

Session Five (Year A)

Sunday October 29, 2017

[Come, Holy Ghost!](#)

Pentecost Prayer

Kiss of Peace

Questions? Thoughts?

Prayer Laboratory: Introduction to the Bible

How do we know what we know?

- Theory of Knowledge
- Epistemology

Question for the candidates: How do you know what you know?

Revelation: How do we know what we know about God and the spiritual life?

- Experience: what you see, hear, smell, touch, taste, and feel
- What others with more experience tell you: what you listen to, look at, or read

[2 Timothy 3](#)

16 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

[Matthew 13](#)

52 "Every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

[Understanding the Bible:](#) How it was written and how to read it

- The bible is more like a library than a book
- It contains several different types of writing: historical, moral, legal, liturgical, philosophical. To the Jews, the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.
- It was written by different authors for different audiences in different languages
- Much of the bible had existed in an oral tradition before it was written
- There were two traditions, those of Israel and Judah
- The list or canon of inspired writings was settled at a convention of scholars just before Christianity became distinguishable from Judaism
- It won't help you to understand it by reading from cover to cover
- Start with the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament: Ruth is the great-grandmother of King David, and she is not a Jew, but a Moabite

- For a good summation, read the Book of Sirach, sometimes called Ecclesiasticus
- In the New Testament, read the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles
- In the Gospel of John, read the good stories and skip the long-winded monologues (at first)
- For a good summation of Paul's ideas, read the Letter to the Galatians (it's short)
- To relate the Old Testament to the New Testament, read the Letter to the Hebrews
- For a Catholic understanding of scripture, read the Letter of James

Comments? Questions?

[Blest Be the Tie That Binds](#)

Supplemental Readings

[Wisdom 1](#)

- 1 Love justice, you who judge the earth; think of the LORD in goodness, and seek him in integrity of heart;
- 2 Because he is found by those who test him not, and he manifests himself to those who do not disbelieve him.

[Colossians 1](#)

- 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
- 16 For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him.
- 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- 18 He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent.
- 19 For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell,
- 20 and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross (through him), whether those on earth or those in heaven.