



Excerpt from *Christ Our Pascha*

**Reading and Explanation of Holy Scripture**

Inasmuch as Holy Scripture is the Word of God expressed in human words, the efforts of the human mind alone are insufficient for its interpretation. It is necessary to read and explain it in the Spirit, by whom it was written. Therefore, to discern the true meaning of the sacred texts, it is necessary to pay attention to the content and unity of all Scripture, taking into account the living Tradition the entire Church and the analogy of faith. St. Athanasius the Great warns us that quoting individual passages, torn from the wholeness of the Holy Scripture with no regard for the general context, can lead one astray. St. Jerome professes that the content of the gospel cannot be reduced to mere words:

*We should not suppose that the essence of the Gospel is in the words rather than in the actual meaning of Scripture, or on the surface rather than in the inmost parts, or in the leaves of mere words rather than in the root of reason... Scripture is advantageous to its hearers when it is spoken with Christ, when it is proclaimed with the Father, and when the preacher introduces it with the Spirit. (#51)*