

Ten After 10: Session Six: Sacred Scripture continued

118. The Letter speaks of deeds; Allegory to faith; The Moral how to act; Anagogy our destiny.
119. All that has been said about the manner of interpreting Scripture is ultimately subject to the judgment of the Church which exercises the divinely conferred commission and ministry of watching over and interpreting the Word of God.
120. It was by the apostolic Tradition that the Church discerned which writings are to be included in the list of the sacred books. This complete list is called the canon of Scripture. It includes 46 books for the Old Testament (45 if we count Jeremiah and Lamentations as one) and 27 for the New.
121. The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture... for the Old Covenant has never been revoked.
122. The books of the Old Testament bear witness to the whole divine pedagogy of God's saving love: these writings are a storehouse of sublime teaching on God and of sound wisdom on human life, as well as a wonderful treasury of prayers; in them, too, the mystery of our salvation is present in a hidden way.
123. The Church has always vigorously opposed the idea of rejecting the Old Testament under the pretext that the New has rendered it void (*Marcionism*).
124. The writings of the New Testament... hand on the ultimate truth of God's Revelation. Their central object is Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son: his acts, teachings, Passion and glorification, and his Church's beginnings under the Spirit's guidance.
125. The Gospels are the heart of all the Scriptures because they are our principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Savior.
126. We can distinguish three stages in the formation of the Gospels:
1. The life and teaching of Jesus
 2. The oral tradition
 3. The written Gospels
128. The Church, as early as apostolic times, and then constantly in her Tradition, has illuminated the unity of the divine plan in the two Testaments through typology.

129. Christians therefore read the Old Testament in the light of Christ crucified and risen... Besides, the New Testament has to be read in the light of the Old... As an old saying put it, the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New.
130. Typology indicates the dynamic movement toward the fulfillment of the divine plan when God [will] be everything to everyone.
131. The Word of God ... can serve the Church as her support and vigor and the children of the Church as strength for their faith, food for the soul, and a pure and lasting font of spiritual life. Hence, access to Sacred Scripture ought to be open wide to the Christian faithful.
132. Therefore, the 'study of the sacred page' should be the very soul of sacred theology.
133. The Church "forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful... to learn 'the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ,' by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures. ***Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.***

The Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Songs, the Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

The New Testament: the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of St. Paul to the Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, the Letter to the Hebrews, the Letters of James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, and Jude, and Revelation