

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading from the Gospel according to John (John 17:14-17)**

I have given them Your Word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Reflection – Cling to the Word of God to remain in the truth of Christ**

**The popular thinking in the world today on morality is that there is no absolute truth but everything is relative depending on how you look at it.** In the secular world few believe in the existence of absolute truths – truths that will remain unchanged irrespective of time or space or circumstances or whether they are believed in or not. Instead, many easily accept the false thinking that everything is relative depending on how you feel or what your culture is or what situation you are in. According to this deceptive thinking, nothing is absolutely right or wrong. The attraction of this way of thinking is obvious. No one is challenged to reform one's life, no one is internally convicted of the wrong he/she has done. It is another of Satan's cleverly disguised deceit to trip humankind. Since sin is not recognized as sin, there is no need for repentance or a Saviour, reinforcing the rejection of the unchanging truth of the existence of God.

### **Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6).**

Debunking the relativism thinking on morality, Jesus makes a claim that nobody else can. It is an absolute claim, there is no element of relativism here. It is clear and simple. As the only begotten Son of God, Jesus is absolutely the way to God the Father, absolutely the eternal truth and absolutely source of eternal life. Outside of Jesus, there is no way to the Father, no eternal truth, no eternal life. Jesus is the only begotten Son of God whether or not people believe in this eternal truth. There is nothing we can do to change the truth. *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).*

### **God's Word is truth (cf. John 17:17).**

Jesus is the Word Incarnate. *The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us (John 1:14).* Christ's disciples were amazed at the authority with which He preached to them unlike their teachers of the law and the scribes (cf. Matthew 7:29). What they did not realize is that Jesus is the Word Incarnate, He is merely teaching about Himself and all the things He stands for, His divine values, His eternal truths. Unlike other teachers whose point of reference necessarily has to be higher than themselves, His point of reference is none other than in Himself for there is no name in the whole of universe that is higher than His. *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away (Matthew 24:35).* The Word of God stands unchanged even if everything else passes away. Thus, it is absolutely reliable and relevant to us in any of our life situation. *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).*

### **The truth will set us free (cf. John 8:32).**

God's divine truths have the power to break our unholy bondages of sin and evil, impart divine grace to us and make us holy in God's sight (cf. John 17:17). God's power is present in His Word. *For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).* The Word of God has power over our body, mind, soul and spirit. Are we open to its life-giving power? The Word of God can discern and dispel the falsehoods that Satan encouraged or implanted in our thinking. It can help us discern the falsity of things or ideas promoted as good and true. It can convict us of our false feelings or our wrong doings when we are open to God's will. God's Word is a powerful weapon and safeguard against the falsity in our present confused world where sin is celebrated and proclaimed as good.

### **Conversation with Jesus:**

Precious Lord, You are the Incarnate Word. You are the absolute Eternal Truth. Outside of You, there is no lasting good or truth. Through following Your divine teachings and commandments in fidelity to Your loving will, help me live the truth, speak the truth and impart the truth in this world where truth is not given its proper place but where falsities prevail. It is the Truth that will set us free, free from demonic deception and eternal condemnation. Your Word is truth. Let Your Word be the joy of my heart and the light to my feet. Give me the strength to build my life upon Your Word so that when the storm of adversity and persecution comes, my faith will remain strong, unwavering and steadfast. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.