Truth Still Matters

- Stop drowning in the world of opinion!
- Humans are "hardwired" to know truth.
- Through grace, let's open our eyes and follow a Truth led vision
  - True "knowing"
    - An encounter





Do We Need Good News?

- Humans are made by God and for Him
  - The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. (CCC 27)
    - 2 Pet. 1:4
- Original Sin
  - Concupiscence



Do We Need Good News?

- Covenant
  - Exchange of persons (Gift of self)
    - Family bond
- Threat to covenant
  - Living immanently
  - Dignity of the human person vs animality
  - Losing self possession at the Fall
  - Child vs. slave



Do We Need Good News?

- Happiness is now impossible
  - Restless
  - Hamster wheel
  - We owe a debt we cannot pay

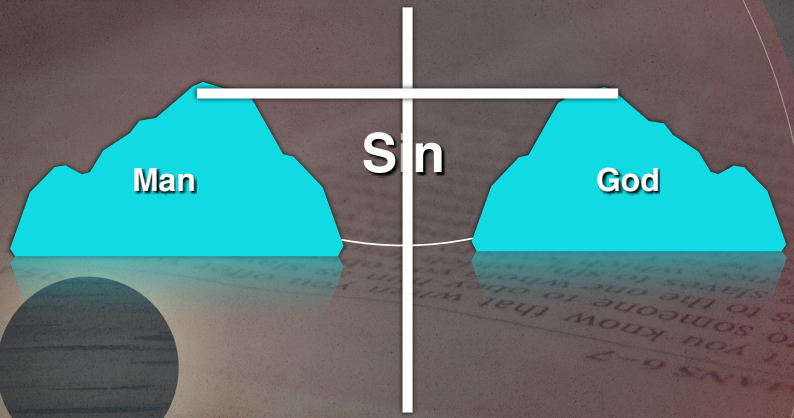


Do We Need Good News?

- God of compassion!
- The death and resurrection of Jesus (Paschal Mystery)
- Yes we need this good news!



The Gospel!



Greek, euangelion; Latin, evangelium

- In fact, it was used to refer to the "good news" of Augustus Caesar's dominion.
  - True good news of Jesus Christ against the false good news of the Roman emperors.



Who is Jesus?

- Foundational to Christianity
  - Key lock
- Sources for His identity
  - Bible
  - Gospels give us a portrait of Jesus
  - Witness of the Early Church
  - These sources compel one to make a decision about Christ
- Many 21st century unbelievers say Jesus was a good man but not God
  - The sources don't give us this option
  - Liar, Lunatic, or Lord



Who is Jesus?

- "And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; and they were ***amazed***, and those who followed were ***afraid***…..(Mark 10:32, RSVCE)



Claim of Jesus

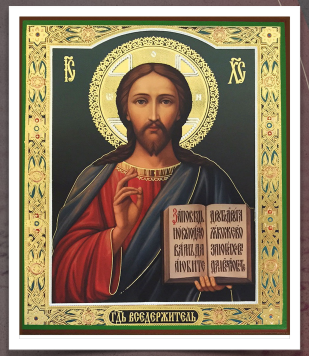
- Did Jesus claim to be God?



YES

Claim of Jesus

- Did Jesus claim to be God?
  - Yes
- The uniqueness of Jesus' claim
  - Buddha never claimed to be God
  - Mohammed never claimed to be God
- Simple argument
  - Lord or a bad man



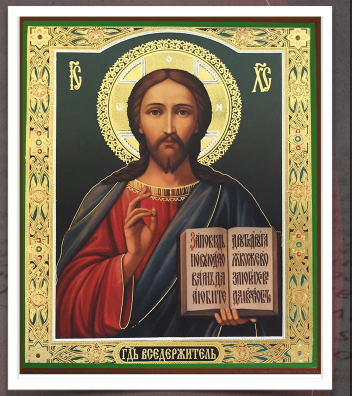
Biblical Support

- Bridegroom
  - For the LORD delights in you, and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; And as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you (Is. 62:4-5).
  - Jesus answered them, "Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days." (Luke 5:34-35)



Biblical Support

- I AM
  - God said to Moses, "I AM WHO AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Ex. 3:14)
  - Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." So they took up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple. (Jn. 8:58-59)



Biblical Support

- Forgives sins
  - And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." (Mk. 2:5)
- "Son of God"
  - Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17* And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. (Mt. 16:16-17)



Biblical Support

- Son of God.
  - Matthew 26:63-64. 1Jn 4:15.
- Only begotten of Father.
  - John 1:14; 3:16, 18. 1Jn 4:9.
- Christ is true God.
  - John 1:1; 5:18; 8:58; 20:28.
  - Philippians 2:6.
  - Colossians 1:15-19; 2:9.
  - Titus 2:13.
- Called First and Last.
- Isaiah 41:4; 44:6. (Cf) Rev 1:17; 2:8.



