

## Scripture Reading

### A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 10:31)

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

## Reflection - Living for the glory of God – A Purpose driven life

**God made us for His own glory (cf. Colossians 1:16) and finally to share in His glory (cf. 2 Corinthians 3:18).** We do not just happen to be born. Before the foundation of the earth was formed, God thought about and has a plan for each of us (cf. Ephesians 1:4, Jeremiah 29:11). No matter how useless we may feel, there is a divine purpose to each human life God has given. In God's eyes there is no such thing as a useless life or over-population. These are the problems brought about by selfish human action acting against the will of God.

**God sets us apart to be His chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His special possession to declare His praises (cf. 1 Peter 2:9).** God has called each of us who are baptized in a very special way. As disciples of Christ, God has set us apart to be His ambassadors to bring Christ to those who do not know Him or are lukewarm to Him. In whatever role we play on earth, we are called to continue the divine mission of Jesus Christ to build up God's Kingdom and to demolish the kingdom of darkness. We are equipped with gifts so that we can play our unique role in God's plan of salvation for the world. On the spiritual level, we offer our prayers, sacrifices and sufferings in union with Christ for the salvation of souls. On the temporal level we offer concrete acts of concern, love and charity through the sharing of our time and resources so that as many souls around us can share the fruits of Christ's redemption. God wills everyone to be saved.

**To live for the glory of God we have to distance ourselves from sin.** Through His life, death and resurrection, Jesus sets us free from our sins. However, if we do not have true repentance for our sins, we remain in slavery to the evil one. Jesus reminds us that everyone who sins is a slave to sin (cf. John 8:34). We have to develop the attitude of horror of sin because for every sin committed, Jesus suffered and for every sin forgiven, Jesus paid a heavy price (cf. Isaiah 53:5). St Peter reminds us that the devil is like a lion prowling around looking for someone to devour (cf. 1 Peter 5:8). Our thinking must not become worldly. The world does not recognize sin but trivializes or even glamourizes it. We must not allow the world to influence our thinking because we possess the truth. How often should we seek God's forgiveness for our personal sins? Jesus gives us a hint: as often as we pray: *Forgive us our sins as we forgive...* (cf. Matthew 6:12).

**Living a sacramental life of grace.** Without God's grace, we would not be capable of anything. Even our next breath depends on God's grace. Though we rarely think about it, the truth is we are really dependent on God. Through the Sacraments of the Church, God gives us divine grace in torrents to purify, heal, strengthen, and sanctify us. The sacraments are instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church to give us divine life (cf. CCC 1131). Nothing less than a miracle takes place when we receive a sacrament with the proper disposition. We have to believe in the power of God's grace working within us. Though we may feel weak and fragile like a clay pot, yet we have the assurance that God's grace can work powerfully in us (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:7). In submitting Himself to be baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus, the Author of Grace, the last person to need Baptism, makes a great statement on the importance of sacraments to our spiritual health.

**We are called to holiness.** To be holy is to be faithful to God's will. We have to convince ourselves that God's will is the best plan for our lives. We need to live our daily lives in union with Christ's and to partake of His Passion especially through attendance of daily Mass, praying the rosary which recalls the key events of our Redemption, and meditation on the Stations of the Cross which brings us to the scene at Calvary. We need to practise the virtues taught by our Christian faith and learn to walk in the footsteps of Christ chiefly by self-denial and mastering our pride and self-love. We need to constantly meditate on God's Word in order to be instructed, strengthened, sanctified and protected from the deception of Satan and the falsehoods of the world which is currently controlled by the dark Prince of the World.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, thank You for making me Your disciple, Your special possession. You have called me to be holy and given me a share of Your divine mission. Give me the grace and strength to rise up to this special calling to do everything solely for the sake of Your glory. To do that, I need to heroically place myself last so that You can be first in my life. Teach me to surrender my will and entire self to You so that no obstacle exists on this true path which I must walk in order to reach my final destination in You. Mary, Mother of Salvation, be my Advocate. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.