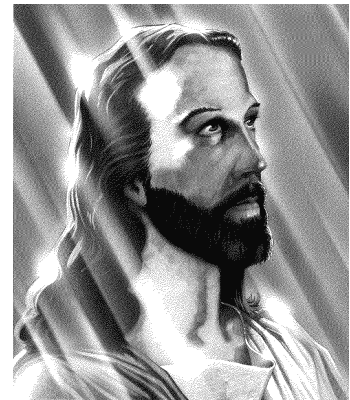
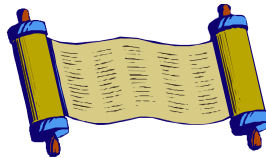


Why Read and Study the Scriptures?

- “That such was the purpose of God in giving the Scripture to men is shown by the example of Christ our Lord and of His Apostles. For He Himself... was accustomed in the exercise of His divine mission, to appeal to the Scriptures. He uses them at times to prove that He is sent by God, and is God Himself. From them He cites instructions for His disciples and confirmation of His doctrine. He vindicates them from the calumnies of objectors; He quotes them against Sadducees and Pharisees and retorts from them upon Satan himself when he dares to tempt Him. At the close of His life His utterances are from the Holy Scripture, and it is the Scripture that He expounds to His disciples after His resurrection, until He ascends to the glory of the Father... Faithful to His precepts, the Apostles... used with the greatest effect the sacred writings, in order to persuade the nations everywhere of the wisdom of Christianity, to conquer the obstinacy of the Jews, and to suppress the outbreak of heresy. This is plainly seen in their discourses, especially in those of St. Peter; these were often little less than a series of citations from the Old Testament making in the strongest manner for the new dispensation”
- “Love the Bible and wisdom will love you; love it and it will preserve you; honor it and it will embrace you” “If anything could sustain and support a wise man in this life or help him to preserve his equanimity amid the conflicts of the world, it is, I reckon, meditation on and knowledge of the Bible” (St. Jerome).
- “And such is the force and power of the Word of God that it 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” (Dei Verbum, 21)
- “Access to Sacred Scripture ought to be open wide to the Christian faithful” (DV 22).
- “The nourishment of the Scriptures... enlightens the mind, strengthens the will and fires the hearts of men with the love of God” (DV 23).
- “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.’” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 133)



- “Our Christian identity requires us to make constant efforts to train ourselves more and more thoroughly, since ignorance is the worst enemy of our religion. How can one claim truly to love Christ if one is not committed to knowing him better?” (Pope John Paul II, Agenda for the Third Millennium, p. 23).
- “Our one desire for all the Church’s children is that, being saturated with the Bible, they may arrive at the all-surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ” (Spiritus Paraclitus).
- “God’s grace alone has been granted to me to the understanding of His Scriptures, of which grace I exhort all to become partakers freely and bounteously, in order that they may not, through want of it, incur condemnation in the judgment which God the Maker of all things shall hold through my Lord Jesus Christ”
(St. Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho, LVIII).
- “I have laid up thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Ps 119:11).
- “Every word of God is fire tried: he is a buckler to them that hope in him” (Prv 30:5).
- “Therefore, though we have no need of these things, since we have as encouragement the holy books which are in our hands” (1 Maccabees 12:9).
- “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15).
- “For whatever was written for our steadfastness and the scriptures we might have acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:15-17).



written in former days instruction, that by encouragement of the hope” (Romans 15:4).
you have been