

YEAR OF FAITH SESSION 5: THE TRADITION OF THE CHURCH



- Tradition is a conversation between the bridegroom (Christ) and his bride (the Church)
- We need to listen to the living word of God (in the Bible) as part of this conversation
- Jesus is the one fountain of revelation and grace that feeds both Scripture and Tradition
- There is always a temptation to pretend the past is unimportant, that Tradition is boring and irrelevant, but we need to look back so that we can look forward.
- Sin can mean *forgetting* but Jesus said “Do this in *remembrance* of me”
- Revelation is finished, the Bible is complete, but we need to continue unpacking what is revealed in the Bible
- The challenge is to look past the ugliness and faults of the church, and to see its beauty and love it – not the messy institution and its mistakes, but the beautiful Bride of Christ.
- Just as the moon reflects the sun, so we can reflect to the world the glory of Christ.
- Tradition is the presence, power and person of Jesus Christ
- We need to penetrate beyond the statements of faith in the Creeds, and the seemingly boring Councils of the church: these represent the light that the church has found in dark times, and its response to the challenges in the culture surrounding it
- The church is continually trying to answer the question “Who is Jesus” and will do so until he comes again
- For example, even during the time that the New Testament was written, the church was developing its understanding of when Jesus became the Son of God (Resurrection/Baptism/Conception/in the beginning)
- We are not left alone, but are helped by the saints, church leaders and ordinary people who have gone before us and answered many of these questions
- What is the background of Vatican II, which is such a bright jewel in the church’s Tradition?
- It came at a time after the two wars, which represented an apocalyptic breakdown of Christian culture and it was a time when the church had become global
- The main documents of Vatican II say that the church can no longer be insular and inward looking – it’s a time to go out and preach the good news and stir up the fires of Christianity again, bringing the glories of the past to the world
- The world has the right to hear the gospel, and we have the duty to go out and preach it
- In difficult times, we need to go back to the sources – the Gospel, the Tradition, but ultimately to Jesus
- When you really see the glory of Jesus, you see the truth of what mankind is created to be, and what human society can be
- If you speak of Tradition, you are speaking of *hope*, the one thing without which human beings cannot live.

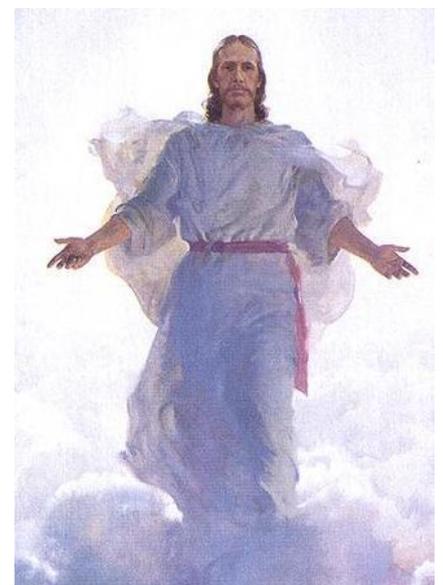
For reflection

- “Who is Jesus?” – how many descriptions of Jesus can you think of? (see next page)
- How can we glimpse the glory of Jesus?
- How can we share what Jesus means to us?

Prayer

Draw me to your presence, Oh Lord; bring me into that Holy Place,
So I may see Your Glory, the Beauty of your Face.
Draw me to your presence, Oh Lord, bring me into that Holy Place,
We bow down before your throne in that Holy Place.
Just one thing I ask of you Oh Lord, the desire of my heart,
That I may live in Your Temple Oh Lord from this day forth.

