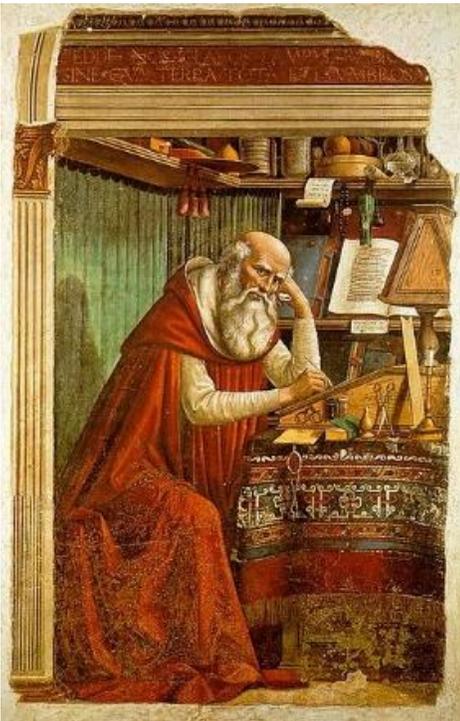


5 powerful advice from St. Jerome on Sacred Scripture

By Mary



St Jerome, a priest, monk and Doctor of the Church, is renowned and praised for his many commentaries on Scriptures. His greatest achievement is the translation of the Latin Vulgate, the "official" text of the Latin Church. Pope Benedict XV, recognized St. Jerome as "an outstanding doctor in the interpretation of Sacred Scripture". Here are some powerful insights this great saint gives us:

1. Know the Scriptures

St. Jerome famously said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." He challenges us: "How could one live without the knowledge of Scripture, through which one learns to know Christ himself, who is the life of believers?" (Ep. 30, 7) and "What honey is sweeter than to know the wisdom of God?" (Ep.30).

2. Love the Scriptures

How can we love the Scriptures like St. Jerome? For this great saint, knowledge of Scripture increases the love for it and the desire to immerse deeper into it.

He recommends to one of his spiritual daughters: "Love Sacred Scripture and wisdom will love you; love it tenderly, and it will protect you; honor it and you will receive its caresses. May it be for you as your necklaces and your earring" (Ep. 130, 20).

3. Converse with God through Scriptures

The Bible is an instrument "by which God speaks every day to the faithful" (Ep. 133, 13). To read Scriptures is to converse with God. St. Jerome wrote, "If you pray, you speak with the Spouse; if you read, it is He who speaks to you" (Ep. 22, 25). Through the conversation, we build a personal relationship with God.

4. Read the Scriptures frequently

St. Jerome recommends us: "Read the divine Scriptures frequently; rather, may your hands never set the Holy Book down. Learn here what you must teach" (Ep. 52, 7). He often invites his friends, "We have got, then, to read Holy Scripture assiduously"

5. Search for deeper meaning of Scripture

St. Jerome invites us to meditate on the Word of God by reading and reflecting. He says that we must not stop at knowing what the Scripture text means but to reflect deeper to what God's Words say to us. "Just as we have to seek gold in the earth, for the kernel in the shell, for the chestnut's hidden fruit beneath its hairy coverings, so in Holy Scripture we have to dig deep for its divine meaning." (In Eccles., 12:9)