Biblical Support

- Called Alpha and Omega.
  - Revelations 1:8; 21:6. (Cf) Rev 22:13-16.
- Is King of Kings.
  - Revelations 1:5. (Cf) Rev 17:14.
  - 1 Timothy 1:17. (Cf) Rev 15:3.
- Is Power and Wisdom of God.
  - 1 Corinthians 1:24.
- Is the Glory of God.
  - 1 Corinthians 2:8.
  - Hebrews 1:3.
  - James 2:1.
  - Revelations 21:23.
- Is Eternal.
  - Micah 5:2.
  - John 1:1.



Just a Good Man?

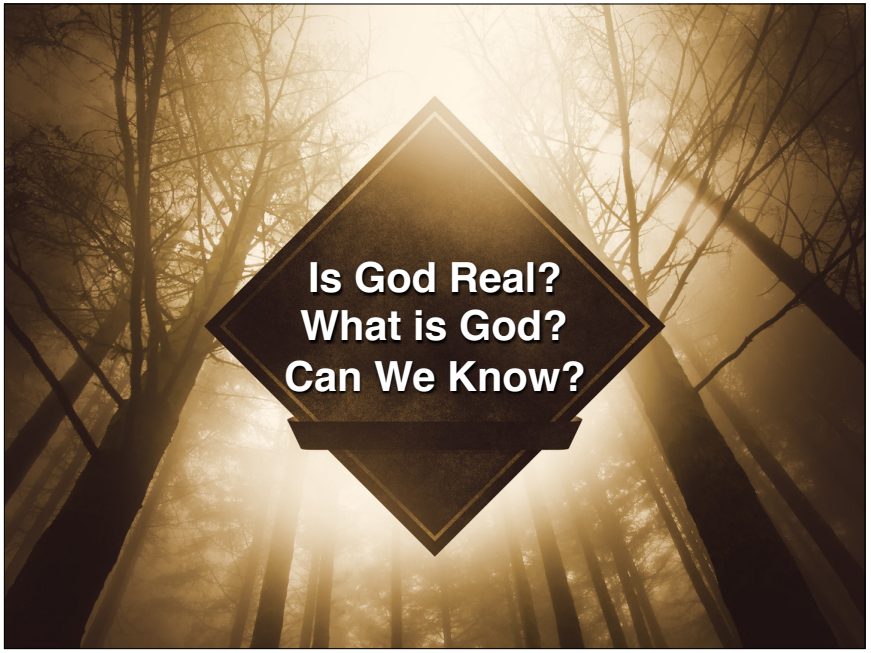
- If not God then what is Jesus?
  - Liar
  - Lunatic
- Can't be a liar
  - Psychological profile does not fit
  - Liars have selfish motives
    - What did Jesus get out of it? He died for a lie?
  - Lies are usually picked from among believable things (Jews believing that God became man?)
- Can't be a lunatic
  - Psychological profile does not fit
  - Upon meeting a lunatic, what happens?
  - Lunatics don't revolutionize the world



Resources

- Handbook of Christian Apologetics by Peter Kreeft
- Fundamentals of the Faith by Peter Kreeft
- College Apologetics by Fr. Alexander
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Commentary on the Gospel of Mark - Jimmy Akin

Created by: Hubert Sanders, Jr. -



Spirit Knows, Loves, is Powerful

- "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."" (John 4:24, RSVCE)
- Theology is always concerned about spirit
- What is it?
  - Not enough just to know the definition
  - Must master it and make it our own
- Spirit = element in us by which we know and love (decisions are made with spirit)
- The body knows, loves, and decides nothing



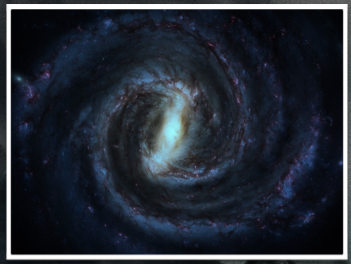
Spirit Knows, Loves, is Powerful

- The questions remains "What is a spirit?"
  - It's production of ideas leads us closer to the spirit's essence
- Ideas do not have attributes of matter and their source, our spirit, must not be matter either
  - The one who asserts spirit is not in a fantasy world but in the real world (Why?)
  - Thought is one of the most powerful things in the world.



