

Q&A: Is Scripture Infallible?

1st Question: Why did God the Son in His holy death say, “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” - Matthew 27:46

† Our Lord, in His humanity, is offering a prayer from the Cross: **Psalm 21**.

† **Mystery of Redemption:** Christ takes all sin onto Himself and suffers its just punishment, atoning for man’s sins. See 1 Peter 2:24, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 3:25, Galatians 3:13.

† **Hypostatic Union:** Jesus Christ is *one* Divine Person with both a divine nature and a human nature. In His Person, these two natures are not confused or mixed, but remain distinct, indivisible, unchanged and inseparable. This solemn infallible dogma was provided at the Council of Chalcedon (451 AD) under the direction of Pope St. Leo the Great. See the *Symbol (or Creed) of Chalcedon*.

2nd Question: What do the keys given to Peter represent? - Matthew 16:19

† The keys which Christ gives Peter represent the primacy of St. Peter, and of his successors, over the whole Church. This is a divine power that belongs to Christ and He entrusts to His Vicar.

Note: For an authoritative source see Chapter 2 of *Pastor Aeternus*, which is the Church’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of Christ from the First Vatican Council (1870).

3rd Question: Are the [doctrinal] books of the Bible infallible?

† **YES!** All of the Sacred Scriptures are inspired, inerrant and infallible. This is a dogma which all Catholics must accept. It has always been taught by the Church. Here are a few sources:

- Pope Benedict XV’s *Spiritus Paraclitus* (1920), #17 - 19.
- Pope St. Pius X’s *Lamentabili Sane* (1907), #11.
- Pope Leo XIII’s *Providentissimus Deus* (1893), #20.
- Council of Florence [Denzinger #706].
- Council of Trent [Denzinger #783].

† **First Vatican Council** [Denzinger #1787]:

“And indeed, these books of the Old and New Testament, whole with all their parts, just as they were enumerated in the decree of the same council, are contained in the older *Vulgate* Latin edition, and are to be accepted as **sacred and canonical**. But the Church holds these books as sacred and canonical, not because, having been put together by human industry alone, they were then approved by its authority; nor because they contain revelations without error; but because, **having been written by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, they have God as the author**, and, as such, they have been handed down to the Church itself.”

- *Dei Filius*, Chapter 2, “On Divine Relation,” from Vatican I [emphasis added]

Some helpful resources when reading Sacred Scripture:

- (1) In English, always use the *Douay-Rheims* version, the most faithful English translation of the Latin *Vulgate*. The *Vulgate* is the version approved as “sacred and canonical” by the infallible authority of Holy Mother Church.
- (2) Helpful commentaries include those by Fr. George Haydock and Fr. Cornelius à Lapide, S.J.