

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (*1 Cor 2:8-10*)

None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived the things God has prepared for those who love Him - these are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection ~ I am Destined for Eternal Joy

God wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (cf. 1 Tim 2:4). When Adam and Eve fell to temptation and brought down the whole human race, God in His infinite love, mercy and wisdom restored in full the dignity and salvation of mankind through the perfect and holy Sacrifice of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ - the Eternal Truth, the only Way to God and the source of all life (cf John 14:6).

God made us to become His adopted children through Jesus Christ: *He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will (Ephesians 1:5).* God is love (cf. 1 John 4:8), and out of love He created us to share His joy and glory. It is a pure gift that no one can earn but is available to anyone who has an open heart for God. On earth, a person assumes many earthly roles: family roles, professional roles, social roles, etc. In eternity in God's Kingdom, only one role and identity is needed: that of a child of God with God as the Father of all – our highest dignity – as a child of God.

Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to us (cf. Romans 8:18). Just as gold and silver are purified and refined in fire (cf. Zechariah 13:9) God allows our sufferings for the purification and sanctification of our souls and those of others since we are all related to each other not merely by human bond of blood but by a stronger bond of divine grace since God is the Creator and Father of all. God can even make use of our sufferings to be redemptive and for the eternal good of ourselves and others. Jesus shows the way. As the time drew nearer for Jesus to be crucified, He said, "Father, the hour has come for You to glorify Your Son..." (cf. John 17:1). The Cross is the glory of Jesus, the Saviour as through it, He accomplished His Father's will and won eternal salvation for mankind. Those who share Christ's Cross of suffering will also share Christ's glory in heaven (cf. Romans 8:17).

No human mind can really grasp the extent of the glory God plans for those who love Him (cf. 1 Cor 2:9). Our God is a God of love. He is a giver. He knows how to reward those who love Him. To Abraham's profound act of obedience and trust in sacrificing Isaac, God's blessings are poured down on nations through all generations. For a moment of repentance of the thief on the right hand side of Jesus when He was crucified, God overlooked the thief's previous life of sinfulness and gave him the distinction of being the first to be promised Paradise personally by Jesus Christ, His Son. Just like a good human father, God knows how to reward His children, only with much greater love and power.

Conversation with Our Heavenly Father

Heavenly Father, before You formed me in my mother's womb, You knew me (cf. Jeremiah 1:5). And You want me to know that You have plans for me, plans to prosper me and not to harm me, plans to give me hope and a future (cf. Jeremiah 29:11). Your plan for me is no less than to prepare me for the heavenly role of being Your child in Your Kingdom of joy and peace. For this, You have sent Your dearly beloved Son, Jesus to pay the heavy price of my redemption. You have plans to make me no less than co-heirs with Jesus in Your Kingdom (cf. Romans 8:17). I open my heart to You to respond to Your great love and generosity. I wish to make You the centre of my life. Mother Mary, Protectress of the Faith, form my heart for Jesus only. In Jesus' name I pray.