

SCRIPTURE

Scripture, or the Bible, is the written record of God's saving acts in history.

Scripture means "**writing**".

The **Bible** contains a collection of writings accepted by Christians as being inspired by God and as having divine authority.

The Bible is called **revelation** because it is a means by which God has chosen to reveal Himself in history.

The Bible is divided into two parts, the **Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament)** and the **New Testament**.

THE BIBLE PART 1 - OLD TESTAMENT

Hebrew Scripture tells of God's love for and His saving actions among His chosen people, the Jews.

There are **forty-six (46) books** in the Old Testament. It is divided into three divisions: the **Law**; the **Prophets**; and, the **Wisdom**.

The first five (5) books of the Old Testament are called the **Pentateuch** or the **Torah**.

Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament. It's main theme is that life originally began through God's creative power.

The second book of the Old Testament is the **Book of Exodus**, which tells how God led the Israelites, the descendants of Abraham, from slavery to freedom.

THE BIBLE PART 2 – NEW TESTAMENT

The **New Testament** is the part of the Bible which is the record of God's love and saving actions of Jesus.

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There are **twenty-seven (27) books** in the New Testament.

The New Testament is divided into four parts: the **Gospels**; the **Acts of the Apostles**; the **Epistles**; and, the **Book of Revelation**.

The **Gospels** are four reports of the message and meaning of Jesus.

The word Gospel means "**Good News**."

The writers of the Gospels are called **Evangelists**. The Evangelists are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The emphasis of Matthew's Gospel is **that Jesus is the Messiah**.

The emphasis of Mark's Gospel is **that Jesus is both Messiah and the Son of God**.

The emphasis of Luke's Gospel is **that Jesus came to save all God's people, Jew and non-Jew**.

The emphasis of John's Gospel is **that Jesus is God's Word made flesh**.

Parables are short stories told by Jesus in the Gospel that help us understand important truths.

Epistles are letters written by early Church leaders to the people of Christian communities. There are twenty-one (21) epistles in the New Testament.

The **Acts of the Apostles** are an account of how the Church began and spread during its first years.

The **Book of Revelation** is the last book of the Bible which presents in symbolic language the final struggle between good and evil.

SIN

Free will is the power given by God to each human being to make choices and decisions.

Conscience is the power inside each person to know what is right and what is wrong.

Sin is freely choosing to do what we know is wrong.

We sin by **freely choosing to do something that we know God does not want us to do.**

People sin when they knowingly and freely act in selfish and unloving ways, contrary to God's will.

TYPES OF SIN

Original Sin is the sin of the first human beings, Adam and Eve, who used their free will to disobey God. The sin is inherited by each human being. It is fundamentally and formally overcome by Baptism.

Personal Sin is the evil that we ourselves freely choose.

Social Sin is the evil that is brought about by the way a society is organized or functions. For example: Racism.

Mortal Sin is the sin that destroys our friendship with God. This is a complete turning away from God. For a sin to be mortal, it must be a very serious offense. The person must know it is seriously wrong and must freely choose to commit the sin.

Venial Sin is the sin that weakens or takes away from our friendship with God but does not destroy it.

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The **Seven Deadly Sins** are: **pride; greed; envy; gluttony** (addiction); **lust; anger;** and **sloth** (laziness). These are also known as the Capital Sins.

Each individual person at the moment of death will received a **particular judgment** of how they chose to live their life.

Through the sacrament of **Penance/Reconciliation**, Catholics can receive absolution and forgiveness of sins. This sacrament is a visible sign of God love, given to the Church by Jesus so members of the Church can receive God's grace.

VIRTUES
(HABITUAL GOOD ACTIONS)

The three **theological virtues** are:

- Faith;
- Hope; and,
- Charity.

The four **moral virtues** are:

- Justice;
- Temperance (Moderation);
- Fortitude (Courage); and,
- Prudence (Wise Action).

These are also known as the Cardinal Virtues.