

“Clear, brief and easily assimilated by all”

The Word of God

The Incarnate Son of God and the Inspired Scriptures

THE Word of God has two closely connected meanings — a handy ambiguity for Catholics enrolling in a homeschooling program run by Protestants. Parents are asked to fill in a questionnaire on their *bona fides* (good faith): “What is the ultimate authority for the Christian faith?”

There are several possible answers. It is best to avoid argument. Protestants expect “The Bible,” or “the Scriptures.” But these, after all, depend on the more basic authority of God’s revelation, especially by God-Incarnate. So a truthful answer is, “The Word of God” and that will satisfy them:

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God...
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

John 1:1,14

PROTESTANT

The Protestant insistence that “the Bible and only the Bible is the religion of Protestants” is

(1) not in the Bible, and indeed, contradicted by the Bible:-

...if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth.

1 Timothy 3:15

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

2 Thessalonians 2:15

and (2) Protestants depend on tradition to decide which books should be included between the black covers. Originally, each book was a separate scroll. Bound and printed Bibles only came into being from 15th century printing, and for those in economic circumstances to afford a purchase, and having had schooling in how to read.

Moreover, through all the centuries of illiteracy, Catholics heard the Bible at Mass, recited the Creeds summarizing the Bible, and meditated scripturally on the Mysteries of the Rosary which were often preached.

The Bible is entirely a Catholic book of universal Christianity over two millennia now worldwide, written by Catholics, including those who B.C. beheld from far off in the Old Testament centuries.

A Protestant Sunday School chorus (a simple jingle) is apt for Catholics (but omit the Protestant undertones):

The best book to read is the Bible,
The best book to read is the Bible,
If you read it every day, it will help you on your way,
The best book to read is the Bible.

(The accompanying actions were brandishing a Bible!)

Many converts are grateful for acquaintance with Christ’s revelation acquired from Sunday school.

BEST BUY IN BIBLES?

Ignatius Catholic Study Edition New Testament (it does not have the Old Testament) PB \$39.95, HC \$55.95, large print \$64.95, Leather \$76.95.

The Didache Bible (in Ignatius Bible Editions) HC \$79.90, Leather \$119.90 and has both Old and New Testaments but on much thinner paper.

- Both use *Revised Standard Version 2nd Catholic Edition* with cross-references, textual notes, explanations.
- Both have usual subheadings embedded in the text.
- Both are cross-referenced to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, though not always the same.
- Hardcover in both will lie open on a flat surface.
- Both have introductions to each book of the Bible, but more detailed in *Ignatius Catholic Study edition NT*.
- Both have excellent notes, and on the same page as the text, with roughly equal detail — compare the number of pages, 518 with 455:-

Feature	Ignatius NT	Didache OT & NT
text and notes	NT 518 pp. but no OT	NT 455 pp. (similar) plus OT 1255 pp.
paper	thick and sturdy	thin, to fit in OT
size	26×18× 4½ cm (10×7×2”); print roughly 10 point	23×15×5 cm (9× 6×2”); print roughly 9 point
features	concordance 168 pp., word studies of Greek subtleties, topical essays	glossary 44 pp; subjects & names 23 pp
indices	parables, miracles, doctrines, charts, maps, topical essays, word studies	apologetics by title and by subject, Bible subjects & names, maps
maps	8 in colour (at back); 20 B&W inserted in text	25 in colour, better detail, better legends.

Overall, both books are highly valuable and many would benefit having both. They make the earlier editions of the RSV2ndCE redundant.

For a detailed study of the NT, *Ignatius Catholic Study Edition NT* might be the better choice, assuming one has an OT in a separate Bible.

But for those without another Bible with comparable notes, or who need a Bible all in one volume, or possibly for price reasons, choose the *Didache Bible*, especially for homeschooling/tutoring.

BIBLE JOKES

“He read his Bible a couple of times a year...”

“Grandad’s studying for his finals - Bible reading.”

“Quick! Dust off that Bible on top of the cupboard — the parson’s coming in the gate.”

South Sea islander: “No, you can’t have a page out of my Bible for a roll-your-own cigarette. If it weren’t for this Bible, you’d be in my cooking pot.”

