

# TRADITION & SCRIPTURE

ADULT CATECHISM CLASS



# THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IS:

- The continuation of worship of God from the Old Testament
- The Church of Jesus Christ
- The Church of Pentecost
- The Church of the Martyrs
- The Church of the Eastern Roman Empire



# ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

- All human beings are made in the image and likeness of God
- Sin has broken that likeness
- Jesus' incarnation, passion, death and resurrection open salvation for all humans and restore the likeness in the end
- We have been saved by Christ through His death and resurrection, we are being saved by Christ with the guidance of the Holy Spirit through a life in obedience to Christ and through participation in the Holy Sacraments, and we will be saved by God's grace
- Salvation is an ongoing process
- Ultimately, our goal as Orthodox Christians is complete and continuous communion and union with God, which is known as "theosis" or "becoming like God"

# HOLY TRADITION

- From the word “παράδοσις” which means “to be handed over” or “delivered” (same word used in the betrayal of Jesus by Judas)
- It is the revelation made by God and delivered to the prophets and apostles
- Doesn't mean “handed down” but “handed over” – the implication being the original source of truth, God, gave it directly to us

# HOLY TRADITION cont.

- Delivered by Apostles to the Churches they founded
- Delivered by the Churches to the generations after
- Holy Tradition is the sum total of the truths transmitted by Christ to the Apostles and then to the Church and formulated in by Ecumenical Councils, local synods validated by the Ecumenical Councils, being part of the consciousness of the Church, and taught through dogmatic texts, canons, moral principles, liturgical life, and iconography
- Holy Tradition has the same authority as the Holy Scriptures because the Holy Scriptures come from the Tradition of the Church
- Holy Tradition is the living continuity of the Church

*“Tradition is  
the witness of  
the Spirit...”*

Outward forms:

- Scripture
  - Scriptural Interpretation
  - Scripture in Worship
- Councils/Creed
- Fathers
- Liturgy
- Canon Law
- Icons

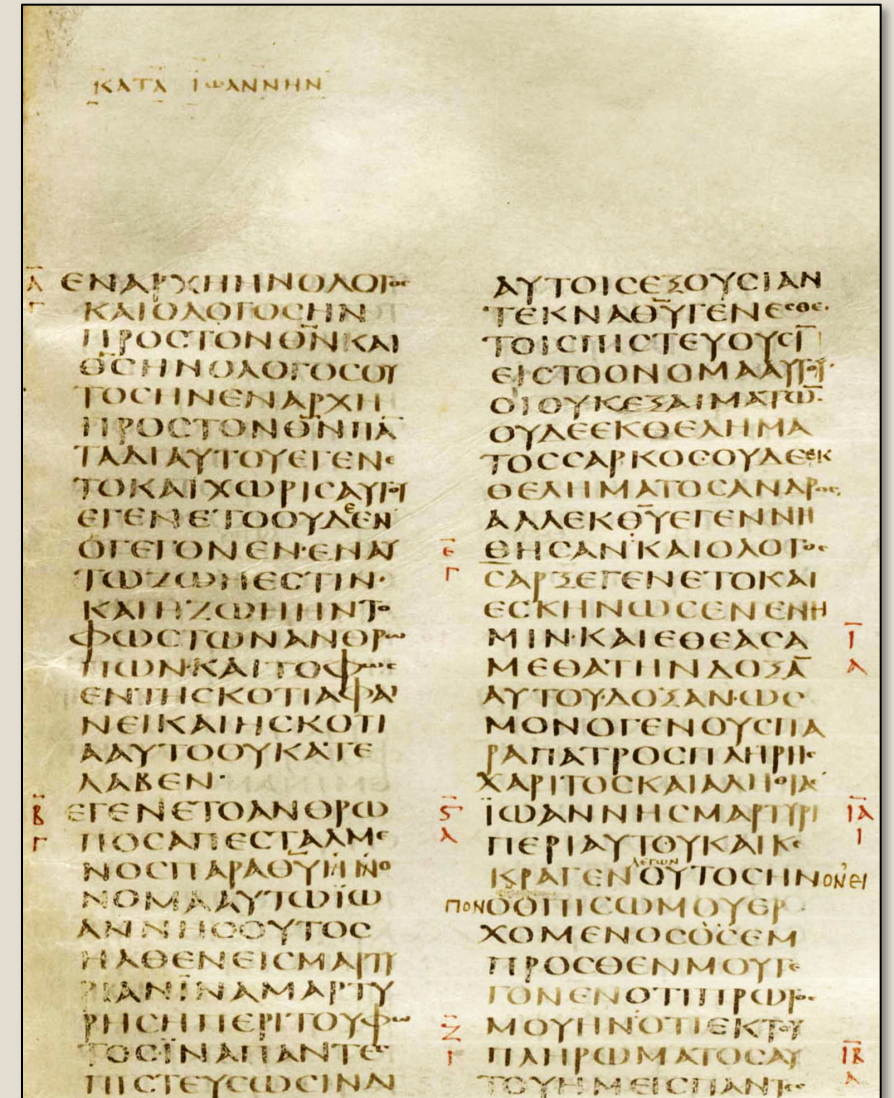
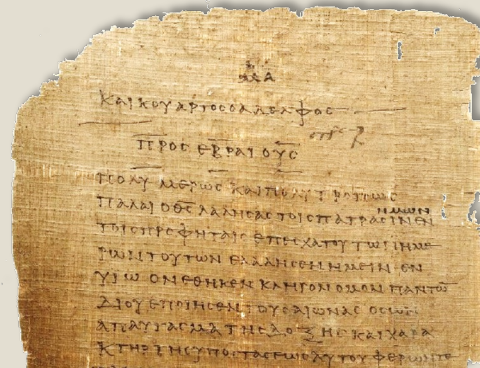
# HOLY TRADITION cont.

## **Implications**

- The Orthodox Church never subscribed to the idea of Sola Scriptura
- Scripture comes from a context and within a tradition
- Scripture is read through the eyes of the Church, within the life of the Church, as used in the Liturgy and other prayer services and prayers

# SCRIPTURE

- The inspired Word of God
- Orthodox Church gave the world the Bible
  - Old Testament is the Septuagint
    - Oldest surviving complete text of the OT is the Codex Sinaiticus (4th cent. AD)
- New Testament





# SCRIPTURE cont.

- Canon of the Bible, OT and NT put together over a period of nearly 200 years
- Orthodox OT based on the Septuagint:
  - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Kingdoms (1 Samuel), 2 Kingdoms (2 Samuel), 3 Kingdoms (1 Kings), 4 Kingdoms (2 Kings), 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles (including the prayer of Manasseh), 1 Ezra (1 Esdras) 2 Ezra (Ezra/ 2 Esdras), Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, 3 Maccabees, Psalms (151 in number), Job, Proverbs of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom of Solomon, Wisdom of Sirach, Hosea, Amos, Micah Joel Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Baruch, Lamentations of Jeremiah, Epistle of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel (“Susanna” at the beginning, “Bel and the Dragon” at the end, and includes the “Hymn of the Three Young Men”)
  - Red, Black & Green=Books in the Orthodox Canon; Red & Green=Books in Roman Catholic Canon; Red=Books in the Protestant Canon

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Thank You

