

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

The Desire for God

1. "The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being. For if man exists it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his Creator." (*Gaudium et Spes*, 19.1)
2. "You have made us for Yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." (*Confessions*, St. Augustine of Hippo)
3. "In His goodness and wisdom God chose to reveal Himself and to make known to us the hidden purpose of His will (see Eph. 1:9) by which through Christ, the Word made flesh, man might in the Holy Spirit have access to the Father and come to share in the divine nature (see Eph. 2:18; 2 Peter 1:4). Through this revelation, therefore, the invisible God (see Col. 1:15, 1 Tim. 1:17) out of the abundance of His love speaks to men as friends (see Ex. 33:11; John 15:14-15) and lives among them (see Bar. 3:38), so that He may invite and take them into fellowship with Himself. This plan of revelation is realized by deeds and words having in inner unity: the deeds wrought by God in the history of salvation manifest and confirm the teaching and realities signified by the words, while the words proclaim the deeds and clarify the mystery contained in them. By this revelation then, the deepest truth about God and the salvation of man shines out for our sake in Christ, who is both the mediator and the fullness of all revelation" (*Dei Verbum*, 2).

What is the Bible?

1. "You are approaching the *word of God*. This is the title Christians most commonly give to the Bible, and the expression is rich in meaning. ... When we approach the Bible ... we approach Jesus Christ, the Word of God; and in order to encounter Jesus, we must approach Him in a prayerful study of the inspired word of God, the Sacred Scriptures" (*Introduction to the Ignatius Study Bible*).
2. "Sacred Scripture is the word of God ... consigned to writing under the inspiration of the divine Spirit" (CCC 81; DV, 9).
3. In the writings of Sacred Scripture, "God truly speaks through men in a human way" (Pope Benedict XVI, 4/23/09).

God is the Primary Author of the Bible

1. "All scripture is inspired by God (*θεοπνευστος*, *divinitus inspirata est*) 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 3:16).

Human beings are the Secondary Authors

1. “For, by supernatural power, [God] so moved and impelled [the human authors] to write. He was so present to them, that the things which He ordered, and those only, they, first, rightly understood, then willed faithfully to write down, and finally expressed in apt words and with infallible truth.” (Pope Leo XIII, *Providentissimus Deus*, 20).

There’s No Error in the Bible

1. St. Jerome:
 - “Scripture cannot lie” (*In Jer.* 31:35).
 - “The Lord’s words are true; for Him to say it, means that it is” (*In Mich.*4:1).
2. “All the books of the Old and New Testaments, whole and entire, ‘contain revelation without error,’ because they are ‘written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit’” (*Dei Filius*, III.2.5-7).

A Brief Overview of the Gospel According to St. Luke

About St. Luke

1. St. Luke was a Gentile Physician:
 - a. 2 Tim. 4:11; Philemon 24; Colossians 4:14.
 - b. Only Gentile author of a NT book.
 - c. Only book of the NT to be written in two parts.
 - d. Gospel is first part . . . Acts of the Apostles (also written by St. Luke) is the second.
2. St. Luke was **not** one of the twelve Apostles.
3. St. Luke consulted the Blessed Virgin Mary about the life of her divine Son.
4. St. Luke was also a good friend of St. Paul; he accompanied the Apostle during his exploits for Christ. (Read *Acts of the Apostles* ... which St. Luke also wrote.)

Themes Found in the Gospel of St. Luke

1. Central theme of the Gospel of Luke – Universality of the Good News.
 - a. Salvation is for all.
2. Salvation of the Israelites (cf., e.g., Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation, 1:33).
3. Salvation of the Gentiles (c.f., e.g., Simeon to Mary at the Presentation, 2:32).
4. Salvation of the Poor/Humble/Sinful:
 - a. Poor: Beatitudes (cf., 6:20, ff);
 - b. Humble: the Parable on the Lowest Place (14:7-14);
 - c. Sinful: the Parable of the Prodigal Son (cf. 15:11-32).
5. Offers unparalleled treatment of the BVM.
 - a. Annunciation, 1:26-56.
 - b. Finding of the XP Child in the Temple, 2:41-51.
 - c. A Marian “hymn”: the *Magnificat*, 1:46-55.