

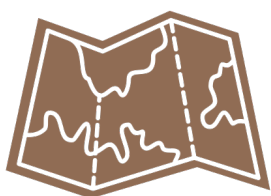
- The **terrain of Scripture** is fixed and unchanging.
- Scripture is the source and basis of the map of Tradition.
- Scripture is the primary focus of the surveying tool of Reason.
- Scripture feeds, governs, and tests the legitimacy of experience.
- While the map of Tradition is normative for faith, Scripture alone is the norm of norms—the final authority by which all is tested.



SCRIPTURE

The vast terrain that the Church received from God and is called to explore and build its faith on.

- The **surveying tool of Reason** is essential to study Scripture and to learn from and evaluate Tradition.
- Human reason is weak and fallible (noetic effects of sins).
- Good theological study requires constantly repairing and fine-tuning the instrument.
- One of the best ways to test the instrument is to compare it to the findings of thousands of other instruments (Tradition).



TRADITION

The map that 2,000 years of Christian “cartographers” agree accurately represents the terrain.

- The **map of Tradition** can err, but is the formidable consensus of 2,000 years of skilled, Spirit-filled “surveyors.”
- Tradition is a servant of the terrain of Scripture and is valuable insofar as it reflects it.
- The map provides a vital guide that orients us to the vast land of Scripture, its parts, and how they all fit together.
- Tradition helps travelers to stay within the boundaries of the land (orthodoxy).

The modern surveyor (interpreter) should spend most of his time on the land of Scripture itself, but would be foolish to throw out the map of Tradition and try to redraw it from scratch, relying only on his own instrument of Reason or his own hiking stories of Experience.



REASON

The surveying tool that Christians today and across time have used to survey the land and evaluate the map.

- The **hiking stories of Experience** can help to confirm or challenge conclusions.
- Hikers have a very limited perspective and must subject their professed experience to Scripture, Tradition, Reason.
- However, if ten thousand hikers all say that a particular slope is steeper than it appears on the map, then the cartographer is wise to re-survey that slope to ensure it is accurately represented.



EXPERIENCE

What thousands of travelers who have walked the terrain say about the land.