

# Church History Literacy

## Gregory the Great

### Lesson 38

*Biblical-Literacy.com*

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R E  
O M  
M P  
A I  
N R  
E

R E

O M

M P

A I

N R

E



R E  
O M  
M P  
A I  
N R  
E



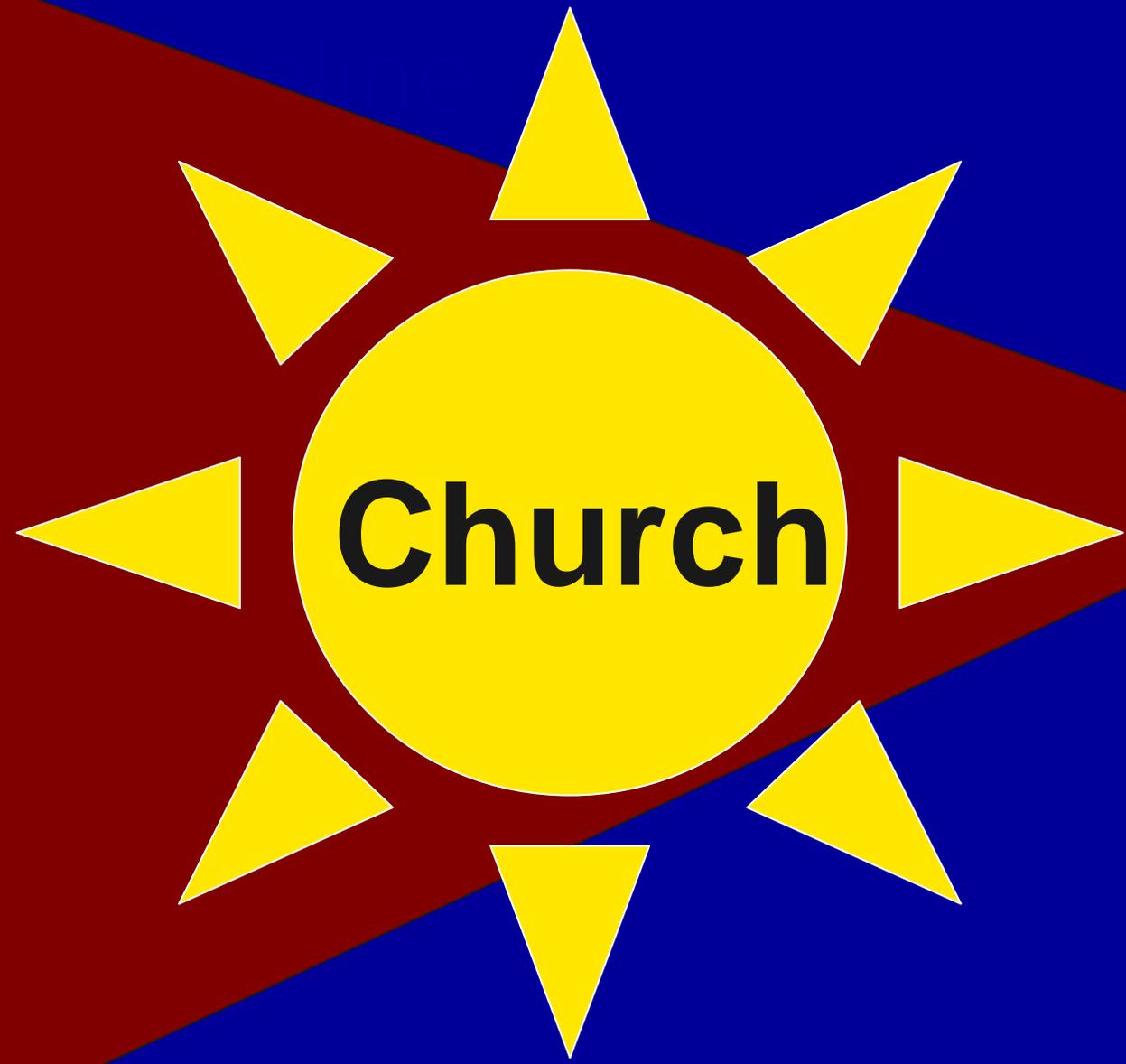
**Church**

R E  
O M  
M P  
A I  
N R  
E



**Church**

R E  
O M  
M P  
A I  
N R  
E





# Gregory the Great - Last of the Church Fathers

# Gregory's Upbringing

# Great Heritage / Family



# Great Wealth /Privileges



# Great Education



# Constant Crisis and Danger





His Parents take  
a different turn  
and go into  
ministry



Gregory makes  
the same turn



Gregory makes  
the same turn

# Meanwhile, back at Monte Cassino ...



# Gregory spends 6 years in Constantinople



Gregory spends 6 years in  
Constantinople



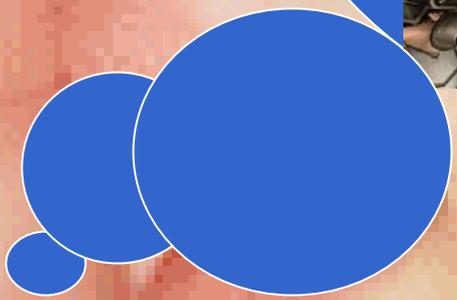


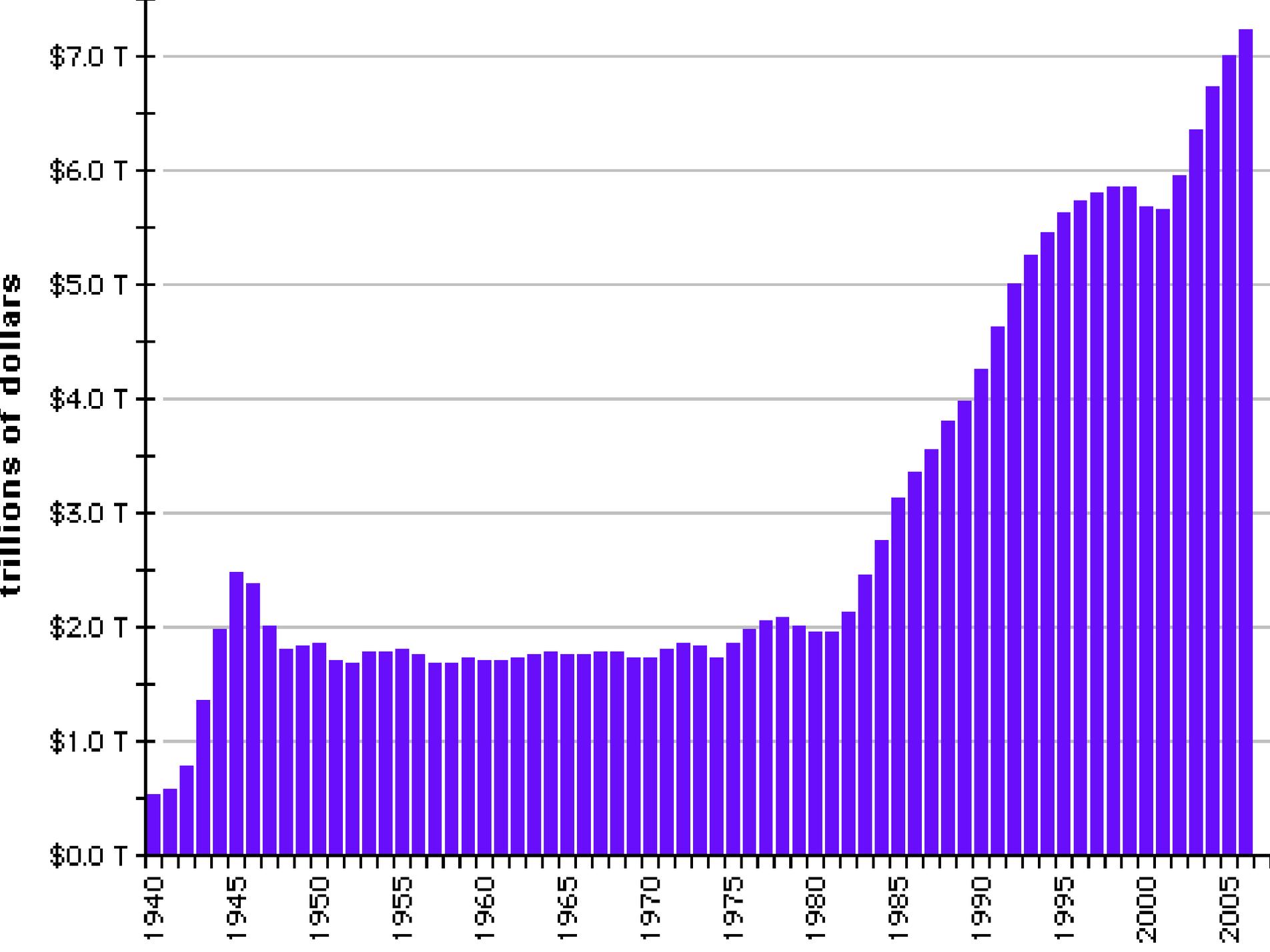
Then back to  
the monastery  
in Rome











# EARTHQUAKES





A black and white illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, a path leads through a dense forest of trees. In the background, a building with a chimney is visible on a hillside. The scene is framed by a thick black border.

