

For about two years, I studied Chinese at a military language school. The first six months, I had a sore throat from trying to make sounds that I had never made before. The rest of the time I had funny dreams as my brain adapted to a totally new way of seeing the world.

Language shapes how we see life and how we think.

Today is the memorial of Saint Jerome. He lived in the fourth century and studied the Greek and Latin classics. He became a hermit and began to study Scripture. He went to the Holy Land to study Hebrew so that he could understand the Old Testament in its original form. He is best known for translating all of Scripture into Latin – what we know as the “Vulgate Bible” was translated into the vulgar language – that is, the common language of everybody.

Saint Jerome said,

“For if, as Paul says,
Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God,
and if the man who does not know Scripture
does not know the power and wisdom of God,
then ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”

In the first reading, St. Paul tells Timothy to “remain faithful to what you have learned and believed”

The word “remain” is often translated as “abide” that is “abide in faith” just as Jesus so often says “abide in me” or “make your home in me,” we are called to “abide in faith” that is, “make our home in faith.”

So often we are led to make our home in “money” or “pride” or “a college degree” or “a good job.” And while all of these things have their place, they should not be our home.

Sacred Scripture, the Word of God, does not speak the “language” of the world. Rather, it is written to reveal who God is for us. And like learning a language, reading Scripture will change the way we think, and give us a fresh perspective on life.

So, of course, we should abide in Jesus through the Word of God. It is a very praiseworthy practice to read a section the Bible every day. In fact, there are special Bibles that are set up to allow you to read all of Scripture, Old and New Testament in one year.

We should abide in, make our home in faith, hope and love. That is, make our home in Jesus and through him, make our home in God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Let us reflect today on where we have made our home ... and if we need to pack up and move so as to make our home in faith hope and love ... to make our home in the Father Son and Holy Spirit, then let us pray for the grace to make that move. So that we can abide in Him who has saved us, and loves us, and desires to spend all eternity with Him.