

*What does the Bible say about itself?*

What does Holy Scripture have to say about Holy Scripture? 2 Timothy 3:15-17 is most often quoted; *The Scriptures you have known since childhood (Old Testament) are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. All this Scripture is inspired and useful for teaching, rebuking, correction, and training in right actions.* At this time there was no New Testament Bible yet, but today we can confidently claim this passage for all Holy Scripture.

In searching through the Bible we can find at least 150 passages where scripture talks about itself or gives examples of how to interpret what it says. We have space here for a few.

2 Peter 3:16, *St. Paul's letters are hard to understand and some unstable people distort them as they do other holy writings.*

2 Timothy 1:10, *Jesus brought immortal life to light through the Gospels.*

Acts 8:27-31, The Ethiopian eunuch asks St. Philip, "*How can I understand the scriptures unless someone guides me?*"

2 Thessalonians 2:15, *Hold on to the traditions you received either orally or written.*

Romans 1:16, *The Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of those who believe.*

John 1:1 & 14, Jesus is the Word of God.

John 20:31, *These things are written that you may come to believe in Jesus and get to heaven.*

John 21:25, Not everything was written down.

When the inspired writers refer to, "The Word of God," or to, "the Gospel", they are not talking exclusively about the written Word. More often they mean the pure oral message as first preached by the apostles who knew Jesus and were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Nowhere in the Holy Bible do we find anything that claims that the fullness of the revealed Word of God is found only in the Scriptures. God is bigger than a book alone. Nevertheless the whole Holy Bible is one of the Church's main inspired tools for bringing the Living Word of God into our lives today.