

Perfection & Perspicuity of the Scriptures

Bible	Roman Catholic Church
<p>2 Timothy 3:15-16 "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."</p> <p>Deuteronomy 4:2 "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."</p> <p>Revelation 22:18-19 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."</p> <p>Galatians 1:8 "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."</p> <p>Acts 26:22 "Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:"</p> <p>Isaiah 29:13 "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:"</p> <p>1 Corinthians 4:6 "And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another."</p> <p>Psalms 19:8 "...the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."</p> <p>Psalms 119:105 "...thy word is a lamp unto my feet."</p> <p>2 Peter 1:19 "...a light shining in a dark place."</p> <p>Proverbs 6:23 "...the law is light..."</p> <p>Deuteronomy 30:11 "For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off."</p>	<p>"...unwritten traditions pertaining to faith and practice are to be received with the same regard and reverence as the Scriptures." Decree of the Council of Trent, <i>De Canonicis Scripturis, Fourth Session</i>. 1546.</p> <p>"Since experience has proved that on account of the rashness of men more hurt than profit has arisen from permitting the Bible in the vulgar tongue, they interdict the Bible with all its parts, whether printed or in manuscript, in whatever vulgar tongue it exists." Published under the sanction of the Council of Trent, see the continuation of Session 25, <i>Rules Concerning Prohibited Books</i>, Rule IV.</p> <p>"...his authority to be supreme in the church universal." Council of Trent, Session 14</p>

1) The Truth:

- (1) Good and necessary consequence

- (2) The Jews had unwritten traditions and Jesus rebukes them for it. Matthew 15:4,9
- (3) Cannot add or take away from written Word.
- (4) Design of salvation requires: Psalm 19:7; Romans 10. Also John 20:31, 1 John 5:13, Romans 15:4
- (5) Testamentary nature of the Scripture requires
- (6) To the law and the testimony Isaiah 8:20
- (7) Illumination of the Holy Spirit needed to understand the Scriptures

2) Advantage for the Roman Catholic Church to hold this position against the Bible: First, if the Scriptures are not absolutely perfect and complete for all things in faith and life, then there remains a need for additional unwritten apostolic traditions. Secondly, the Bible, if not independently clear for understanding the Holy Spirit's meaning in the text, is weakened to need an outside interpreter for people to know what it means, thus a need for the Roman Magisterium as infallible interpreter of the Scripture is promulgated.

3) Quick Examples of the consent of the Church Fathers with the Bible:

Church Father	Source	Quote
Tertullian	From <i>Against Hermogenes</i> 22.3	"I adore the fullness of the Scriptures...Hermogenes May teach that it is written, or if it is not written let him fear that woe to those who add anything."
Tertullian	From <i>Prescription Against Heretics</i> 7	"We have no need of curiosity after Christ, nor of inquisition, after the gospel. When we believe, we first believe this, that there is nothing beyond which we ought to believe."
Jerome	From <i>Commentariorum in Evangelium Matthaevi</i> on Matthew 23:35-36	"That which does not have authority from the Scriptures, we can as easily despise as approve."
Jerome	From <i>Commentarii in prophetas: Aggaeum</i> 1:11	"The sword of God smites whatever they draw and forges from a pretended apostolic tradition, without the authority and testimony of the Scriptures."
Augustine	From <i>CI</i> 2.9	"In the things openly declared in the Scriptures, we can find whatever is necessary for faith and practice."
Basil	From <i>Concerning Faith</i> PG 31.678-679	"It is a proof of unbelief and a sign of pride either to weaken any of those things which are written or to introduce what is not written."
Irenaeus	From <i>Against Heresies</i> 3.1	"We knew not the provision for our salvation through others than those through whom the gospel came to us, which indeed they preached, but afterwards

		through the will of God delivered to us in the Scriptures, to be the pillar and foundation of our faith.”
Chrysostom	From <i>Concionis VII de Lazaro</i> 3	”The Scriptures are so proportioned that even the most ignorant can understand them if they only read them studiously.”
Chrysostom	From <i>In secundan as Thessalonicenses</i> PG 62.485	”All necessary things are plain and straight and clear.”
Augustine	From <i>CI</i> 2.9	”In the clear declarations of Scripture are to be found all things pertaining to faith and practice.”
Irenaeus	From <i>Against Heresies</i> 2.27	””Scriptures are plain and unambiguous.”

FURTHER NOTES:

- 1) The word “tradition” used by the fathers in several senses, such as, teaching of the apostles, what can be deduced from the Scriptures, for the providential preservation, for the exegetical tradition of Scripture passages.