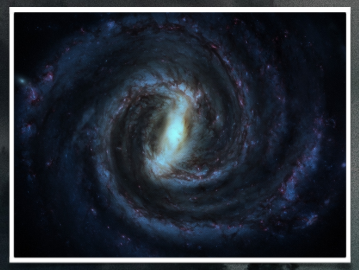
Spirit Is Not In Space

- Spirit is an element with no parts
  - Spirit is always wholly itself
  - Various activities done by the whole spirit
- Space is emptiness for the spread of parts
  - A being with no parts does not occupy space (you either see this or you don't)



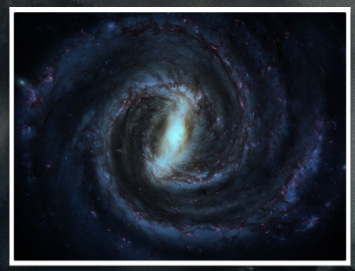
Spirit Is Not In Space

- Can something be real if it's not in space?
  - Emptiness can hardly be essential for existence
- Can something be active if it does not have parts?
  - Dividedness can hardly be indispensable for action



Spirit Is Not In Space

- Spirit cannot be destroyed because it has no parts to separate
- Spiritual being cannot lose its identity



God is Infinite Spirit

- God is not the old man with a beard in the sky.
  - This image must replaced with truer ideas of what God is
- God is a spirit
  - Partless, spaceless, immortal, knows, loves, decides, and acts (human soul is just an image)
  - Infinite



God is Infinite Spirit

- Infinite
  - Latin = finis (boundary or limit), in = negative
  - God has no limits
  - God's perfections are total
    - All –knowing, all-loving, all-powerful
- We have limits
- Without God, we would not be



God is Infinite Spirit

- Who made God?
  - There must be a being which did not need to be made
  - God's nature is to exist (God is existence)
    - "I Am" name revealed to Moses in Exodus



God is Omnipresent and Eternal

- Where was God before the universe was created?
  - "Where" and "when" have no application to God
  - "Where" refers to space
    - Due to God's simplicity, he does not need space
    - Omnipresence ?
      - God is in everything / God is where he operates (in the things that receive the effects of God's power)
  - "When" refers to time and God is not in time either



God is Omnipresent and Eternal

- What is time?
  - Measurement of change
- Is there change in God? Why or why not?
  - No change because God is infinite
- God is eternal = God's total possession of Himself
  - We possess ourselves successively (We are never at any one moment the whole of ourselves)
  - Distinction between everlasting time and eternity
    - Eternity is not time at all



God's Knowledge, Love, Power

- God knows all things merely by being God
  - No ignorance or defect in memory
  - Omniscient
- God loves with infinite intensity
- God is Omnipotent
  - God creates from nothing
    - We need existing materials to create
  - "Can God make a weight so heavy that He cannot lift it?" (God can do all things right?)
  - Contradiction is not a "thing"



Faith and Reason

- Faith is evidence of the unseen but built on what is seen
- Truth of reason and the truth of faith can never contradict each other
- We can know that there is a Creator by simply observing creation (Rom 1:20)
- Reason only reveals certain aspects of God



Motion or Change

- Everything observable to the senses changes
  - Change = acquiring of a something not previously possessed
- Things do not change themselves
  - Nothing can give itself what it does not have
- Changing agents are also being changed



Motion or Change

- The entire universe is changing
- There must be an unchanging Source of change
- The transcendent unchanging Source of change is what we mean by "God"



Morality

- People argue all the time
- This arguing presupposes an objective moral code or law
- We all sense that we have a duty to do good and avoid evil
- Where is this law?
  - A law must have a law giver
- We refer to this law giver as "God"



First Cause

- Cause and effect
- Some things cause other things to be
  - Nothing brings itself into existence
- A was caused by B, B was caused by C, C was caused by D, etc.
- There has to be a First Cause to avoid infinite regression and to avoid nonsense
- The First Cause is what we call "God"

Reasons for God

Design

- When we see a design, we all look for the designer
  - S.O.S sign on a deserted island
  - A table set for dinner
- The world is an intricate complex design with parts that are made for each other
- Either this order is the product of chance or of intelligent design
- Not chance (an effect of design cannot be produced by a cause without design)
- Therefore the universe is the product of intelligent design
- Minds are behind designs
- The universe is the product of an intelligent Designer called "God"

