

Scripture Reading

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 1:8-9)

He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by Him you were called to fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection - Called to fellowship with Christ

Putting on the mind of Christ. The human mind is an important battlefield of Satan who wages an all-out war to win the hearts and minds of souls to follow his diabolical agenda. The level of deception and falsehood in the mindset of the world today is unprecedented. More than ever, we are called to put on the mind of Christ (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:16). To protect ourselves from the false ideologies of the world, we need to know and live the truths of our faith and meditate on God's Word daily. Only when we form our minds with the teachings of Christ will we be able to know the mind of Christ. Our strength against the strong influence of the secular world will be the purity and integrity of our faith in the person of Jesus Christ. Will we be able to resist the influence of the world and keep our faith pure and unadulterated and to resist amending the divine doctrine to accommodate human opinion and demands? Will we be able to accept everything that Christ teaches us and not cherry-pick only those teachings that appeal to us? Will we be able to maintain the purity and integrity of our faith even in times of persecution and adversity? The mind is subjected to many temptations. Will we be able to keep our mind pure and control its tendency to judge others, refrain from impure thoughts which can arise from the many impure images around us? Instead of allowing our minds to focus on useless matters, will we be able to train our minds to dwell on the things of heaven that can beautify our minds such as the Life and Passion of our Lord?

Putting on the heart of Christ. Our Christian faith is all about relationship with God and others. The first three of the Ten Commandments relate to our relationship with God. The remaining 7 relate to our relationship with others. The two great commandments which Jesus gives us are all about loving God above all things and people, and loving others as much as ourselves (cf. Matthew 22:37-39, Luke 10:27). On the day we come before God for our judgement, we will not be judged by the level of our earthly achievements but how we loved God and others. Jesus shows us the way to true joy: *If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is My commandment: love one another as I love you (John 15:10-12).* Love is not from our own goodness but is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, Who has been given to us (cf. Romans 5:5). We have been called to love like Christ, to put God first and others ahead of ourselves.

Called to be in communion with Christ. *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with Me (Revelation 3:20).* Jesus stands knocking on the door of our hearts. He invites us to allow Him to be the Lord of our lives out of our love for Him. He does not force His way in. We open our heart to Him in love when we show obedience to His commandments and filial submission to His will. In this way, we enthrone Him in our heart; it is not by sentiment but a firm commitment to walk in His footsteps. Thus, we eschew unforgiveness, grudges, bad desires or attachment to sin. We are called to live a life of grace with Christ. For this reason, the Holy Spirit has been given to us at Baptism. The Holy Spirit is the master of our interior life Who works tirelessly on our sanctification through the graces Christ merited for us through His Passion. We are not asked to rely only on our human power but to open our hearts to God's grace by which nothing is impossible if it is within God's will.

Called to share the mission of Christ. The Last Commissioning given to us by Christ moments before He ascended into heaven makes the Church and every one of God's children a holy partaker of Christ's divine mission. *Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20).* Each of us has been given unique gifts from God to equip us for our role in God's plan of salvation for the world. Each of our contribution is unique and needed. Do I realize my important role and rise up to this mission?

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, the praise of God will always be on my lips as I recall the vastness of His generosity and the greatness of His wisdom. Through His own divine power God raises up a poor sinner like me and calls me to fellowship with You. Give me the graces I need to truly understand the greatness of this calling, rise up to this undeserved privilege and honour, and return all glory to my Heavenly Father. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.