

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection ~ Seeing Myself through the Blood of Christ

The Enemy of our souls accuses us before God day and night (cf. Revelation 12:10). The Deceiver also called the Accuser or the Father of all Lies works hard to undermine Christ's work of redemption in any way that He can. He goes before the throne of God and spreads lies about us. He tries to insert negative thoughts into our conscience accusing us to make us feel guilty even though we may already have confessed our sins and repented of them. He tries to sow doubts, mistrust and guilty feelings into our minds that will breed the spiritual poison of unforgiveness of ourselves and others. Unforgiveness breeds bitterness which opens the doorway to more and stronger evil influence by the evil spirits.

The spiritual debts due to our sins are paid in full by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Scripture tells us that Christ died once and for all to take away all our sins which we repent of. Our sins are not merely covered but taken far away from us. *As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us (Psalm 103:12).* Can we measure how far the east is from the west on a revolving globe? After God has forgiven our sins, He says: *"Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."* (cf. Hebrews 10:17). If God chooses to forget our repented sins why should we live in regret in the unhappy past and live an unfulfilled life?

Unforgiveness of self is manifesting lack of trust in God's Word and His goodness. When we succumb to the temptation to live in regret and unforgiveness of ourselves even after we have confessed and repented of our sins, we cooperated with the Enemy of our souls in undermining Christ's mighty and precious work of redemption and salvation on the Cross. *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins (Matthew 6:14-15).* Should we expect God to forgive us our sins if we do not forgive ourselves? We put God to the test!

Bitterness, the unsavoury fruit of unforgiveness, opens our souls to spiritual defilement (cf. Hebrews 12:15). Unforgiveness gives rise to the root of bitterness which leads to the spiritual defilement (spiritual uncleanness) of many. The root of bitterness lies below the surface, it is not an outward manifestation but nourishes and produces negative responses in thoughts, words and actual deeds. It can be hidden in an outwardly cheerful person. Nonetheless, bitterness is a spiritual poison which predisposes the soul to spiritual weakness. It is a strategy of Satan to gain an advantage over souls. St. Paul reminds us: *Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven - if there was anything to forgive - I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes (2 Corinthians 2:10-11).* Unforgiveness in the heart is one of the major schemes of Satan for the ruin of souls rendering Christ's work of salvation on the Cross for such souls useless.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You died an agonising death on the Cross so that You can take away all my sins, paying in full for them. Through Your Precious Blood I can stand in front of the throne of our Heavenly Father fully justified as if I had never sinned! So wonderful and complete is Your redemption and salvation that in You I am made a new creation (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17). Remove in me all my wrong way of thinking and the negative strongholds in my mind that deny Your wonderful truth (cf. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5), and that cause me to dwell in guilt of my past sins which I have already repented of. Through the power of Your Precious Blood tear down all the untruths in my mind and I subject my mind into complete obedience to You. Implant Your truth in my mind and heart so that I may never take Your salvation for granted nor undermine the precious work of Your redemption in my soul. Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.