**Jesus is coming back soon!**



Gregory is made  
Pope Sept. 3,  
590

Gregory trades leisurely  
freedom for business

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# Gregory trades leisurely freedom for business

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Latin: *Otium* =  
leisurely freedom

# Gregory trades leisurely freedom for business

Latin: *Otium* =  
leisurely freedom

Latin: negate or  
get the opposite  
by adding *neg-*

# Gregory trades leisurely freedom for business

Latin: *Otium* =  
leisurely freedom

Latin: *negotium* =  
business

Latin: negate or  
get the opposite  
by adding *neg-*

# Gregory's as Pope



**Gregory cuts a deal with the  
Lombard invaders**



Gregory re-organizes the Church's properties



Gregory works on bringing up  
the level of Bishops



Gregory  
pushes the  
Rule of  
Benedict



Gregory  
changes the  
liturgy  
(worship)



Gregory went  
after the  
plague



Gregory went  
after the  
plague



**“God bless  
you!”**

**Gregory went  
after the  
plague**



Gregory the  
Great saw the  
forest and the  
trees



Gregory the  
Great lived a  
lifetime of poor  
health

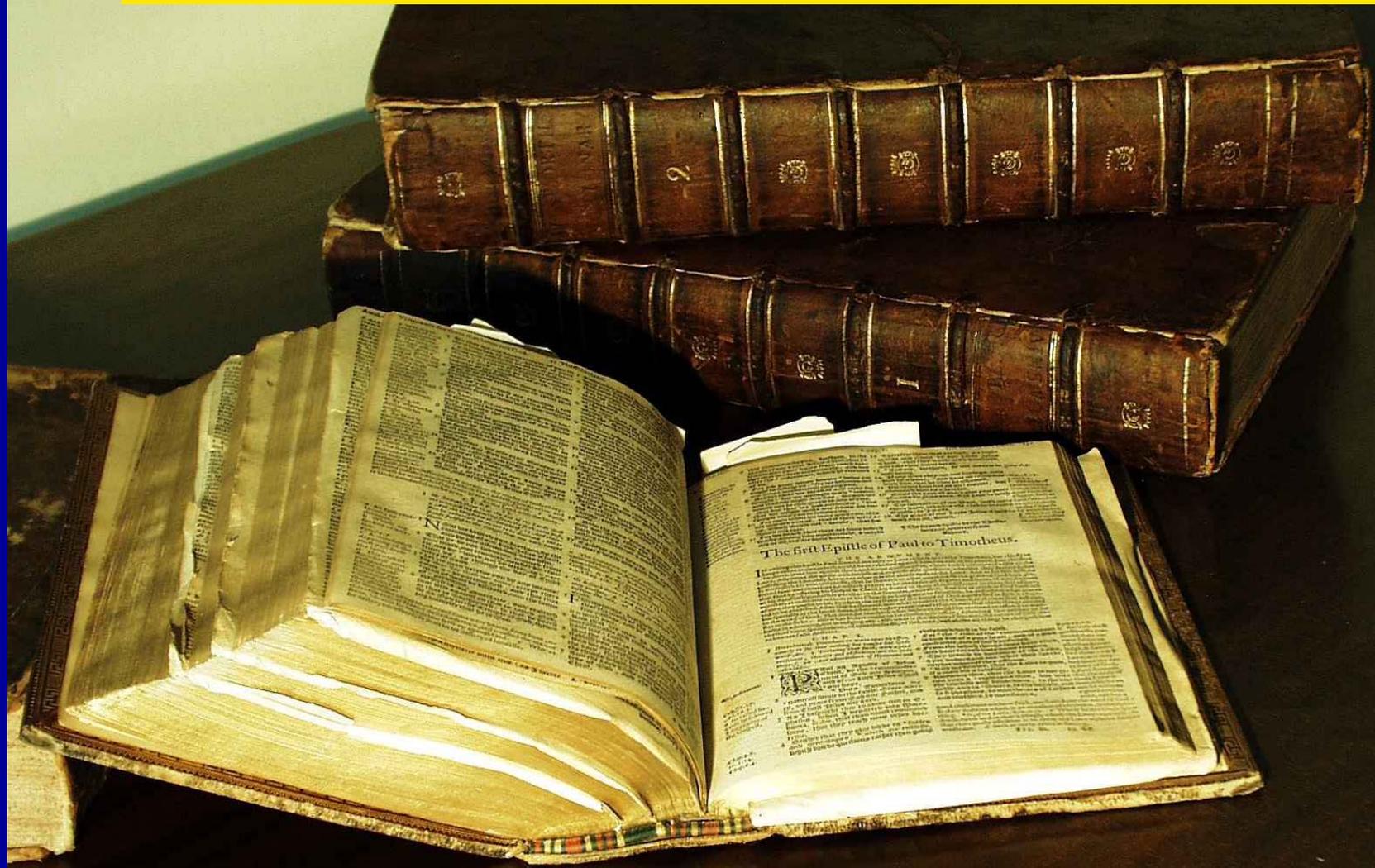
# Gregory's Writings



The first Epistle of Paul to Timotheus.

