

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (*Matthew 5:18*)

Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – The Holiness of Truth versus the Falsities of our times

The truth of God's Word and His teachings stand unchanging forever whether they are believed in or not. God is unchanging, immutable (cf. Hebrews 13:8) and so are His Word, His teachings (cf. Matthew 5:18). How do we seek and find the truth? By putting our faith in Jesus Christ, only begotten Son of God and studying and adhering to His Word and teachings. *Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in Him, "If you remain in My Word, you will truly be My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32).* Only the Truth will set us free and give us the highest form of freedom – freedom from sin and eternal damnation. Only the Truth will save us. Jesus Christ is the eternal, unchanging Truth. *Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).*

Moral relativism is a popular but false ideology that is corrupting minds and conscience. According to this ideology, nothing is absolutely good or evil but it all depends on its surrounding factors. It is the new false religion of the modern man. Relativism rejects the existence of absolute moral norms / laws. Pope Benedict XVI said in his homily to the 2005 conclave that chose him as Pope: "We are moving toward a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognize anything as for certain and which has as its highest goal one's own ego and one's own desires." Pope Benedict XVI identified moral relativism as the major evil facing our Church today. Moral relativism stands in stark contradiction to our Christian doctrine which is from God and which presents to us with clarity and certainty, immutable divine truths and absolute moral norms and laws for our life on earth. Sin is sin and cannot be called another thing because of the circumstances surrounding the sin. A good intention cannot turn a sin into a good act. The trivializing of sin endangers our very salvation as unrepented sin is the only thing that separates us from God.

Situational Ethics, a derivative of moral relativism. The Church following the teaching of Christ presents to us absolute moral norms and laws with clarity and certainty and points out the way we should live in order to walk in the footsteps of Christ. Once we are able to accept Christ's teaching there is no confusion or ambiguity. The immutable divine commandments are laws given to us not to make life difficult for us but to help us walk on the path of truth which leads to eternal life. Jesus teaches us not to trivialise sin but to go and sin no more (cf. John 8:11, Matthew 5:14). On the other hand, situational ethics denies the validity of absolute moral norms or laws in judging the act, and says each case is unique and deserves a unique solution. Thus, the act is not adjudged according to the criteria of moral laws but to the context surrounding the act. Again, here we see the trivializing of sin.

Humanism, a rational outlook or thought that places human concerns above the divine will of God. An example in Scripture is when Jesus rebuked Peter saying: Get behind Me, Satan! You are an obstacle to Me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." (cf. Matthew 16:21-23) when Peter tried to discourage Him from carrying out His Father's will out of concern for Him. Placing human concerns above the divine will of God effectively produces a false god as it elevates self and ignores the supremacy of God over all. *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).* The popular and appealing but false religion of humanism which emphasizes the welfare of the person on top of everything including God, cannot save anyone. No amount of good acts done without faith in Christ can attain for us eternal salvation, for we are saved not by our good acts but by grace of Christ.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, only the Truth can save us from eternal damnation. You are the Eternal Truth through Whom we attain salvation. Give us all the grace to discern false doctrine so that we may always remain in Your Truth. Flood all minds with Your light of Truth and purify us of all falsehoods and lies which have been promoted by Satan and his human agents. Fill all hearts with holy love so that all minds can be opened to accept the saving truths of God. Give us great love for Your unchanging laws which are given to us so that we can have life, and have it abundantly. *The law of Your mouth is more precious to me than heaps of silver and gold (Psalm 119:72).* Help me love Your Truth and to live in Your Truth by adhering to Your teachings. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.
www.twohearts.hk