

Scripture Reading

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

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection ~ the Spirit of the World is Much Alive

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him (1John 2:15). We live in an ultra modern world that is borderless especially in terms of transmission of electronic data. Every day a person is inundated with numerous images and voices that are contrary to the calling of God. Many alluring lights beckon to us. More so now than ever, we are in real danger of filling our little worlds with too much activity of this passing world. We have been called to love God with undivided hearts and with all our minds and strength (cf. Luke 10:27, Mark 12:30, Deuteronomy 6:5). If we want to check whether our hearts are focussed on God or on this world, a good pointer is to watch how our free time is spent. For instance, do I spend more time reading about matters of this world than of God? The spirit of this world tries to take over my loyalty to God by consuming my time and energy with activities that do not draw me closer to God.

Be still, and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10). There are many noises around us, vying for our attention and acceptance. We have grown accustomed to noise so much so that we are not comfortable with silence. When we enter the living room, our reflex action is to turn on the TV. Yet God is not found in the noise around us but in the quiet and stillness of our hearts. ***“Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. (Hosea 2:14).*** Like any loving father, God yearns to speak tenderly to us, His precious children whom He has redeemed at great price to Himself. But we allowed ourselves to be surrounded by many noises and voices contrary to His. Am I able to be led to the desert of my heart where I can offer God all my attention without distractions? God is competing with the outside world. Will He win victory in my heart for Him to speak His tender words to me? The Spirit of this world creates much noise in my heart so that the tender voice of God is drowned out, and His loving message never reaches me.

Real peace is won for us by Christ through His Cross (cf Colossians 1:20). Real peace comes from Christ only although the world may claim to give peace. That is why Jesus says He gives peace not as the world does. (cf. John 14:27). ***While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. (1 Thessalonians 5:3).*** We need Christ to communicate His peace to our hearts through prayers and quiet meditation on Him. It is impossible for the world to fill our hearts with the needed peace through endless activities. Even if I have taken in all the beauty and splendour of this physical world, at the end of the day of my life my heart remains in search of the One who has made it and for whom it was made. (cf Colossians 1:16). My heart does not rest till it rests in God – St. Augustine. God is my eternal rest (cf Psalm 62:1).

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, the world around me has many attractive luring lights. Without a solid interior life of prayer focussed on the Sacraments and Scripture, I could easily mistake the voice of the world for Your own. Let me remember that my loyalty is first and foremost to You and that I am to love You with an undivided heart. Lord, please conquer the world that is in me. Please give me the wisdom to number my days aright (Psalm 90:12) that I may not squander precious time chasing the passing things of this world but use me Lord as Your little instrument to bring Your Kingdom to my heart and those around me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.