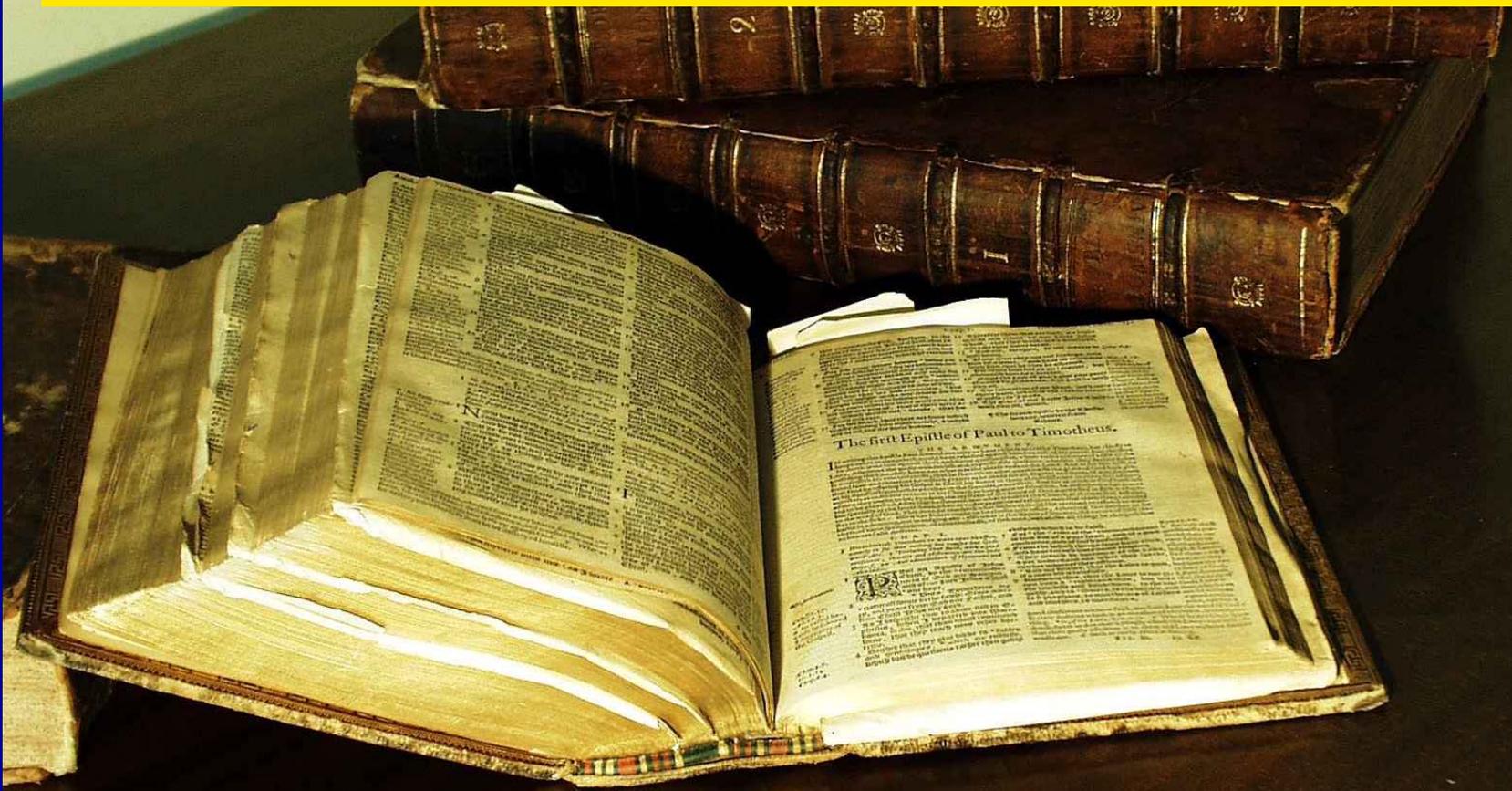
**P**aulus apostolus Iesus Christi et beatorum Petri et Pauli apostolorum eius ad Timotheum filium matris virginis salutem in sempiternis aeternis amen.

# “Divine utterances”



“Divine utterances”

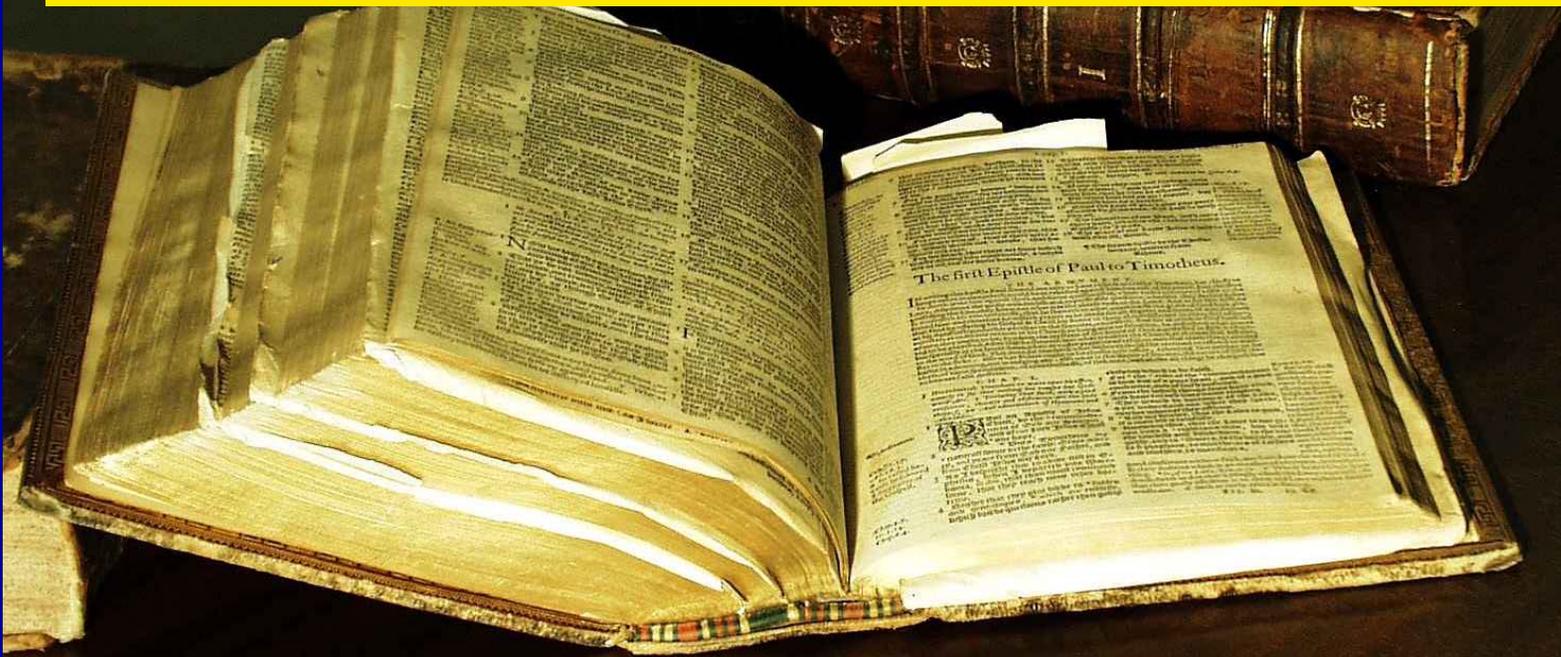
Holy Spirit is author; man is the pen



“Divine utterances”

