

ST. JEROME AND SCRIPTURE

Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings
of the Roman Catholic Church

LIVING, TENDER LOVE

Devotion to sacred Scripture, a “living and tender love” for the written word of God: this is the legacy that Saint Jerome bequeathed to the Church by his life and labors.

“ENDURING RELEVANCE”

Jerome’s profound knowledge of the Scriptures, his zeal for making their teaching known, his skill as an interpreter of texts, his ardent and at times impetuous defense of Christian truth, his asceticism and harsh eremitical discipline, his expertise as a generous and sensitive spiritual guide — all these make him, sixteen centuries after his death, a figure of enduring relevance for us, Christians of the twenty-first century.

“PASSIONATE LOVE”

The distinctive feature of Saint Jerome’s spirituality was undoubtedly his passionate love for the word of God entrusted to the Church in sacred Scripture.

“INDISPENSABLE”

Jerome teaches us that not only should the Gospel and the apostolic Tradition present in the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters be studied and commented on, but that the entire Old Testament is indispensable for understanding the truth and riches of Christ ...



SERVANT OF THE WORD

We can think of Saint Jerome as a “servant” of the word, faithful and industrious, entirely devoted to fostering in his brothers and sisters in faith a more adequate understanding of the sacred “deposit” entrusted to them ... Without an understanding of what was written by the inspired authors, the word of God itself is deprived of its efficacy ... and love for God cannot spring up.

LEADS TO JESUS

Jerome can serve as our guide because ... he leads every reader to the mystery of Jesus, while responsibly and systematically providing the exegetical and cultural information needed for a correct and fruitful reading of the Scriptures.

“LIBRARY OF CHRIST”

Jerome can truly be called the “library of Christ”, a perennial library that ... continues to teach us the meaning of Christ’s love, a love that is inseparable from an encounter with His word.

“A RADIANT EXAMPLE”

A radiant example of this is the Virgin Mary, evoked by Jerome ... as Virgin and Mother, but also as a model of prayerful reading of the Scriptures.

ENTRUSTED TO MARY

Let us ... entrust ourselves to Our Lady who, more than anyone, can teach us how to read, meditate, contemplate and pray to God, who tirelessly makes Himself present in our lives.

(Apostolic Letter *Scripturae Sacrae Affectus*, 9/30/20, the memorial of St. Jerome)

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