

**Looking for Answers –
Explore What The Catholic Church Really Teaches –
Part 7**



Question:

Why does the Catholic Church discourage Bible reading when, according to the Apostle, *All Scripture, inspired of God, is profitable to teach...[And] to instruct in justice?* (2 Timothy 3:16).

Starting a Bible reading plan is like
starting a new diet.

Changing your diet takes discipline.

Answer:

If the Catholic Church discourages Bible reading, the Pope, and thousands of Catholic Bishops, and the many millions of Catholic lay people are not aware of it. For the Popes have issued pastoral letters to the whole Church called encyclicals, on the edifying effects of Bible reading.

The Catholic Bible far outsells all other Christian Bibles worldwide. In fact, it has always been thus. The very first Christian Bible was produced by the Catholic Church – compiled by Catholic scholars of the second and third centuries and approved for general Christian use by the Catholic Councils of Hippo (393) and Carthage (397). The very first printed Bible was produced under the auspices of the Catholic Church – printed by the Catholic inventor of the printing press, Johannes Gutenberg. And the very first Bible with chapters and numbered verses was produced by the Catholic Church – the work of Stephen Langton, Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury. It was this perennial Catholic devotion to the Bible which prompted Martin Luther – who certainly cannot be accused of Catholic favoritism – to write in his Commentary on St. John: *We are compelled to concede to the Papists that they have the Word of God, that we received it from them, and that without them we should have no knowledge of it at all.*

Question:



If the Catholic Church really honors the Bible as the holy Word of God – if she really wants her members to become familiar with its truth – why in times past did she confiscate and burn so many Bibles?

Answer:

The Bibles which were collected and burned by the Catholic Church in times past – notably the Wycliff and Tyndale Bibles – were faulty translations, and therefore, *were not* the holy Word of God. In other words, the Catholic Church collected and burned those "*Bibles*" precisely because she does honor the Bible, the *true* Bible, as the

holy Word of God and wants her members to become familiar with its truths. Proof of this is seen in the fact that after those "*Bibles*" were collected and burned, they were replaced by accurate editions. There can be no doubt that the Wycliff and Tyndale translations were corrupt and therefore deserving of extinction, for no church has ever attempted to resurrect them. Nor can there be any doubt that the Bibles which replaced them were correct translations, because they had long been honored by both Protestants and Catholics.

Question:



Jesus with the Pharisees by Friedrich August Ludy

Why does the Catholic Church base some of her doctrines on tradition instead of basing them all on the Bible? Did Christ not tell the Pharisees that in holding to tradition they were transgressing the commandment of God? (St. Matthew 15:3, St. Mark 7:9).

Answer:

Observed that in the Bible there are two kinds of religious tradition – human and divine. Observe that when Christ accused the Pharisees He was referring to the *precepts of men* (St. Mark 7:7), to their *human traditions*. Christ wanted *divine* tradition preserved and honored because He made it part and parcel of the Christian deposit of faith as the Apostle Paul affirmed: *Stand fast; and hold the traditions which you have learned, whether by word, or by our epistle.* (2 Thessalonians 2:14, and 2 Thessalonians 3:6).

This divine tradition to which Paul refers – this revealed truth which was handed down by word rather than by letter – is the tradition upon which, along with Sacred Scripture, the Catholic Church bases her tenets of faith – as the primitive Christian Fathers affirmed. St. Augustine wrote: *These traditions of the Christian name, therefore, so numerous, so powerful, and most dear, justly keep a believing man in the Catholic Church.* The New Testament itself is a product of Christian tradition.

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