Holy Spirit is author; man is the pen

Progressive revelation



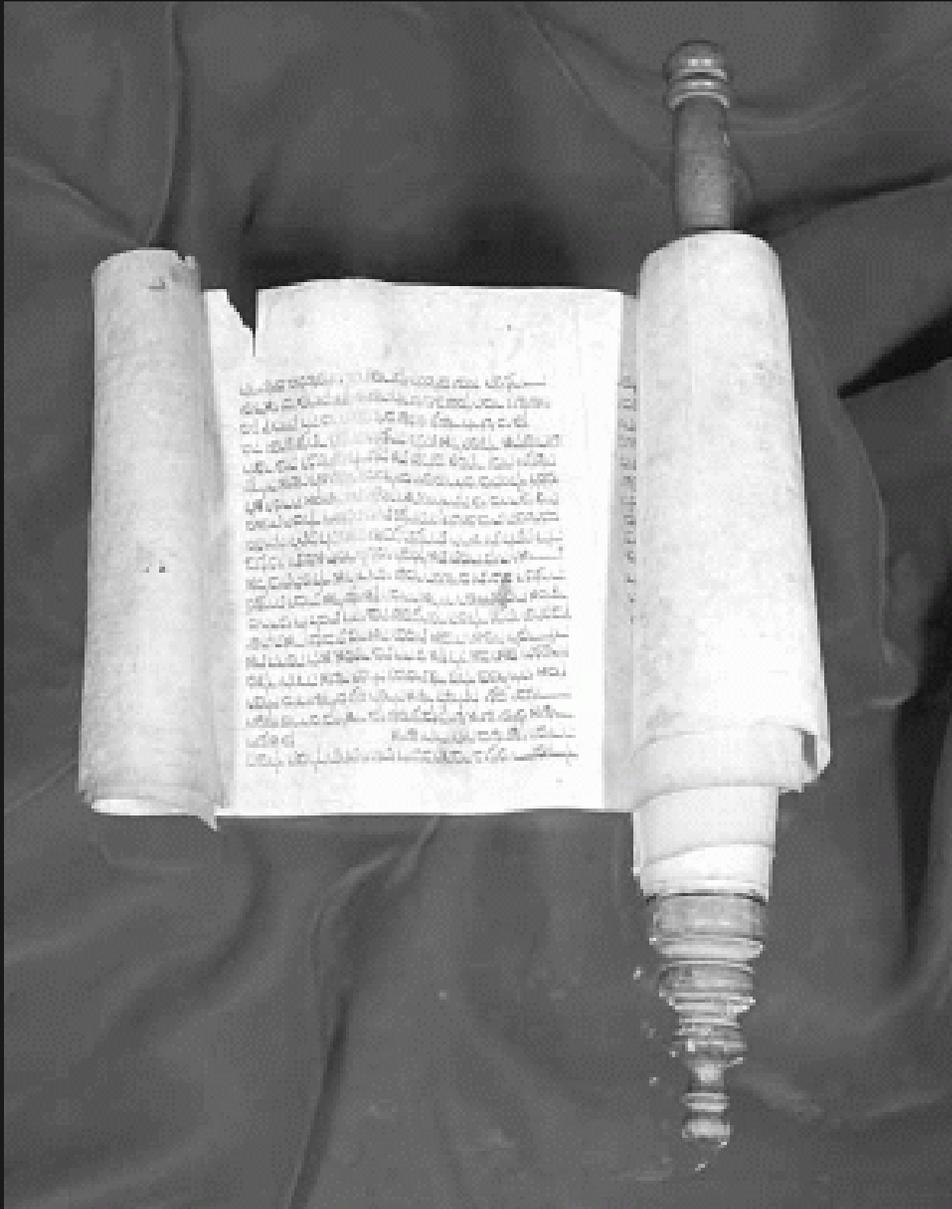
“Divine utterances”