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100 NAMES OF JESUS IN THE BIBLE

- Advocate (1 John 2:1)
- Almighty (Rev. 1:8; Mt. 28:18)
- Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8; 22:13)
- Amen (Rev. 3:14)
- Apostle of our Profession (Heb. 3:1)
- Atoning Sacrifice for our Sins (1 John 2:2)
- Author of Life (Acts 3:15)
- Author and Perfecter of our Faith (Heb. 12:2)
- Author of Salvation (Heb. 2:10)
- Beginning and End (Rev. 22:13)
- Blessed and only Ruler (1 Tim. 6:15)
- Bread of God (John 6:33)
- Bread of Life (John 6:35; 6:48)
- Capstone (Acts 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:7)
- Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20)
- Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4)
- Christ (1 John 2:22)
- Creator (John 1:3)
- Deliverer (Rom. 11:26)
- Eternal Life (1 John 1:2; 5:20)
- Everlasting Father (Isa. 9:6)
- Gate (John 10:9)
- Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11)
- Faithful Witness (Rev. 1:5)
- Faith and True Witness (Rev. 3:14)
- First and Last (Rev. 1:17; 2:8; 22:13)
- Firstborn From the Dead (Rev. 1:5)
- God (John 1:1; 20:28; Heb. 1:8; Rom. 9:5; 2 Pet. 1:1; 1 John 5:20; etc.)
- Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)
- Great Shepherd (Heb. 13:20)
- Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14)
- Head of the Church (Eph. 1:22; 4:15; 5:23)
- Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2)
- High Priest (Heb. 2:17)
- Holy and True (Rev. 3:7)
- Holy One (Acts 3:14)
- Hope (1 Tim. 1:1)
- Hope of Glory (Col. 1:27)
- Horn of Salvation (Luke 1:69)
- I Am (John 8:58)
- Image of God (2 Cor. 4:4)
- King Eternal (1 Tim. 1:17)
- King of Israel (John 1:49)
- King of the Jews (Mt. 27:11)
- King of kings (1 Tim 6:15; Rev. 19:16)
- King of the Ages (Rev. 15:3)
- Lamb (Rev. 13:8)
- Lamb of God (John 1:29)
- Lamb Without Blemish (1 Pet. 1:19)
- Last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45)
- Life (John 14:6; Col. 3:4)
- Light of the World (John 8:12)
- Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5)
- Living One (Rev. 1:18)
- Living Stone (1 Pet. 2:4)
- Lord (2 Pet. 2:20)
- Lord of All (Acts 10:36)
- Lord of Glory (1 Cor. 2:8)
- Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16)
- LORD [YHWH] our Righteousness (Jer. 23:6)
- Man from Heaven (1 Cor. 15:48)
- Mediator of the New Covenant (Heb. 9:15)
- Mighty God (Isa. 9:6)
- Morning Star (Rev. 22:16)
- Offspring of David (Rev. 22:16)
- Only Begotten Son of God (John 1:18; 1 John 4:9)
- Our Great God and Saviour (Titus 2:13)
- Our Holiness (1 Cor. 1:30)
- Our Husband (2 Cor. 11:2)
- Our Protection (2 Thess. 3:3)
- Our Redemption (1 Cor. 1:30)
- Our Righteousness (1 Cor. 1:30)
- Our Sacrificed Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7)
- Power of God (1 Cor. 1:24)
- Precious Cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:6)
- Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6)
- Prophet (Acts 3:22)
- Resurrection and Life (John 11:25)
- Righteous Branch (Jer. 23:5)
- Righteous One (Acts 7:52; 1 John 2:1)
- Rock (1 Cor. 10:4)
- Root of David (Rev. 5:5; 22:16)
- Ruler of God's Creation (Rev. 3:14)
- Ruler of the Kings of the Earth (Rev. 1:5)
- Saviour (Eph. 5:23; Titus 1:4; 3:6; 2 Pet. 2:20)
- Son of David (Lk. 18:39)
- Son of God (John 1:49; Heb. 4:14)
- Son of Man (Mt. 8:20)
- Son of the Most High God (Lk. 1:32)
- Source of Eternal Salvation for all who obey him (Heb. 5:9)
- The One Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)
- The Stone the builders rejected (Acts 4:11)
- True Bread (John 6:32)
- True Light (John 1:9)
- True Vine (John 15:1)
- Truth (John 1:14; 14:6)
- Way (John 14:6)
- Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24)
- Wonderful Counsellor (Isa. 9:6)
- Word (John 1:1)
- Word of God (Rev. 19:13)