

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Book of Psalms (*Psalms 119:93, 104-105*)

I will never forget Your precepts; through them You give me life. Through Your precepts I gain understanding; therefore I hate all false ways. Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection - The best compass for life in these troubled times

God's Word is truth (cf. John 17:17). We live in an unprecedented time when truth is increasingly ignored and repudiated. People are less inclined to seek the truth than to appear to be politically correct. False ideologies abound and are promulgated like religion. Falsehoods are dressed up to look true and good. The truth of the existence of God comes under increasing attack, and signs attributing to His existence banished from the public space. Christian truths and virtues come under ridicule and criticism as they run counter to the unruly desires and behaviour of those who seek not the truths of God but to appease their ego and uncontrolled bodily passions. Thus, God is not acknowledged as God but instead the creature receives adulation. *They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and revered and worshiped the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever (Romans 1:25)*. St Paul tells us that by wicked acts, people suppress the truth and incur the wrath of God (cf. Romans 1:18). *Therefore, God handed them over to degrading passions. Their females exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the males likewise gave up natural relations with females and burned with lust for one another (Romans 1:26-27)*. St Paul's prophetic message describes aptly our western society at this moment when a big sexual revolution is unfolding with people taken to identifying themselves by their sexual orientation. It is a world of increasing sexual perversity. Scripture clearly tells us God made mankind male and female (cf. Genesis 1:27). To claim to be otherwise is to reject the truth and indulge in fantasy at the detriment of one's salvation. In such a situation when falsehoods are treated like truths, we need God's Word more than ever to uncover all that is false and which opposes our salvation. It is the Truth that will set us free from eternal damnation (cf. John 8:32). Jesus Christ is the eternal Truth (cf. John 14:6).

Totally reliable and unchanging, God's Word is the absolute, highest moral standard leading to eternal life. A false ideology popular in recent times is moral relativism. This false ideology says nothing is absolute but all is relative and subjective. False ideologies are inspired by the Enemy of our Salvation to ignore and contradict the voice of the conscience and to deflect guilt feelings arising from wrong doings. Thus, excuses are given for wrong doings, and sins are not recognized as such and repented of but are dressed up to appear good and worth having. God's laws as shined in His Word provide us with the highest moral authority that God has over us. God's Word stands forever. *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will not pass away (Matthew 24:35)*. God's Word is absolutely reliable. *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16)*. It is the Holy Spirit Who inspires the writers of the books of the Bible. Thus, God's Word imparts divine teaching to live a life on earth that will prepare us for a life of eternity with God. It contains the eternal truths of God that can reveal to us anything that is contrary to the truth even if packaged to look good. God's Word provides good training in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, model and source of life. After Jesus gave the teaching on the Bread of Life, many disciples could not take it, and left Him (cf. John 6:66). Jesus turned to the Apostles and asked them whether they would leave Him too. St Peter answered: *Master, to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that You are the Holy One of God (John 6:68-69)*.

God gives us the grace to adhere to the Word of God. *Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to His call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life (CCC 1996)*. The Holy Spirit is given to us at Baptism and is the master of our interior life. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, the minds and hearts of those who are obedient to Christ and His teachings become transformed and enlightened in order to be strengthened to walk on the true path leading to our true home with our Heavenly Father Who has prepared for those who love Him what no eyes have seen, nor ears have heard nor the human mind ever perceived (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9).

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You are the Incarnate Word of God. I have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and abiding Word of God (cf. 1 Peter 1:23). Your Word is living and truth. Being the truth, it can reveal to me all that is false. There is no better standard and bearer of truth than the Word of God. God's truths will set me free from the moral confusion of this world and eternal damnation. Please give me a great love and thirst for Your Word so that I will always walk on the path of truth which leads to eternal gladness with You. Let Your Word be a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.