

Session 2



DIVINE REVELATION

Nil Obstat: Ben Akers, S.T.L.

Imprimatur: Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L., Archbishop of Denver

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Writers: Woodeene Koenig-Bricker, Lucas Pollice, Dr. Edward Sri

Media/Print Production: Brenda Kraft, Justin Leddick, Kevin Mallory, John Schmidt

Graphic Design: Stacy Innerst, Jane Myers, Nicole Skorka, Jeffrey Wright

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Augustine Institute

6160 South Syracuse Way, Suite 310

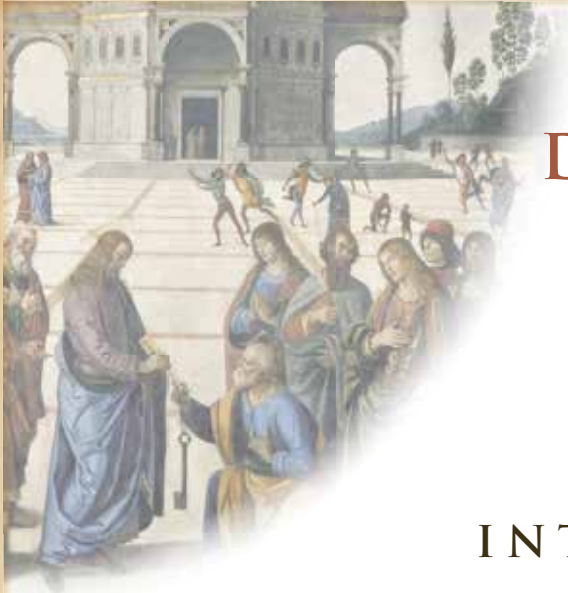
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DIVINE REVELATION: God Seeking Us & the Compass for our Lives

INTRODUCTION

Today, when people think about God, they often envision an impersonal force “out there”—a God who exists, who made the universe and who may even be a good God, but not someone who interacts in this world and is personally involved in our lives. Christians, however, believe in a personal God—a God who loves us, has a plan for our lives, and wants a personal relationship with us. He loves us so much that he actually seeks us out and makes himself known to us.

THIS SESSION WILL COVER:

- **Divine Revelation: why and how God reveals himself to us**
- **Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s revelation**
- **The transmission of Divine Revelation through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition**
- **The Magisterium as the authoritative interpreter of Scripture and Tradition**

OPENING PRAYER

Father in Heaven,
 Give us the power of your grace
 that we might always walk
 in the way you have revealed
 through your Son, Jesus Christ.
 Free us from the darkness of our own desires
 and bring us into the light of your truth.
 Form our lives according to your will,
 mold our hearts by your love.
 And grant that we might always
 be open and receptive
 to the guidance of your Church.
 We ask this in the name of the One who has
 promised to be with us always,
 now and forever. Amen.



“God seeks us where we are, not so that we stay there, but so that we may come to be where He is, so that we may get beyond ourselves.”

—Pope Benedict XVI

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is inconsistent with this line of reasoning: “There is a God, God is love, but we can’t know with confidence who God is and what his will is for us”?
2. Why do you think the Church from earliest times chose to use the word revelation, or unveiling, to describe how God has communicated to us?
3. In the video, the presenter used the imagery of a three-legged stool to describe how Divine Revelation is handed on. What are the three “legs” of the stool?

CALL TO CONVERSION

After spending a few moments in prayer, write down your thoughts and reflections on the following questions:

#1 Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6). Do I really accept Jesus’s revelation as the standard of truth for my life, or do I tend to make up my own moral and religious truth? Do I believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ measures my life, or do I view myself as measuring him, picking and choosing what I want to accept from Christ’s teachings, and setting aside what I don’t want to follow?

#2 What can I do this week to allow God’s revelation to guide me more in my life—in my moral decisions, in my prayer, in my relationships, and in what I consider most important in life? How can I entrust my life more to Jesus and follow God’s ways more?

#3 Reflect on the following quote about the teaching authority of the Catholic Church from George Weigel, biographer of Pope St. John Paul II.

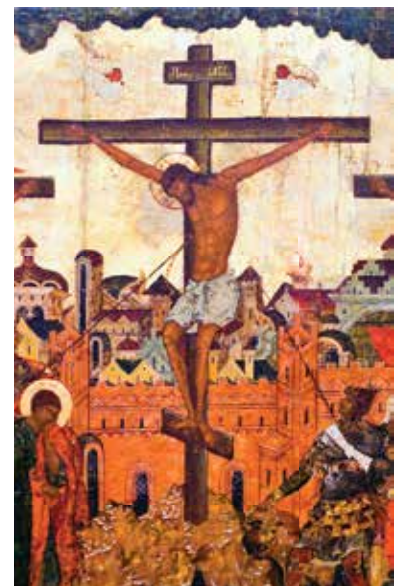
“The Catholic Church believes that the truths it has been given by Christ free us as well as bind us. They are liberating truths. To accept the Church’s teaching as authoritative and binding is only a ‘restriction’ on my freedom if I imagine freedom to be an unbridled exercise of my imagination and will. (And in that case, I have chained myself to my own willfulness.) If freedom has something to do with learning what is genuinely good, for myself and for others, then the truth about what is good for me and others isn’t a restriction. It’s a means of liberation” (from *The Courage to be Catholic*).

According to this quote, how can the teaching authority of the Church be a means of freedom for my life, rather than something restrictive that limits my freedom?

CLOSING PRAYER

Teach me, O LORD,
the way of thy statutes;
And I will keep it to the end.
Give me understanding, that I may keep thy law
And observe it with my whole heart.
Lead me in the path of thy commandments,
For I delight in it...
How sweet are thy words to my taste,
Sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Through thy precepts I get understanding...
Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

—Psalm 119:33–35, 103–105



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Here is a verse from the Bible that you can memorize and reflect on this week to help you apply today's session to your daily life:



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

—Psalm 119:105

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW GOD REVEALS HIMSELF?

TO ENRICH YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH, VISIT FORMED.org

Where you'll find helpful videos, audio presentations, and ebooks from the most trustworthy presenters in the Catholic world.

For Further Reading:

For more in-depth reading about Divine Revelation, see the following *Catechism* passages:

- *Revelation and the Plan of Salvation: CCC 50–53*
- *How God has revealed himself in the Old Testament: CCC 54–64*
- *Jesus, the fullness of Revelation: CCC 65–73*
- *How this Revelation is handed on to us: CCC 74*
- *Apostolic Tradition and Authority: CCC 75–79*
- *The Magisterium CCC 84–95*

Other Resources:

- *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, Chapters 2 and 3*
- *The Bible Compass* by Dr. Edward Sri

For additional information on Apostolic and Authority, see the following Scripture passages:

- *Matthew 10:1–6, 10, 40*
- *Matthew 16:18–22*
- *2 Thessalonians 2:15*
- *1 Corinthians 11:23–24*
- *1 Corinthians 15:3–5*