

## Scripture Reading

### A Reading of the Letter of St Paul to the Colossians (*Colossians 3:1-4*)

Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

### Reflection – Chicken or Eagle?

**Our high calling is not properly understood.** A priest told this story: There was a bird growing up in the backyard of a farmer. This bird looked a little odd and the people said it was a chicken together with the other chickens of the farmer. Indeed, it behaved like a chicken pecking away like the other chickens. It did not know that there was a blue sky overhead and glorious sunshine around. One day, a visiting friend of the farmer who was a professor looked at it and realized that this particular bird was not a chicken at all despite the opinion of those around. The professor took this strange-looking bird and climbed up the mountain and waited until sunrise. And then he turned the head of the bird towards the sun and said, “Eagle, fly, Eagle!” The odd-looking chicken shook itself, spread out its pinions and took off – and soared and flew away into the horizon!

**We struggle with our true identity.** In our earthly pilgrimage we take on many roles: child, brother, sister, spouse, parent, occupational roles, social roles, spiritual roles, etc. as our life progresses from childhood into adulthood. We may identify ourselves with the nature of our work, the associations or clubs that we join, the schools or tertiary institutions that shaped our intellect, a particular church, etc. As our life makes its natural progression, the focus of our identity may change as all earthly roles are transient and end finally with death. St Paul gives us a great example on how to always cling on to our true identity, one that will stretch into eternity. In every one of his letters to the faith communities that he set up, St Paul in the beginning of every letter, always asserted his identity as an Apostle of Christ. St Paul was very focused and very aware of who He was, and this is what gave him great zeal and passion for God’s Kingdom. Yes, St Paul soared very high and is a great shining example for us who are called like him to be Apostles of Christ (Cf. Romans 1:1-5), sons and daughters of the Most High (Cf. 1 John 3:1). *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).*

**We are not much in touch with our souls, hence fail to recognize our inner hunger and thirst for God.** Our most important possession is our soul that is given by God and which is made for eternity to share God’s eternal life, joy and peace. God made our souls for His own glory for it is only in God that our soul finds its rest (cf. Psalm 62:1). *My soul yearns, yes, even pines and is homesick for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out and sing for joy to the living God (Psalm 84:2).* “Homesick for the courts of the Lord” – our true home is in heaven. Though called to be an “eagle” to soar above the bounds of this temporary earthly life, we are more busy behaving like “chickens” in the above-mentioned story pecking away, unaware of the blue sky overhead and glorious sunshine around.

**We go for the lesser things and are distracted by the false lights of this world.** We imitate other “chickens” and are unable to rise like an “eagle”. The findings of relevant social studies have always pointed out a great influence of the environment on the life of a person. Hence, it is no great surprise that if we constantly associate with people whose appetites and goals are only earthly, we are also earthly in our aspirations and desires. *Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night (Psalm 1:1-2).*

### Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, thank You for calling me out of darkness into Your wonderful light. I have been called to a great, indestructible hope. A great future awaits me and my true home is in heaven with You. Give me the graces and strength to prepare for the great day when I will stand in Your righteousness before the throne of God, meriting the glorious incorruptible crown of glory that will be mine. As St Paul has reminded me, I should prepare for this great day more seriously and zealously than the competitors for the Olympic crown. Mary, Mother of Salvation pray for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.