimore made the following declaration: “The Bishops of this country assembled at the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, begged the Catholic people to read the Holy Bible. ‘We hope,’ they said, ‘that no family can be found amongst us without a correct version of the Holy Scriptures.’ They recommend, furthermore, ‘If it be not always feasible in the morning, at least every evening, at a fixed hour, let the entire family be assembled for night prayers, followed by a short reading of the Holy Scriptures, the Following of Christ, or some other pious book....

“Our late Holy Father, Leo XIII, on the 13th day of December, 1898, granted to all the faithful who will read the Holy Gospels for a quarter of an hour each day, an Indulgence of three hundred days; and to those who follow this practice for a month, a Plenary Indulgence on any day within the month on which they approach the sacraments and pray for the intention of His Holiness.” - Pastoral Letter of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States, quoted in *Why Catholics Should Read the Bible*, John Murphy Company (Roman Catholic), Baltimore, Maryland, page 1.

These Catholic bishops and archbishops made their position clear when they said: “We hope that no family can be found amongst us without a correct version of the Holy Scriptures,” and they encouraged the use of the Holy Scriptures in family devotions.

The Holy Bible is Gods inspired word. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.” 2 Timothy 3:16. “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:21. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105 (Catholic Douay Version, Psalm 118: 105). “Thy word is truth.” John 17:17.

It is evident that since the Holy Bible is God’s word, it is the truth, and we should study it. Truth is never contradictory; wherever taught,

it always agrees with itself. Why should we be content to live without the confidence and strength that comes from knowing the truth when there is a ready source in the Bible?

The reading of the Scriptures is not restricted to a particular few. The Bible is needed in family worship and in private devotions alike. It is important that we pray, but it is also important that we read the Holy Bible. When we pray we speak to God; but when we read the Bible, God speaks to us. The Holy Bible is an expression of God's will. It is a letter from Him given through the holy prophets and apostles to the children of men. When we receive a letter from a friend we find time to read it. In the same way we should also find time to read God's word.

In Paul's day many rejected the apostle's preaching because they did not know what the Scriptures taught. Acts 17:10, n. So today, individuals who are not willing to search the Holy Bible to know God's will concerning them do not know what to believe. Many take it for granted that what they already know is sufficient to assure them of heaven. Some seem to be certain of their religious ideas, even though they hardly ever look inside the Bible. However, the only way to know God's will for us is to read the Holy Book of God every day.

When Paul came to Berea he spoke highly of its people, because they were different from those in Thessalonica. He says: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11. They read the Bible. When they discovered that Paul preached Bible truth, they accepted his teachings.

There are some persons who seem to be afraid to study the Sacred Writings because they fear that they might find something to upset their religious thinking and practice. Whenever anyone finds something in the Holy Bible that is clearly contrary to what he believes, he can be sure that his belief is wrong. Every person who wants to be in harmony with God's teachings must go to the Bible often.

Many Protestants have the erroneous idea that Catholics never read the Bible. This is not true, for you may buy Catholic Bibles in practically every Catholic bookstore in America.

There are, however, some Catholics who still hesitate to open the Bible and read it. I have been with many who would not read for themselves, but they would listen to me as I read to them out of their own Catholic Bible. The true church agrees with God's word, and combats error with it. The Bible is the "sword." If a church holds

doctrines contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ, the apostles, and the prophets, then those doctrines are wrong. Both cannot be right.

We should study the Holy Bible with prayer and without fear of offending anyone. If “the Holy Bible is all true,” then we should not be afraid to read it. The Bible is not written in such a difficult style and language that a doctor of divinity or a priest is needed to unravel it. It is written in simple language, and the translators, whether Catholics or Protestants, give it in good English, so that those who read may understand.

Of course there are deep truths in the Holy Bible, and the apostle Peter says that there “are certain things hard to be understood.” 2 Peter 3:16, Douay. The apostle Paul exclaimed: “O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How incomprehensible are His judgments, and how unsearchable His ways! For who hath known the mind of the Lord?” Romans 11:33, Douay.

If there are some things that you cannot understand or explain in botany, would you take the position that no one should study botany at all? In the springtime you sow radish seeds, and in a few weeks you have radishes for your table. You relish them, yet you cannot explain all the mysteries about them. Would you refuse to eat radishes because you cannot explain everything about them? Then, would you refuse to read the Holy Bible because there are some things that are difficult to understand?

On the other hand, there are some persons who will not use their minds and think when they read the Bible. The fact that there are deep things in the word of God is no reason for our failure to understand what has been revealed. What was God’s object in giving divine revelations to the prophets and apostles who wrote the Bible? He gave us the Bible not only for doctors of divinity, but for all mankind. God’s word is “unto us and to our children forever.” There are many things that He has revealed, and we should know what they are. David said: “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.” Psalm 119:11 (Douay, Psalm 118:11). “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105 (Douay, Psalm 118:105). If we follow the light of the Bible we surely cannot err.

Those who study the Bible honestly, prayerfully, and thoughtfully will receive spiritual blessings and a peace in the heart that passes all understanding. Those who do not study it and live the truths contained in it are in uncertainty. They are not settled. They dread to think about death, or about the second coming of the Lord. They feel insecure,

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because they are not ready to meet their Lord. Their religion is not clear to them. They get no spiritual benefits from it. They go through a round of ceremonies, but their hearts are empty. They long for something which they do not possess.

Would you be indifferent to a written message to you from the pope? Would you disregard a letter from some prominent person or some close friend? If you show interest and respect for messages from individuals, you surely should read and respect Gods letter to you. If you read and meditate upon a letter from a close friend, then why not do the same with the letter from God, the Holy Bible? If you are interested in having a companionship with God and a happier Christian experience, read the Holy Word of God.