

## Dogmatic Constitution On Divine Revelation

# DEI VERBUM

*Solemnly Promulgated by His Holiness, Pope Paul VI on November 18, 1965.*

**"Dei Verbum"** (The Word of God) is one of the key documents of the Second Vatican Council, promulgated by Pope Paul VI on November 18, 1965. It addresses Divine Revelation, the Word of God, and the relationship between Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium. Here is a summarized overview:

### **Chapter 1: Revelation Itself**

"Dei Verbum" begins by emphasizing that God reveals Himself to humanity out of love. Revelation is God communicating with humans, sharing His divine plan, and inviting them into a relationship with Him. This revelation culminates in Jesus Christ, who is the mediator and fullness of all Revelation.

### **Chapter 2: The Transmission of Divine Revelation**

The document explains that Divine Revelation is transmitted through both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. These two sources are closely linked and work together to convey the Word of God. The apostles handed down what they received from Christ and the Holy Spirit through their preaching and writings, forming the foundation of Tradition. The Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, preserves and interprets this Revelation.

### **Chapter 3: Sacred Scripture: Its Inspiration and Divine Interpretation**

"Dei Verbum" highlights the divine inspiration of the Scriptures, asserting that they are written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures teach faithfully and without error the truth that God wanted to convey for the sake of our salvation. The document also emphasizes the importance of understanding the intention of the biblical authors and the context in which the texts were written.

### **Chapter 4: The Old Testament**

The document underscores the significance of the Old Testament as an essential part of Divine Revelation. It outlines the history of salvation, prefiguring and preparing for the coming of Christ. The Old Testament is described as containing rich teachings and moral lessons, although it must be read in light of the New Testament.

### **Chapter 5: The New Testament**

"Dei Verbum" presents the New Testament as the pinnacle of Divine Revelation, with the Gospels holding a special place as they convey the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The rest of the New Testament, including the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles, and Revelation, continues the apostolic teaching and illuminates the meaning of Christ's message.

### **Chapter 6: Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church**

The document concludes by discussing the role of Sacred Scripture in the life of the Church. It encourages all the faithful to read and study the Bible, stressing the importance of

Scripture in liturgy, preaching, and catechesis. The Church sees Scripture as essential for spiritual growth and the nurturing of faith.

**Key Themes:**

1. **Revelation and Faith:** Revelation is a dialogue initiated by God, inviting humanity to respond with faith.
2. **Scripture and Tradition:** Both are essential for conveying Divine Revelation; they are interconnected and mutually illuminating.
3. **Inspiration and Truth:** Scriptures are divinely inspired and teach truths necessary for salvation.
4. **Old and New Testaments:** Both Testaments are vital, with the Old preparing for the New, and the New fulfilling the Old.
5. **Role of the Magisterium:** The Church's teaching authority authentically interprets the Word of God, ensuring its correct understanding and application.
6. **Scripture in the Church's Life:** Scripture is central to the Church's liturgy, teaching, and pastoral practice, fostering the faith and spiritual growth of the faithful.

**Conclusion:**

"Dei Verbum" calls the Church to a deeper reverence for the Word of God, promoting a greater integration of Scripture in the life of the Church and encouraging all believers to engage with the Bible as a living source of divine wisdom and guidance.



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