

Lesson 2

Please read paragraphs 50-100 and then answer the following questions:

1. Can we know God by human reason alone? Can we know God fully by reason alone? (# 50)
2. What important principle do we find in # 53 which can help us interpret Scripture properly, especially certain difficult passages in the Old Testament?
3. Is division among nations good or bad? (# 57)
4. Can those who do not know Christ achieve a certain level of holiness? (# 58) If so, why should we try to evangelize them?
5. Why would the patriarchs, prophets and certain other Old Testament figures be considered “*saints*”? (# 61)
6. What is a covenant? What is the difference between the Covenant in Christ and the other covenants that God made with his people? (# 66)
7. What insight does St. John of the Cross give us into the reality of the “*Word*”? (# 65) What would John have to say about people who focus too much on private revelations? What does the Catechism say on this point? (# 67)
8. According to the Catechism, why would the revelation contained in a book like the Book of Mormon be false? (#’s 66, 67)
9. Does God predestine anyone to eternal damnation? (# 74)
10. Compare # 76 of the Catechism with 2 Thessalonians 2: 15. What do you notice?
11. What early father of the Church is cited to support the idea of Apostolic Succession? (see footnote 35) Why is this important?
12. What is Sacred Tradition? How does this differ from what St. Paul calls “the traditions of men” or from customs? (# 83)
13. Is it possible for Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition to contradict one another? (# 80)
14. What role does the Magisterium (the teaching office of the Church) play in interpreting God’s Word? (# 85)
15. Can the pope and bishops teach whatever they feel like teaching? (# 86)
16. When the Church defines dogmas, how are we to respond? (# 88)
17. When the Catechism speaks of a “*hierarchy of truths*”, does this mean that some truths are more worthy of belief than others? (# 90)
18. What is the proper role of theologians in the Church? (# 94)