Holy Spirit is author; man is the pen

Progressive revelation

Heavy on allegory





Ezekiel's two-sided scroll:  
the obvious side and the hidden side



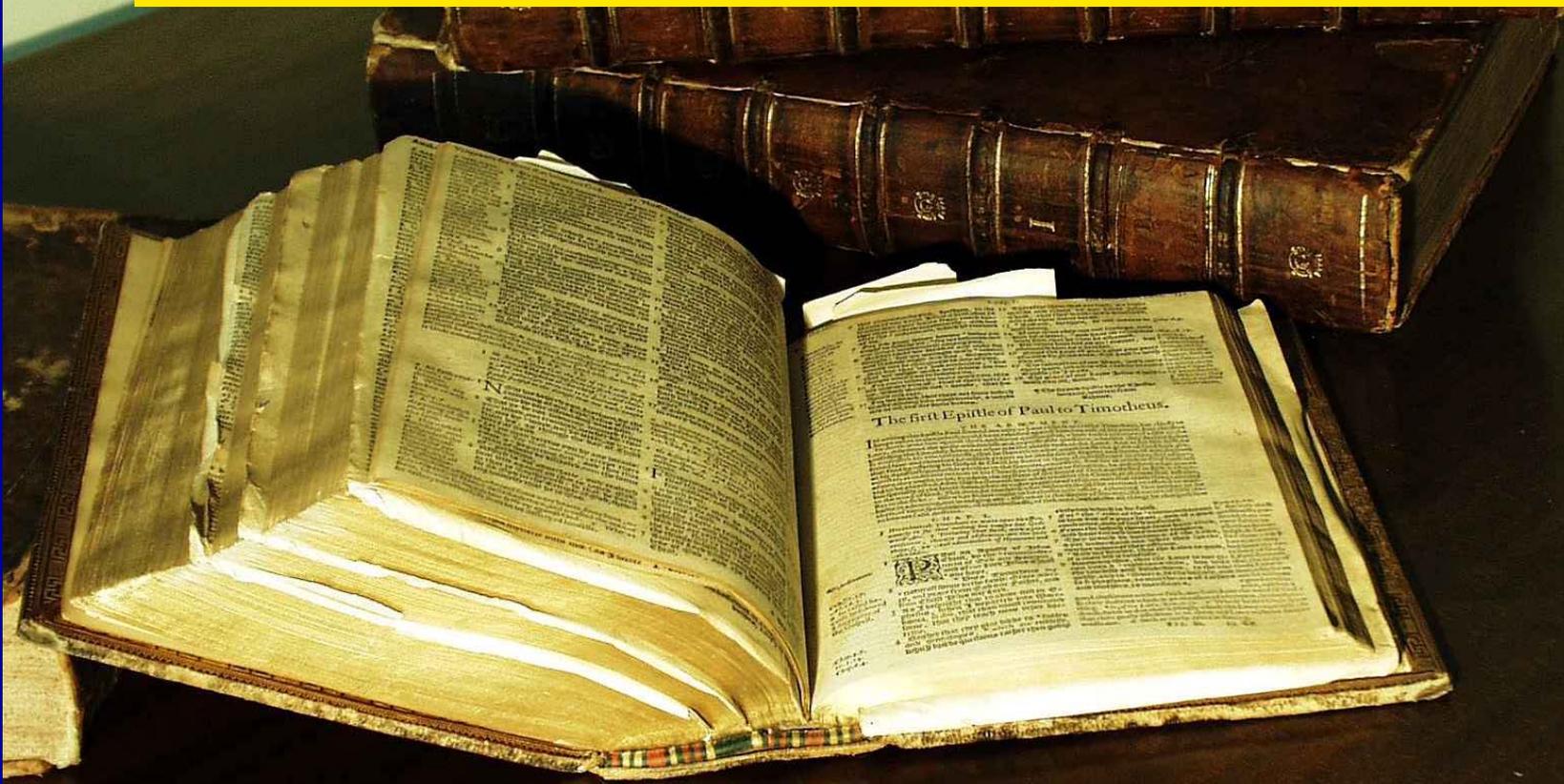


The first Epistle of Paul to Timotheus.

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**N**

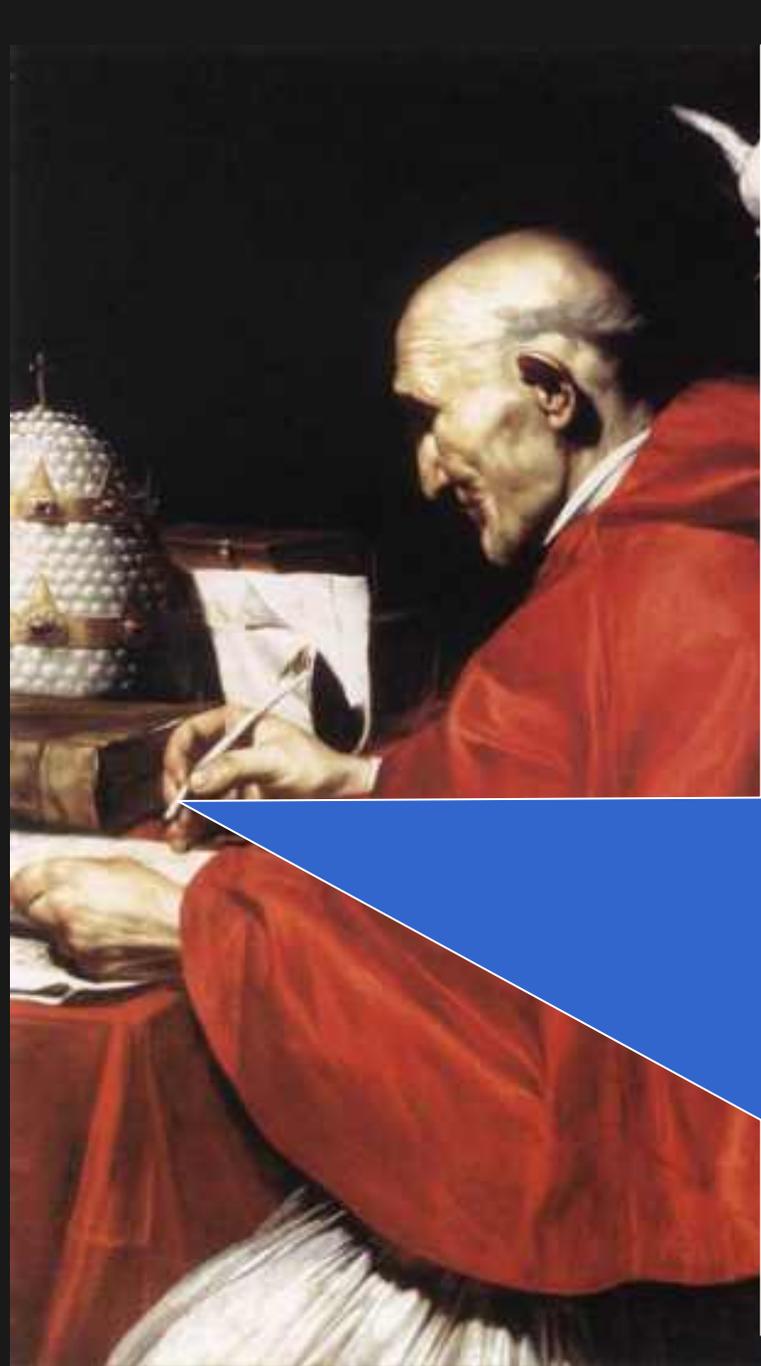
“God speaks to us with one purpose only, to draw us to love of himself and our neighbor”



