

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2019-20
Session #4: Holy Hierarchical Structure of the Church
And its Priestly Ministry (II)

CSB – Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
CCSS – Cath Commentary on Sacred Scriptures
CP – Catholic Priesthood, Fr. Thomas Lane
SN = Special Notes / NAB = New American Bible
SK = Chinese Bible / CCC = Catholic Catechism

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| <p>A</p> | <p><u>Scope & Focus</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This chapter focuses on pastoral issues, Paul’s concerns for Timothy’s health, and ways of dealing with and teaching the congregation, especially false teachers. Further, Paul reminds Timothy how he has received gifts of the Holy Spirit from the Apostles. Such important topics – apostolic succession and sacrament of Holy Orders - are also the focus of this session. | <p>1Tim 4:1-16</p> |
| <p>B</p> | <p><u>False Teachings that Forbid Marriage and Impose Abstinence from Certain Foods</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Now the Spirit expressly says” - Prophecy in the Spirit has been recorded in the OT but had virtually disappeared in Judaism. This reappeared in the early Church to “build up, encourage, and console”, to warn about what’s to come, to bear witness, to commission; it’s unavoidable and illusive; must “rebuke them in the presence of all” (1 Tim 5:20); beware of false prophets; Paul sees these as signs of the end times. Therefore, the Church is both hierarchic and charismatic. “They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods”: this reflects the rise of Gnosticism in the early Church – an irrational spirituality. God likes “those who believe and know the truth”. According to Paul “know” implies knowledge of the Gospel, so that “their love may increase and abound in knowledge”, and they will not be led astray by false teachings. Paul also explains reason for giving thanks before meals. | <p>4:1-5</p> <p>4:1, Num 11:25-29, 1Sam 10:10, 19:20 1Cor 14:3; Mk 13:2 Acts 11:28, 21:10-11 Mt 5:11-12; Acts 13:2 1Tim 1:18, 4:14 CCSS92</p> <p>4:3-5, CCSS, CSB</p> |
| <p>C</p> | <p><u>Avoid Profanity; Train Yourself for Devotions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching you have followed” – “words of faith” may mean Scriptures; OT illuminated by Christ and the understanding of the Apostles’ teachings. We must live by the words of God. Believers must “train themselves for devotions” but must not be lacking in Bible study. “We have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe” – the salvation of Christ is universal regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or language; anyone who sincerely seeks God and wholeheartedly willing to convert will | <p>4:6-10</p> <p>Deut 8:3, Mt 4:4, 1Pet 2:2 CCSS 98</p> <p>4:10, CSB</p> <p>Acts 10:34-35 Gal 3:23, CCC 1261</p> |

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| | also be saved by the grace of God. | |
| D | <p><u>Spiritual Gifts Received Through the Laying on of Hands by the Elders</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a supervisor, Timothy should conduct the “public reading of scripture” conforming to the style of the advice-giving letter of elder to younger; to build up with the gift of prophecy, to exhort and to teach the congregation with the right knowledge and theology. “Do neglect the gift that is in you which was give to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands b the council of elders” – The High Priest Jesus establishes the Church, appoints the Twelve Apostles and bestows on them priestly ministry; this spiritual gift “through ... the laying on of hands by the council of elders”, means the Sacrament of Holy Orders, is passed down through apostolic succession to the clergies of today’s Church. | <p>4:11-16</p> <p>4:13; CCSS, CSB, 1Tim 5:27, Rev 1:3 1Cor 4:13</p> <p>4:14, SN1, 2, 3</p> |

SPECIAL NOTES – See Chinese Handouts