Bible Power & Church Teaching

with the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ

LUST and ADULTERY

You have heard that it was said, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' But I say this to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:27-28

DIVORCE and REMARRIAGE

But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 5:32

So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder.

Matthew 19:6

And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another, commits adultery.

Matthew 19:9

See notes in Bible for "except for unchastity".

TRUTH with KINDNESS

to the Samaritan Woman at Jacob's Well

...for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly.

John 4:18

NO COMMUNION TILL SIN FORSAKEN

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:27

INTEGRITY OF THE MAGISTERIUM

Indeed no one, not even the pope can destroy or change Christ's teaching. No one, not even the pope, can set pastoral ministry in opposition to doctrine. That would be against Jesus Christ and His teaching.

Cardinal Robert Sarah, *God or Nothin*, 2015, p. 246

While hundreds of Christians are living each day filled with fear, some are trying to keep the divorced and remarried from suffering; *they would feel discriminated against if they were excluded from sacramental Communion*. Despite their ongoing state of adultery, despite their state of life that testifies to a refusal to abide by the Word that raises up those who are sacramentally married to be the revelatory signs of Christ's Paschal Mystery, some theologians want to grant admission to Eucharistic Communion to the divorced and remarried. ... the denial of the indissolubility of sacramental marriage.

ibid. pp. 280, 281

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

How far we have slipped! In 1936, King Edward VIII (1894-1972) abdicated his throne and gave up his vocation as King of England. He wanted to marry a divorcee. Such was the esteem in which marriage was held by citizens, and upheld by the civil law, **divorce was not respectable** and therefore not acceptable for the monarch to marry a divorced person. His mother, Queen Mary (1867-1953) is reported to have been disappointed in her son's betrayal of his royal duties as she understood that men who had risked their lives and their all in the Great War would not be able to accept that Edward VIII, as their King, could not sacrifice his love for the divorcee Mrs Simpson.

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FREEBIE

New Boys go Bush Again

The latest in the Bush Boys series is available for **free download** from the website: **512 pages !!!**

Plentifully illustrated (as yet without the coloured cover of the forthcoming printed edition); **78 pages** of detailed appendices, including camping diagrams, clothing & equipment lists, food lists, knots; tutoring bushcraft to one's sons; fully legal homeschooling/tutoring; detailed glossary/index; summary of earlier books; Who's Who in this book.

Active Participation and SUBSIDIARITY

God helps those who help others and themselves
— and how to be Kind and Firm

IN 1984, Andy Smith, a boy in seventh grade, wrote this short letter to the USA President Ronald Reagan:

Today my mother declared my bedroom a disaster area. I would like to request federal funds to hire a crew to clean up my room.

Just back from a six-day trip to China, the first since Richard Nixon's 1972 visit, Reagan replied:

Dear Andy,

I'm sorry to be so late in answering your letter but as you know I've been in China and found your letter here on my return. Your application for disaster relief has been duly noted but I must point out one technical problem: the authority declaring the disaster is supposed to make the request. In this case, your mother.

However, setting that aside, I'll have to point out the larger problem of available funds. This has been a year of disasters, 539 hurricanes as of May 4th and several more since, numerous floods, forest fires, drought in Texas and a number of earthquakes. What I'm getting at is that funds are dangerously low.

May I make a suggestion? This administration, believing that government has done many things that could be done better by volunteers at the local level, has sponsored a Private Sector Initiative program, calling upon people to practise voluntarism in the solving of a number of local problems.

Your situation appears to be a natural. I'm sure your mother was fully justified in proclaiming your room a disaster. Therefore you are in an excellent position to launch another volunteer program to go along with the more than 3000 already under way in our nation — congratulations. Give my best regards to your mother.

Sincerely, Ronald Reagan.

From *The Australian*, 11th February, 2015

GOD SAID, "I HATE DIVORCE..."

Has not the one God made and sustained for us the spirit of life? And what does he desire? Godly offspring. So take heed to yourselves, and let none be faithless to the wife of his youth. **For I hate divorce**, says the Lord the God of Israel, and covering one's garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So take heed to yourselves and do not be faithless. Malachi 2:15-16

And with God's blessing: Father James Tierney