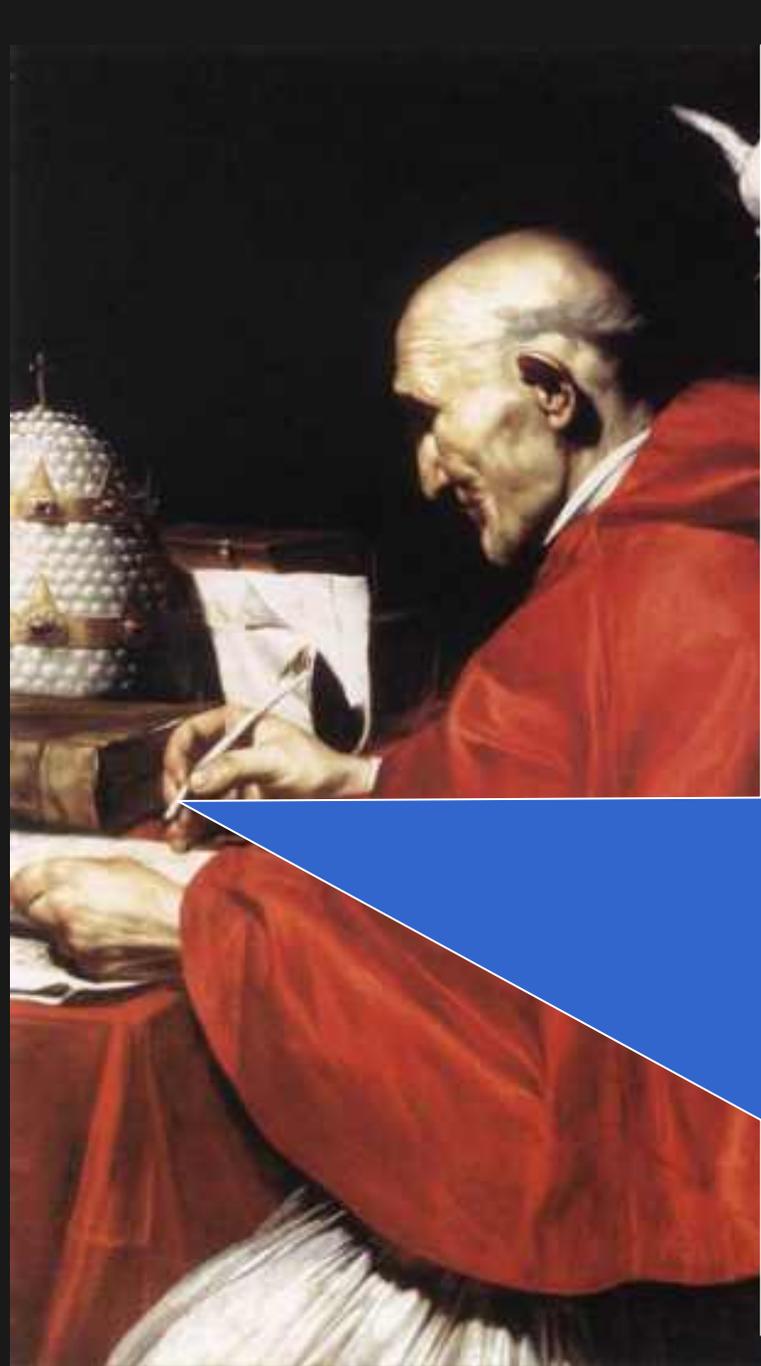


Gregory on  
the church





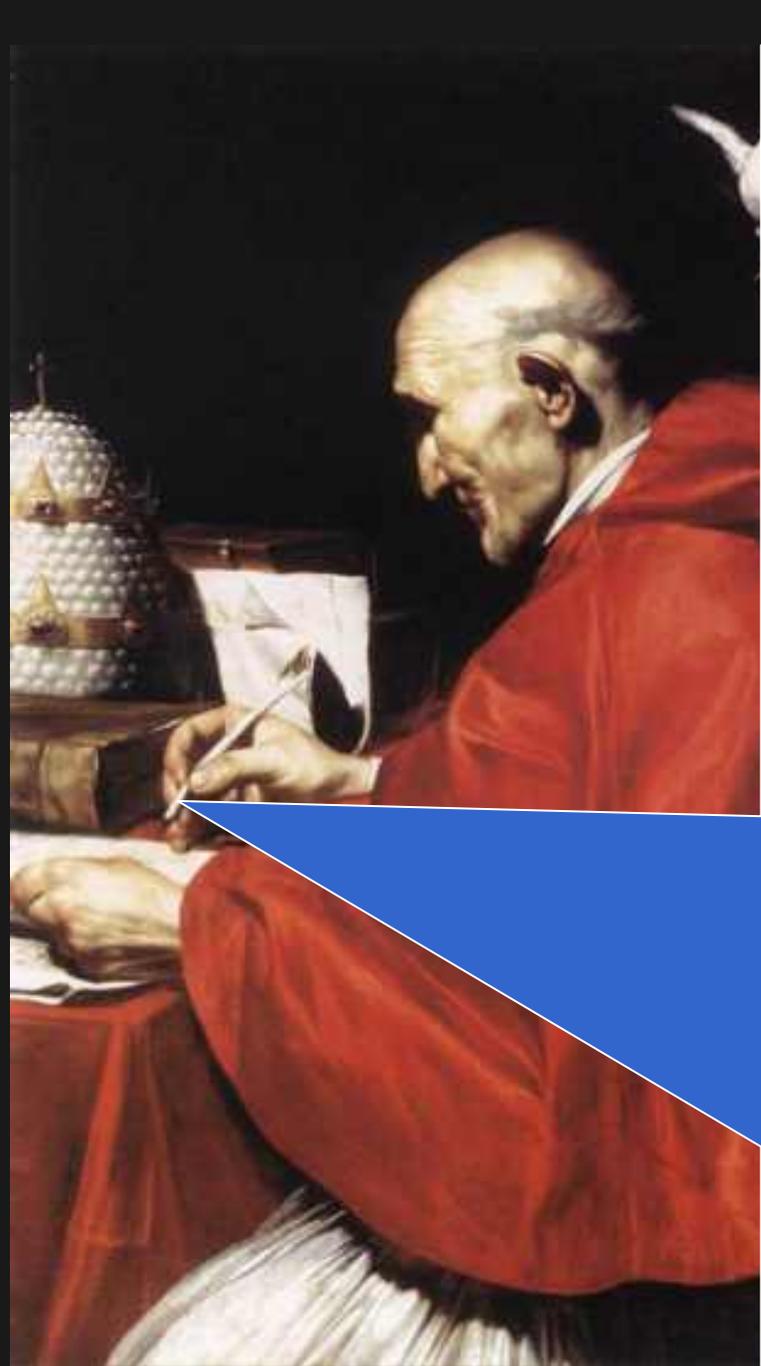
The man called to pastor should live spiritually, dying to all passions of the flesh; disregard worldly prosperity; be afraid of no adversary; desire only inward wealth; not led to covet things of others; through a heart of compassion quickly forgives...



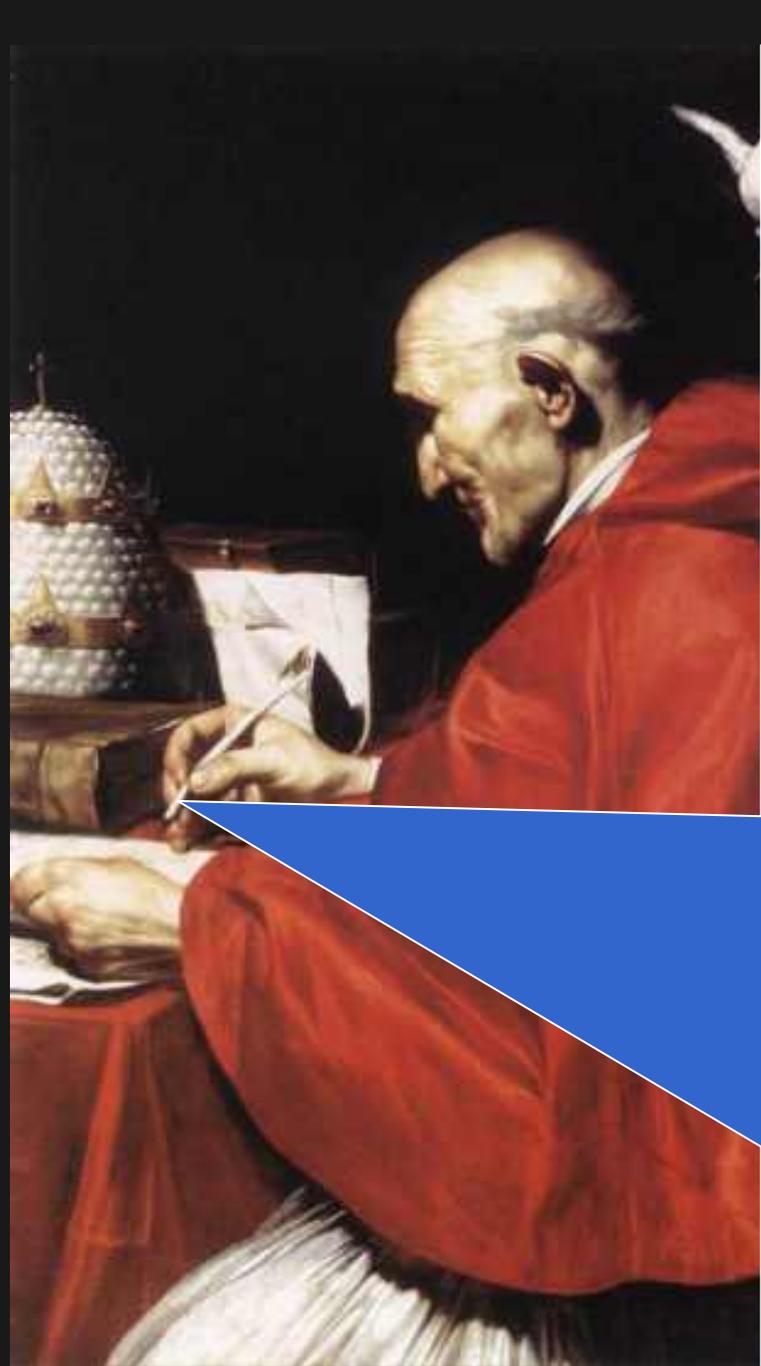
Pastors should understand how easily sin passes itself off as virtue. Often stinginess passes itself off as frugality, and on the other hand wastefulness hides as liberality. Wrath is often considered virtuous zeal; laziness with loving kindness.....

