"Your Word is Truth" (RCC Series 1)
John 17:17
October 12, 2025

I. The Roman Catholic Church (RCC) Position on Divine Apostolic Revelation

A. The RCC does teach that the NT is fully authoritative and inspired Apostolic revelation.

B. The RCC *also* teaches the existence of an *equally* authoritative and inspired *oral* tradition of Apostolic revelation, i.e. *Sacred Tradition.*

1. This *Sacred Tradition* is said to be found scattered throughout the writings of the post-apostolic early church fathers.

2. This *Sacred Tradition* can only be recognized and interpreted by bishops in communion with the Pope, i.e. the *Magisterium*.

3. Many, of the doctrines/practices that distinguish the RCC from Protestant churches come from supposed *Sacred Tradition*.

II. Problems with the RCC doctrine of *Sacred Tradition*

A. It's supposed authority rests on circular reasoning (*Sacred Tradition* establishes the *Magisterium,* but the *Magisterium* also establishes *Sacred Tradition*).

B. It locates divine revelation in the non-inspired writings of fallible men (the early church fathers) and says it must also be identified and interpreted by fallible men.

C. It is based on the faulty assumption that temporal closeness to the apostles guarantees doctrinal faithfulness (just see the NT evidence for counter evidence!)

D. It fails to recognize the Scriptural principle that *written* revelation is what is authoritative for later generations, not oral tradition (see Jer. 30:1-3; Matt. 4:4, 7, 10; 2 Thess. 2:15; 2 Tim. 2:14-16; 2 Pet. 3:16; John 20:30-31).