

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (*Ephesians 3:16-19*)

I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know **this love that surpasses knowledge** - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – Christ's love surpasses knowledge – Knowledge must lead to God in order to have salvific value

Can our limited human mind fully understand Christ's love for us? God is a mystery. His wondrous love for us is also a mystery. In our present human condition, it is not necessary for our salvation to understand the full extent of God's love for us, given our limited human understanding. What is more important is that we reflect constantly upon His love and grow in love for Him daily and to manifest this love in our relationship with God and with others. Holy love encapsulated God's commands, His laws and precepts and will be our passport to our eternal home in heaven where God has lovingly prepared a place for each and every one of His precious children.

We need to learn about our faith. *My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6).* We need to know God's commandments, His precepts, His laws so that we can live a life of consecration as promised through our Baptism, in preparation for our eternal life. With an open heart, we need to listen attentively to the Holy Spirit in God's Word, in Sacred Tradition and in the authentic teaching office of the Church and to each other, in a spirit of genuine discernment.

Knowledge must be assimilated in the heart in order to lead to a greater love and devotion to God. *Jesus said: "These people honour Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me" (Matthew 15:8).* Our society places great value on knowledge. People may be impressed by and strive to attain great intellect and extensive knowledge but what God really treasures is a loving heart of every person. Great intellect and knowledge are but gifts from God whilst holy love in a heart is a correspondence to God's grace and an exercise of human freewill. Thus, the impressive knowledge of a scientist of how a sub-atomic particle works, if it remains only on the intellectual level and does not lead to an appreciation of the awesome power of and love for the Creator, remains for him only a passing earthly value. The same applies for a theologian with an impressive knowledge of Sacred Scripture. *If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing (1 Corinthians 13:2).*

God reveals His mysteries not to the intellectual but to the simple hearted. *At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children (Matthew 11:25).* The simple hearted has an open heart to receive revealed divine mysteries and can transmit them to the heart where it will provide fuel for greater faith, love and devotion to God. God's graces are not wasted on the simple and humble. **Knowledge by itself can lead to intellectual and spiritual pride which works against God.** The explosion of knowledge, God's gift to mankind, in the twenty-first century has not led to a concomitant increase in devotion to God but instead has been harnessed to pander to mankind's insatiable need for entertainment, pleasures, comfort and convenience.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You said, "Learn of Me for I am meek and humble of heart." I come before You as a child open to learning this virtue. Let my faith be simple. Let me rely on You alone and not on Your gifts. Allow me to use Your gifts in such a way so as to grow closer to You. May every knowledge I have of You touch my heart and etched in it a deeper faith, a growing and active love for You, stronger trust in You and a great hunger in my soul for You. May all my thoughts, words and actions be founded on charity in truth. Mary, Protectress of the Faith, pray for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus. www.twohearts.hk