Pastors should understand the need to preach differently to different people





Admonish differently the simple and the insincere. The simple need to understand that as they always avoid deceit advantageously they should only speak truth advantageously. As lying always harms the liar, speaking truth can also sometimes cause harm.

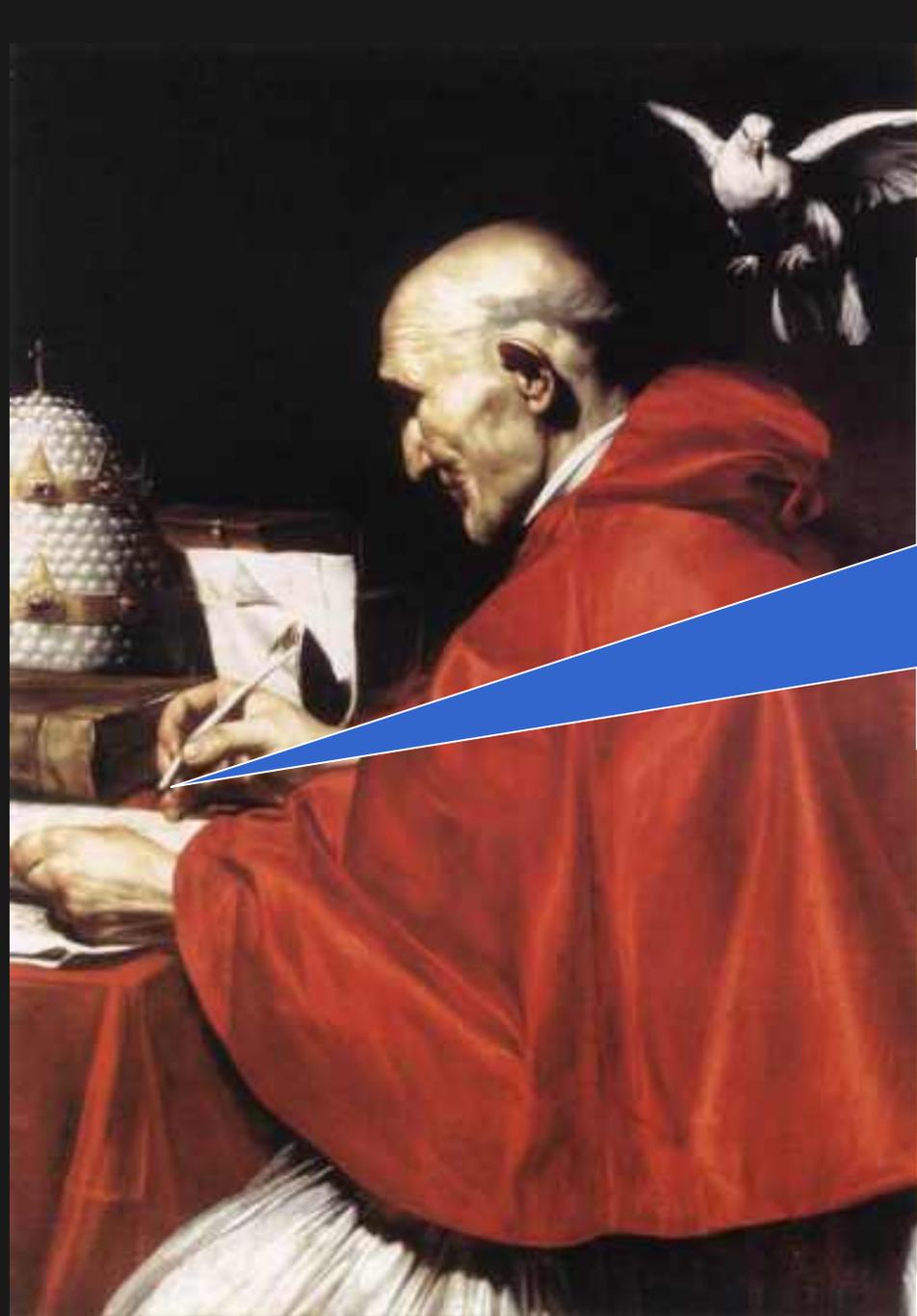


On the other hand, the insincere are admonished to learn the weight of deception. While afraid of being found out, they are often pushed into more lies and they worry over being caught. There is no better defense than sincerity, nothing easier to say than the truth.

