

# JOE CATHOLIC

# SCRIPTURE & TRADITION

What is The Bible?

In short, it's the story of God's activity among humanity. These accounts from eyewitnesses and their descendants were passed down and eventually written. It's kind of God's love letter to us!

Catholics recognize that The Bible is made up of The Sacred Scriptures and the apostolic tradition. As Jesus taught and as the Apostles were entrusted with the command to teach in His name, The Church was given the authority to interpret Scripture correctly.

"For Sacred Scripture is the word of God inasmuch as it is consigned to writing under the inspiration of the divine Spirit. To the successors of the apostles, sacred Tradition hands on in its full purity God's word, which was entrusted to the apostles by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit." (Dei Verbum)

NOW JESUS DID MANY OTHER SIGNS IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS DISCIPLES, WHICH ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK.  
BUT THESE ARE WRITTEN SO THAT YOU MAY COME TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD, AND THAT THROUGH BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME. JOHN 20: 30-31

While Jesus condemned doctrines that go against The 10 Commandments, He founded The Catholic Church so that the traditions He handed onto St. Peter and the Apostles would be safeguarded through the centuries and honor God.

St. Paul reminds the Church at Thessalonica to "stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter." In this way, he is reflecting what The Church has always held: that Scripture and Tradition make up the whole deposit of faith and not just The Bible by itself.

2 Thessalonians 2:15

The Church Councils of Hippo in 393 and Carthage in 397 and 419 A.D. determined the final number of books in The Bible: 46 Books in the Old Testament & 27 Books in the New Testament.

The early Christians accepted these oral teachings and the written ones that came to them later from apostles like Paul who were our first bishops. You can read The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2 to discover this.

The Domestic Church