

Chapter 16

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What two things does Pentecost celebrate during Jesus' time?*

Pentecost celebrates the offering of the harvest's first fruits to the Lord, and it also memorializes God giving the Law to Moses to guide the Israelites.

2. *To what four activities do the early Christians devote themselves?*

The early Christians devote themselves to the teachings of the Apostles, communal life, breaking of the bread, and prayer.

3. *What is it about Paul's background that helps make him an effective preacher?*

Paul is a Roman citizen, which gives him important privileges. He is also a well-educated Jew who is fluent in Hebrew and Greek, which allows him to easily communicate with people from a variety of backgrounds. Paul studies with a respected rabbi and is a Pharisee. His education and talents allow him to convincingly preach to Jews and Gentiles.

4. *What are the Pauline letters? What are some of their themes?*

The Pauline letters are the thirteen New Testament letters attributed to Saint Paul or to disciples who wrote in his name. The letters offer advice, pastoral encouragement, teaching, and community news to early Christian communities. Nine of the letters are addressed to entire communities. The other four are letters to individuals. Themes in these four books include false preaching, advice on Church leadership, responsibilities of Church members, and moral advice.

5. *What are the Catholic letters? What are some of their themes?*

The Catholic letters are the eight non-Pauline letters in the New Testament addressed to the universal Church—all of the Christian communities. Some of the themes addressed in these letters are Christian unity, the divinity of Jesus Christ, God's love for us and our love for one another, resurrection of the dead, and moral advice.

6. *Why is the Book of Revelation so difficult to understand?*

The Book of Revelation is an example of apocalyptic literature, which uses symbolic language to offer hope to a people in crisis. John writes to encourage Christians to remain faithful and not give in to the Roman persecution.

7. *What is the point of the Book of Revelation?*

The Book of Revelation sends a message that is loud and clear: have courage and keep the faith, even in the face of death; there is a heavenly reward awaiting us; our deceased loved ones are experiencing that reward. It reminds us that God is with us, even in our darkest and most painful moments.

8. *What is the Deposit of Faith?*

The Deposit of Faith is the heritage of faith contained in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. It has been passed on from the time of the Apostles. Sacred Tradition and Scripture are two distinct modes of expressing the one Deposit of Faith.

9. *Who makes up the Magisterium, and what is their job?*

The Magisterium is the Church's living teaching office, which consists of all bishops, in communion with the Pope. Their responsibility is to pass on and interpret the Deposit of Faith, and to define and teach dogma.