Reason

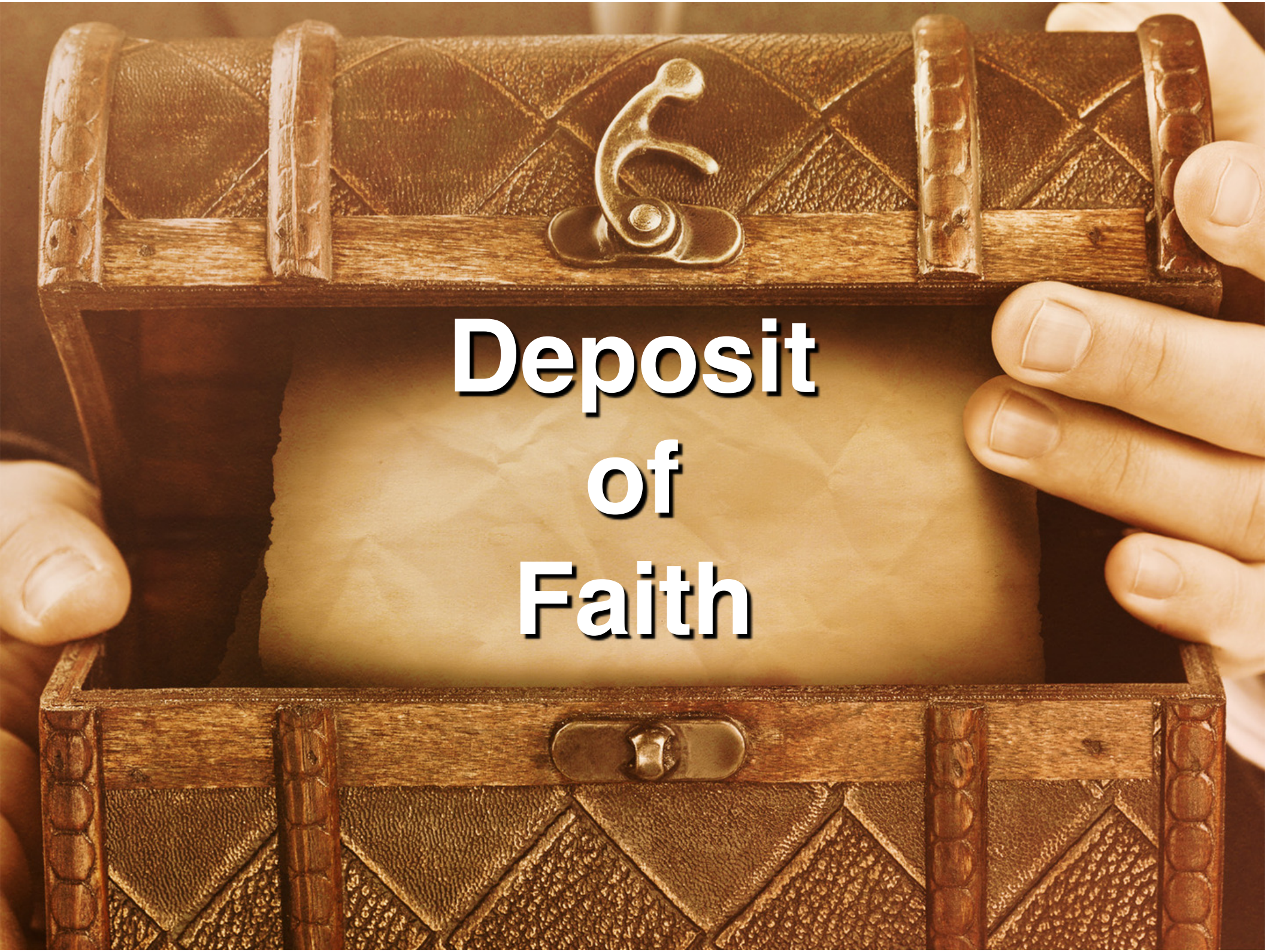
- These proofs do not tell us all that revelation tells about God
- We do learn things that may be used to clear away stumbling blocks that atheist's may have (namely what is meant by "God")
  - Eternal, unchanging, creating, law-giving, mindful, transcendent Being
- The more reasonable people believe in God (contrary to what the "world" thinks)

Reasons for God

Sources

- Fundamentals of the Faith – Peter Kreeft
- Summa Theologica – St. Thomas Aquinas
- College Apologetics
- Handbook of Christian Apologetics – Ronald Tacelli and Peter Kreeft
- Theology for Beginners - Frank Sheed




Deposit
of
Faith

God Comes to Meet Man

- Divine Revelation
  - God tells us certain things that cannot be known with use of reason.
  - God has revealed himself and given himself to man
- God's Plan
  - We should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature.
- God communicates himself to man gradually.



