



Scripture nugget - Our faith exposes the false ideologies of the world

So, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him, rooted in Him and built upon Him and established in the faith as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one captivate you with an empty, seductive philosophy according to human tradition, according to the elemental powers of the world and not according to Christ (Colossians 2:6-8).

Christ, the truth (cf. John 14:6) and the light of the world (cf. John 8:12). Jesus tells us that He is the light of the world and that those who follow Him will not walk in the darkness but will have the light of life (cf. John 8:12). After His Ascension, Jesus sent His disciples the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth that teaches us all things and reminds us of everything Jesus taught us (cf. John 14:26). We need the wisdom and perspective of God in order to see things in their true worth in relation to the attainment of our eternal life. We need the divine light of truth in order to discern the truth of the difference between good and evil. Unless a conscience is properly formed in the truth and values that Christ teaches us, it is hard for it to discern the difference between good and evil especially when evil is presented to look deceptively good. Thus, they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand (cf. Matthew 13:13).

God's Word, the Truth (cf. John 17:17) is the antidote against the false philosophies of the world: materialism, secularism, individualism, relativism, etc. After Jesus multiplied the loaves and fish to feed thousands of people, the crowds later searched for Him looking for more free food. Jesus understood their intention and exhorted them: *Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on Him the Father, God, has set His seal (John 6:27).* Humanity remains unchanged 2,000 years later. In its insatiable, relentless pursuit for material goods, wealth, creature comforts and pleasures, it is deaf to the higher calling God is making to each person made in the image of Christ. As a result of not giving God His rightful place in its life, the soul turned inwards and made himself the centre of His existence. Thus Christ says: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself (cf. Matthew 22:37, 39). Loving God, our Highest Good above all else will restore the right order of this world, heal us of all selfish tendencies and empower us to love others with a pure unconditional love for the sake of God. Fallen humankind is prone to serve its ego and justify its selfish behaviour by telling itself nothing is absolutely right or wrong but everything is relative. To this Christ exhorts us: Be perfect as the Heavenly Father is perfect (cf. Matthew 5:48). We are not to make excuses for our sins but to strive with God's grace for holiness. Christ through His Passion, Death and Resurrection has merited for us the graces we need in order to be holy and blameless in His sight.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, though I am in this world, I am not of this world (cf. John 17:16). Protect me from the corruption of this world. Fill me with the Spirit of Truth. Form my conscience in the truth and flood my mind with God's light and eternal truths. God's Word is Truth (cf. John 17:17). Help me embrace God's Word, to study it, meditate it and live it daily. Impart to me discernment, a gift of the Holy Spirit so that I can stand firm against the false, deceiving ideologies of the world. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.