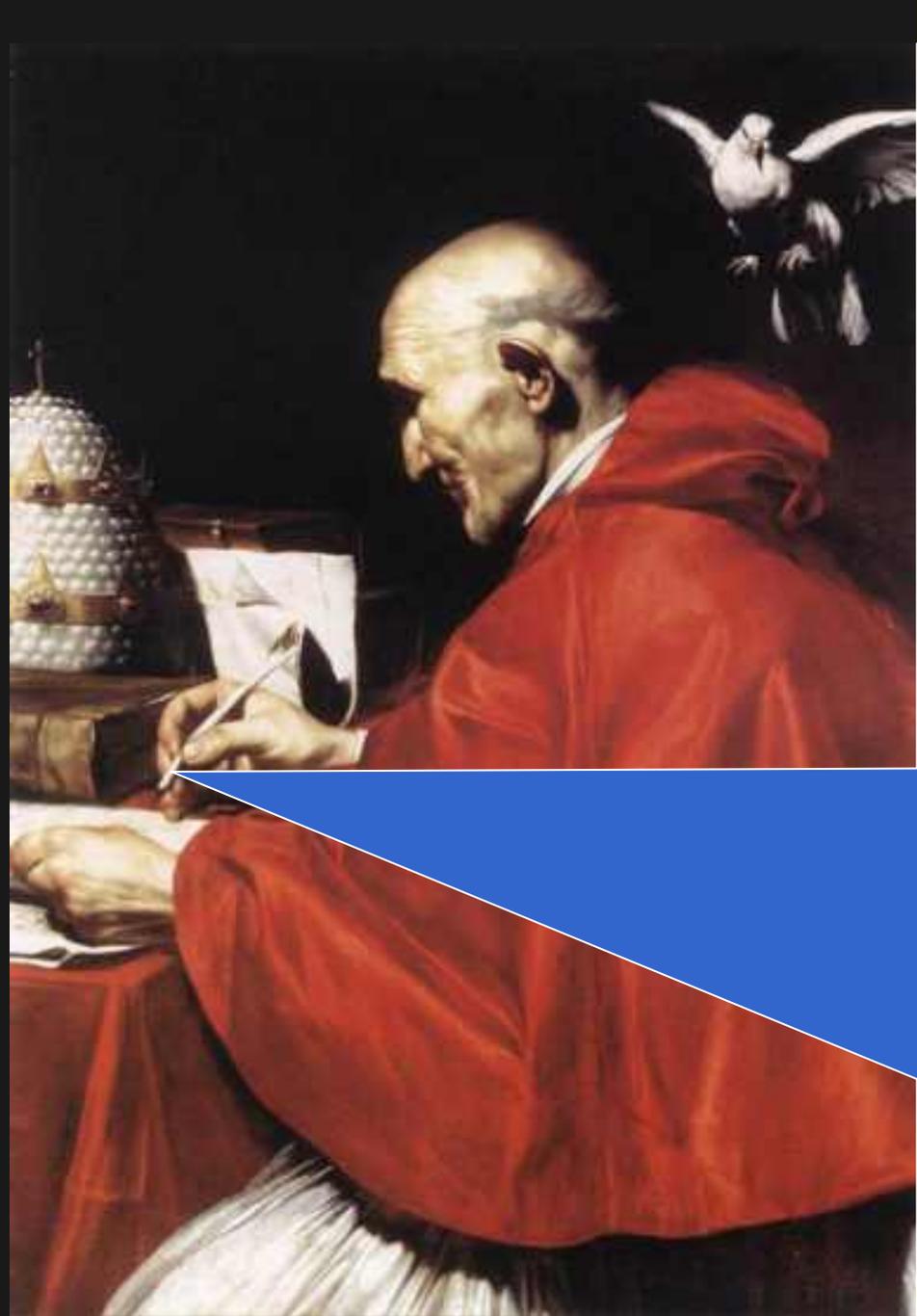


A heart for  
evangelism  
and a liking of  
puns

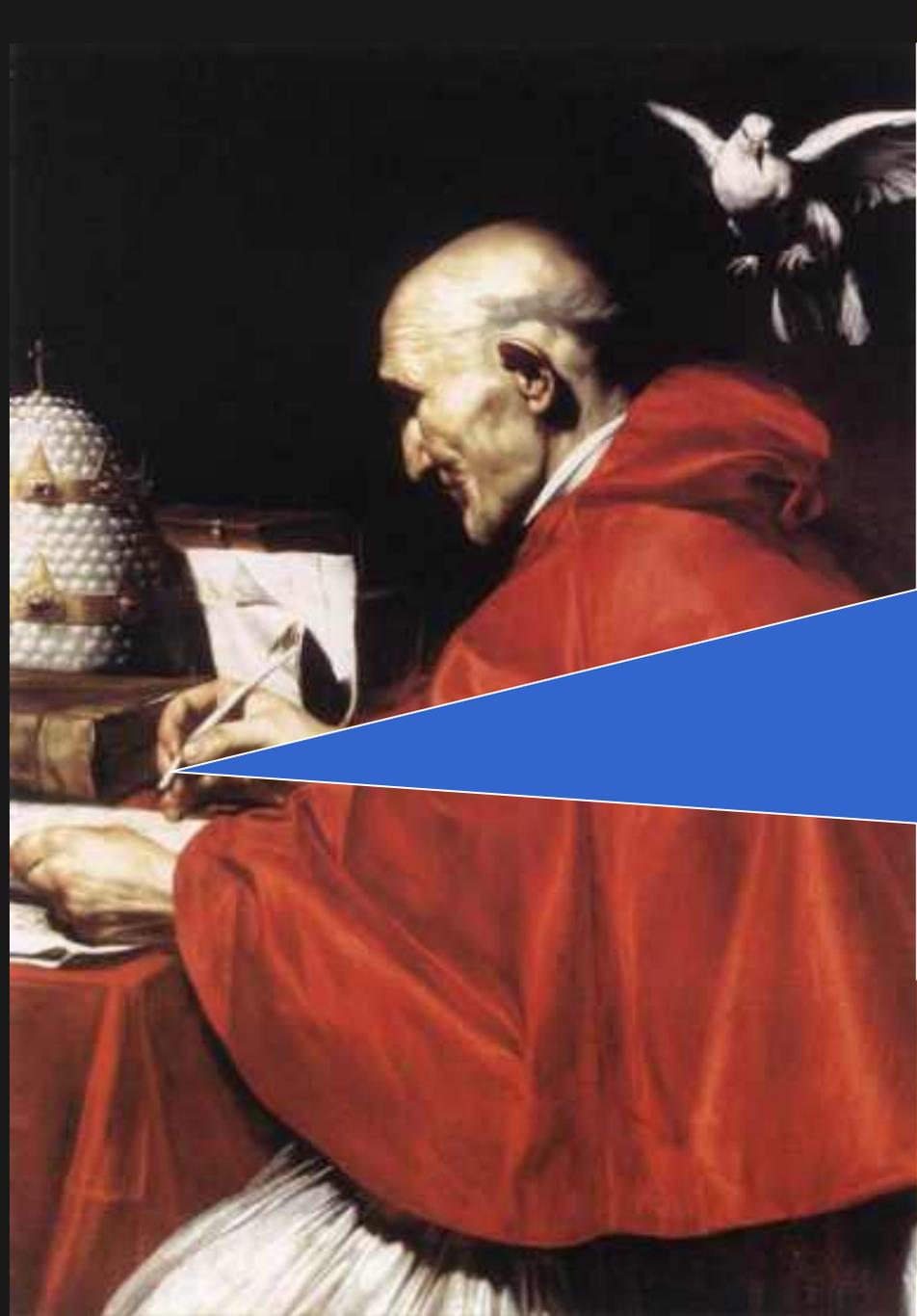




“All the earthly things we lose by keeping, can be kept by giving away.”



“There is a difference between an earthly building and a heavenly building: an earthly building is constructed by gathering together what you have; a heavenly building by scattering what you have.”



Some use the things of this world as a steward for God so they may enjoy God. Others rather use God in such a manner as to try and enjoy the world.

# Points for home

- Christianity is based on historical events.. We embrace that faith, not because it is convenient, nor because it is socially acceptable but because it is true.
- “And we are in Him who is true – even in His son Jesus Christ, He is the true God and eternal life.” (1 John 5:20)

# Points for home

- Live to please God

“Live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.”  
(1 Thes. 4:1)

# Points for home

- Don't let poor health stop you from accomplishing things for God

“For my power is made perfect in weakness.”  
(2 Cor. 12:7-10)