Salvation History



Covenant Mediator	Adam	Noah	Abram	Moses	David	Jesus
Covenant Role	Husband	Father	Chieftain	Judge	King	Royal High Priest
Covenant Form	Marriage	Household	Tribe	Nation	National Kingdom	Catholic Church

"Fullness of time"

Transmission of Revelation

- “19* Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20* teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.“ (Mt 28:19-20)



Transmission of Revelation

- The Apostolic Tradition
- In keeping with the Lord's command, the Gospel was handed on in two ways:
  - Orally (Sacred Tradition)
  - Writing (Sacred Scripture)



Deposit of Faith: Vatican II's Expression

- Scripture and Tradition are the main components of the one sacred deposit
  - They embody and express Jesus Himself! (Revelation)



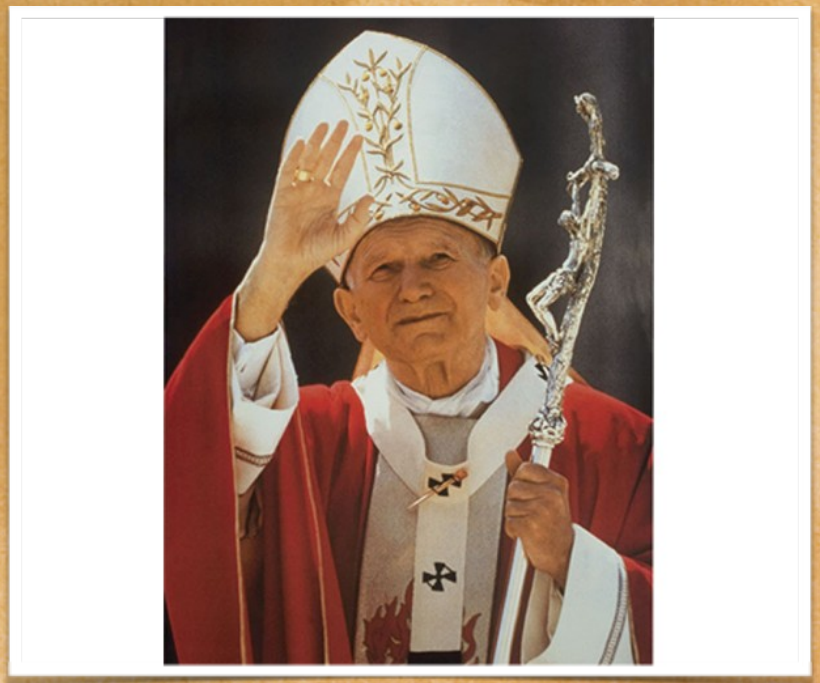
Deposit of Faith: Vatican II's Expression

- Tradition has been expanded
  - DV = the word of the Lord, the Apostles living with Him, and seeing what He did
    - Trent =only Christ's and the Apostles' preaching
- Cardinal Ratzinger = revelation is the whole lived experience of the Lord, which transcends what has been explicitly formulated in words



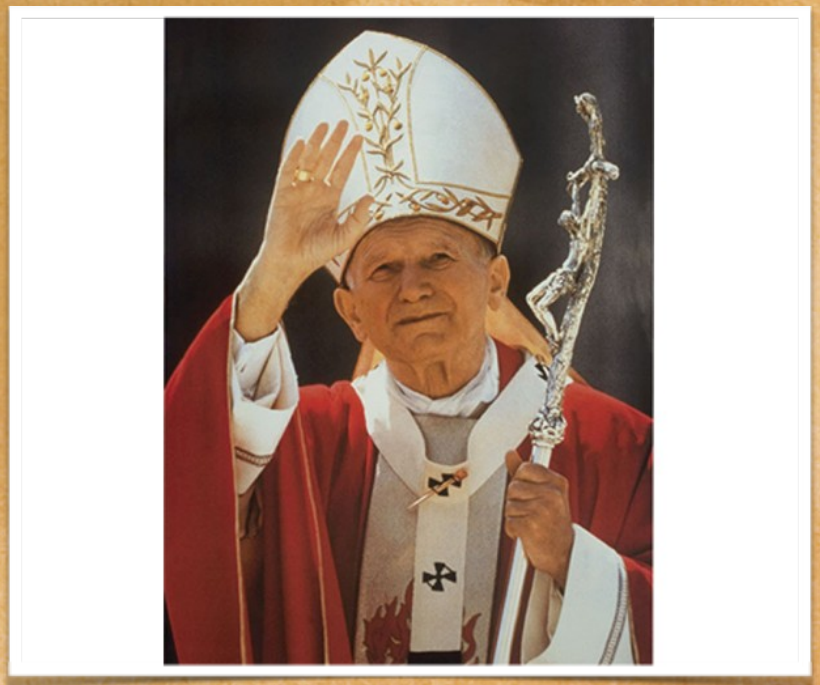
The Interpretation of the Heritage of Faith

