

## Understanding The Scriptures

Since many of my conclusions are based on the Holy Scriptures, and there are many differing interpretations of The Word, I thought I would discuss that in this chapter.

One of the major protests against Catholicism by Protestant Christians (note Protestant is derived from the word “protest”) is that Catholics believe their teachings are “infallible”. This is called *Magisterium*, a fundamental pillar of the Catholic Church, it is the belief that the Church is infallible in its teaching of the truths of Faith based on its interpretation of Sacred Traditions and Sacred Scripture. Many people ask; why must Sacred Scripture be interpreted? Why do traditions play a part in that interpretation? Why can’t a person just read the Bible passage and understand it? Good questions. I will try to answer them here.

I believe that studying, learning and ultimately understanding the Mysteries of Faith is perhaps the most important knowledge anyone can attain. Most of us went to school to gain knowledge. Knowledge about reading, writing, math, and science. In my school we always had a book, our textbook, and a teacher. Oh yes, there were a few students who could just daydream their way through class and seem to know everything in the textbook. But for most of us, we needed the teacher in addition to the textbook to master the subject matter.

Should it be any different for the Holy Scriptures? If we need a teacher to help us learn the basic facts of math and science, then we certainly need one to help us master the Mysteries of Faith. The Church is our teacher. All really good teachers, the favorite ones from my childhood, supplemented “book learning” with their real life experiences. Much of what our teachers taught us wasn’t in “the books”, it came from their experiences and wisdom.

In the Catholic Church we call these experiences Sacred Traditions. They add a richness and completeness to our understanding of Scripture that we could never hope to get from reading the Bible alone. And this concept is even found in The Bible; John ( 21:25) “There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.” The “other things” that Jesus did are passed down to us as the Sacred Traditions of the Church.

We have all had great teachers, but who was the greatest teacher of all time? Why Jesus of course. He spent years carefully teaching His Apostles and showing them by example from “the many other things He did”. It would be foolish for us not to incorporate this wisdom and knowledge as part of our Faith. Indeed, just like when we as school students were apt to learn incorrectly or incompletely from merely studying our textbooks, without the help of The Greatest Teacher we risk not properly understanding all of the Mysteries of Faith.

Forward this to everyone you know. We all know someone who needs help! [www.JesusCanHelp.us](http://www.JesusCanHelp.us)