- Scripture and Tradition make up the deposit of faith entrusted to the whole Church
- Magisterium ("He who hears you, hears me," Lk. 10:16)
  - Authentic teachers and interpreters of the Word of God (written or oral form)
  - Bishops in union with the Pope
  - Servant of the Word of God



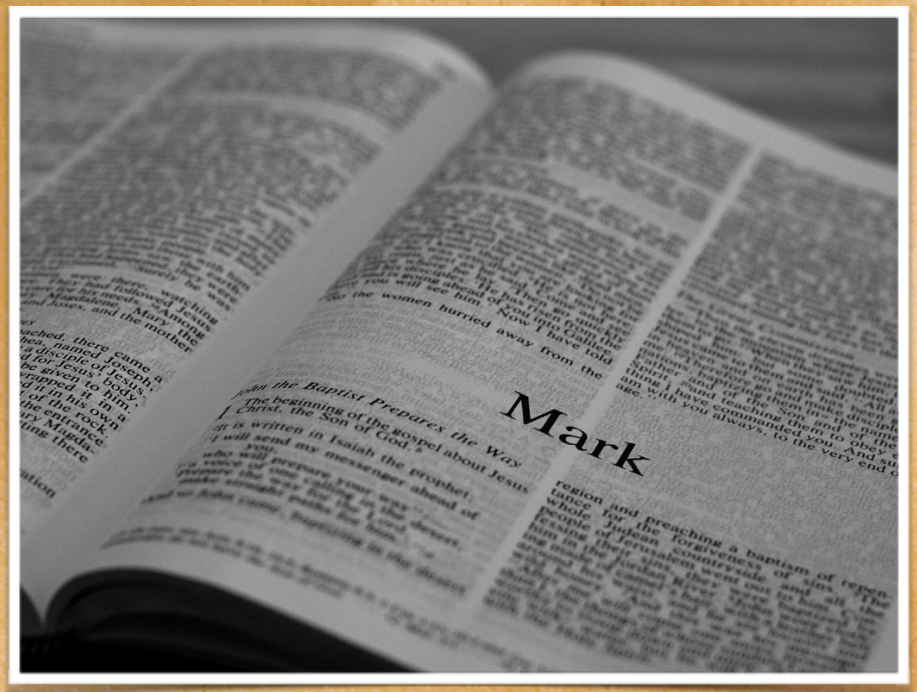
The Interpretation of the Heritage of Faith

- Dogmas = truths contained in divine Revelation defined by the Church
  - Interpretations of Scripture
  - Dogmas are lights along the path of faith; they illuminate it and make it secure
  - Hierarchy of truths
- The supernatural sense of faith
  - The Church cannot err when all the faithful are in agreement



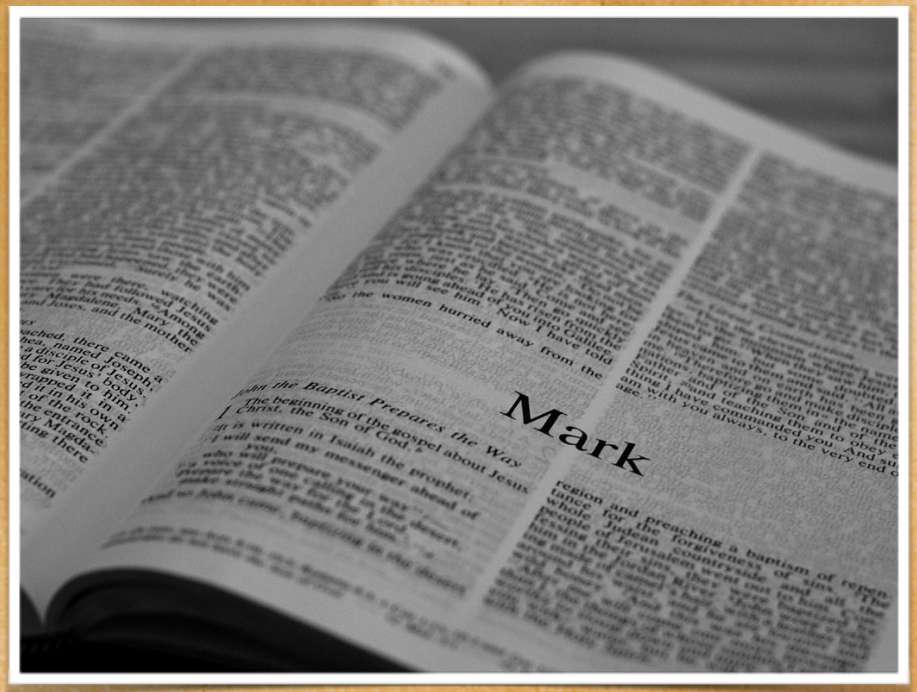
The Inspiration and Truth of the Sacred Scripture

- God is the author
  - "God-breathed"
  - God inspired human authors to write only what He wanted written
    - They made full use of their own faculties and powers (not through dictation)
- Books of Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teach that salvific truth.



Errors of Sola Scriptura

- It separates the Church and Scripture
  - They are one (not rivals)
- Self-contradictory
- Violates the principle of causality
- Private interpretation leads to denominationalism
- Unhistorical



Sources

- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Bible
- Deposit of Faith (How Do We Meet God) by: Hubert Sanders, Jr.
- Fundamentals of the Faith by Peter Kreeft



The Essence of the the Catholic Church

Questions

- What is the Church?
- Is the Church necessary for salvation?



Meaning of the word "Church"

- Meaning of the word "Church"
  - Latin root ecclesia from Greek ek-ka-lein = "call out of"
  - Greek equivalent Kyriake = "what belongs to the Lord"
  - A convocation or an assembly



Symbols and Images of the Church

- People of God (OT)
- Sheepfold (Jn. 10:1-10)
- Cultivated field (1 Cor. 3:9)
- Building of God (Matt 21:42)
- Family of God (Eph 2:19-22)
- Bride of Christ (Eph 5:25-26, Rev 21:2)



Mystery of the Church

- The Body of Christ (1 Christ as Head, 1 Church as Body)
  - “He has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all” (Eph. 1:22-23).



Mystery of the Church

- The “whole Christ”
  - Head and body are inseparable (Maybe in conversation but not in reality)
  - Remember in Acts 9:4-5: “And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting” (Emphasis added).



Mystery of the Church

- Cont. of “whole Christ”
  - St. Augustine writes: For if he is the head, we are the members; he and we together are the whole man. . . . The fullness of Christ then is the head and the members.
  - “For my part, I should not believe the gospel except as moved by the authority of the catholic Church.”



Mystery of the Church

- St. Paul on the “Mystery”
  - "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church” (Eph. 5:31-32)



Mystery of the Church

- Jesus Christ = True God and True man
  - Hypostatic union
    - Two natures: Perfect Divine nature and perfect human nature
    - One Divine Person
    - Natures are distinct not mixed yet always united within the One Person
- The Church – both visible (Human nature) and spiritual (Divine nature) society



Mystery of the Church

- Jesus and His Church
  - Visible and invisible aspects are not identical but are inseparable
    - Any separation between the Word and Jesus Christ is contrary to the Christian faith
    - Movement of the Holy Spirit is united to the visible structure of the Church



The Church is like a Sacrament

- Church is sacrament of salvation
  - Inner union of men with God
  - Unity of the human race



Historical Development of the Church

- Hierarchical (holy order) structure from the beginning
  - Bishops, presbyters, and deacons (1 Tim. 4:14, 1 Pet. 5:1-2, Acts 6:6)
- Peter as chief leader
  - Keys of the Kingdom (Mt. 16)
  - Matter of factly replaces Judas (Act 1:15-26)
  - Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15)
- Apostles sent out as ambassadors of Christ
  - "He who hears you hears me" (Lk. 10:16)



Purpose of the Church?

- **Remember the Proto – Evangelium**
  - **"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15)**
- **Fulfillment of the Father's plan**



Extra ecclesiam nulla salus

- Basing itself on Scripture and Tradition, the Council teaches that the Church, a pilgrim now on earth, is necessary for salvation
  - Directed to those who know this



Extra ecclesiam nulla salus

- Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience—those too may achieve eternal salvation



Who Belongs to the Catholic Church?

- "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4, RSVCE)
- Catholic faithful
  - Three points of unity (body)
  - State of grace (heart)
- Others who believe in Christ
  - Certain although imperfect communion
- Those that are ordered to communion
  - Non-Christians



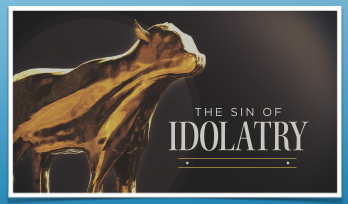
BODY LANGUAGE

Sacraments

Scandal
or
Salvation?

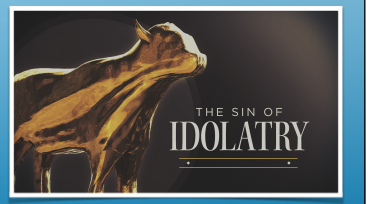
Scandal?

- Sacraments are considered either purely symbolic or magic
- How can God, who is pure spirit, tie His grace to the material world?
  - "It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." (Jn 6:63)



Scandal?

- Salvation is the work of God not men!!
  - Sacraments are seen as the work of men (isn't that what the word liturgy means?)



Worldview

- We acquire knowledge through the senses.
- Signs and symbols communicated realities beyond themselves



Worldview

- St. Paul - “Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse;” (Ro 1:20)



The Primordial Sacrament

- Christ Himself is the foundation of all Catholic sacraments
  - His assumption of a human nature affirmed and lifted the material world
- His human nature was a reality and a sign
  - What did it point towards?
    - God!



The Primordial Sacrament

- It not only points to God but it brings about God’s presence
  - When Jesus walked in to the room, God was brought into the room (through the human nature).



Sacraments

- Redemption was won for us through Jesus' humanity (God could only suffer and die in a human nature)
  - Jn:6:63 obviously is not referring to uselessness of created/material items



Sacraments

- Sacraments are the extension of Jesus' human nature in today's world.
- As Jesus uses material in the Gospel to convey His Grace, He continues this today.
  - Jesus is the true minister of each sacrament (not the work of men)



The "Both/And" NOT "Either/Or"

- "So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you;" (Jn 6:53)
  - His blood true drink and His body true food! (cf: Jn 6:54)



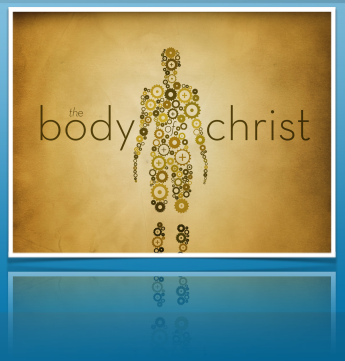
The "Both/And" NOT "Either/Or"

- "And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation." (Lk 1:50)
  - Salvation is tied to the sacraments but God is not.



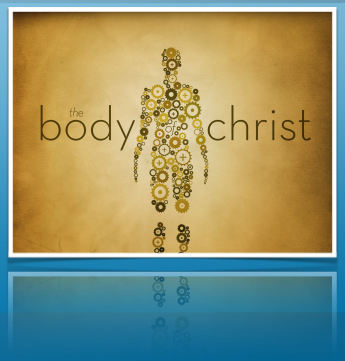
Luke 6:19

- "And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all." (Luke 6:19, RSVCE)



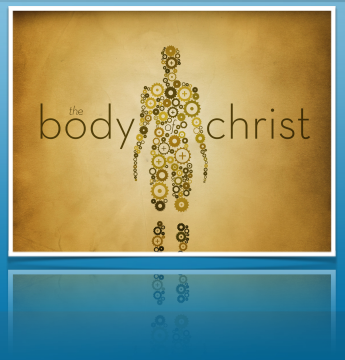
What are Sacraments?

- Mysteries
- Channels of salvation instituted by Jesus the Messiah
  - Paschal mystery is made present by the action of the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments.
  - Jesus continues his earthly ministry through the Sacraments.
- Efficacious signs of sanctifying grace



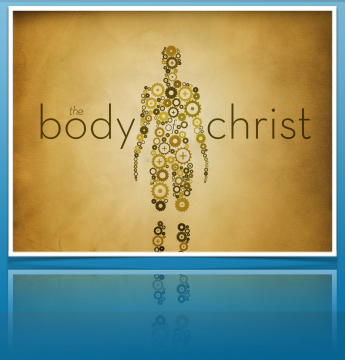
Essence of the Sacraments

- Words and physical acts
- A minister is required.
- Ex Opere Operato
  - Literally means, "by the very fact of the action's being performed".
  - Not dependent on the holiness of the minister or the recipient.
  - Highlights the reality of Jesus Christ as the true Priest.
- Interior disposition of the recipient
  - All sacraments flow from and are headed to the Sacrament of sacraments.



Gospel Vs. The Sacraments?

- False dichotomy
- The Sacraments derive their power from the salvific event of Jesus dying for our sins and rising to new life



Gospel Vs. The Sacraments?

- The Sacraments apply to our personal lives the fruit of the redemption won on the Cross
- Education on the Sacraments presupposes evangelization and conversion

