

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (John 17:17)

Consecrate them in the truth. Your Word is truth. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Discerning the Falsities of our Confused Age

Everyone needs to know the saving truths of God. Jesus said to him, *“I am the way and the Truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”* (John 14:6). Jesus is the ONLY way to God the Father. “Religious indifferentism” is the belief that it does not matter what religion a man professes, he can be saved nonetheless. This is clearly a falsehood promoted by Satan and his human agents. God is unchanging, immutable (cf. Hebrews 13:8, James 1:17) and the truth of His Word and teachings stand forever (cf. Matthew 5:18). Some of God’s saving truths are: God is love (cf. 1 John 4:8) and has sent His Son Jesus Christ to redeem the whole world (cf. John 3:16). Through His death on the Cross, Jesus holds the promise of eternal life to anyone who accepts Him and repents of their sins (cf. Ephesians 1:7, Luke 24:47). God made us His sons and daughters through the merits of Jesus Christ (cf. Ephesians 1:5). God has promised us a great future in heaven where eternal gladness never ends (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9, John 14:2). Besides heaven, hell also exists. Hell is a place of eternal damnation for those souls who are stubbornly unrepentant and who reject God’s hand of mercy even to the moment of their death.

What are the origins of false doctrine? As Jesus is the Author of All Graces, Satan is the origin of all false doctrine. Satan is not called “Prince of the world” (cf. John 14:30) for nothing. His false ideologies are diverse and spread all over the world. Their chief purpose is to blind non-believers to the shining, saving truths of the Gospel in order to deny them of the glorious, eternal inheritance God has prepared for each of His children. Thus, he is also called the Master Deceiver as deception is his expertise. *In whose case the god of this age* (i.e. Satan) *has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that they may not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God* (2 Corinthians 4:4). Of great popularity in current times are false ideologies embedded in moral relativism, situational ethics, the LGBT movement, the abortion movement, Gender Theory, etc.. Pope Benedict XVI, in his homily to the 2005 conclave that chose him as Pope, has identified moral relativism as the major threat facing our Church today. Moral relativism has the appealing outlook of being modern, sympathetic, comforting, inclusive and ‘just’.

What are the main differences between the truth and false doctrine? False doctrine denies the existence and supremacy of God over all, and God’s moral laws and norms. It does not acknowledge Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God. False doctrine creates false gods by elevating human concerns above God’s will in various ways. Thus, it endangers the salvation of souls through its teachings. Relativism denies the existence of absolute truths, and says nothing is for certain but all depends on the factors of each case. False doctrine either denies sin or trivializes it. It does not understand the power of God’s grace and says that absolute moral laws given by God are just ideals to which we can never hope to attain. As Jesus, His Word and teachings are true and unchanging, any doctrine that stands in contradiction to Jesus, His Word and teachings are outside of Truth i.e. false. Thus, we, the followers of Christ have a firm yardstick, a trustworthy criteria with which to judge with clarity and certainty the truth or falsity of an ideology of whatever origin. We must always adhere to the Word and teachings of Christ in order not to be deceived by this world that tries hard to “evangelise” to us (cf. John 17:16).

We need the light of Truth from the Holy Spirit to discern false doctrine. It is difficult to see in darkness without a light. Similarly we cannot discern false doctrine unless we understand and possess God’s truths. As in the Garden of Eden where the cunning Serpent tricked Eve into taking the forbidden fruit, all falsehoods come dressed in attractive appearance in order to deceive. “Human rights”, “freedom”, “mercy”, “open to all”, “inclusivity”, “accompaniment”, and “diversity” are some words that are used to package false doctrine in good light and to appeal to the human feeling and human need to feel comfort. Thus, we must be led always by our faith in God’s Word and not by our senses (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:7).

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You are Truth. Your Word and teachings are all true, standing forever. Consecrate us to the Truth. Keep us in the Truth always for it is only the Truth that will set us free from our sins. Give us the grace to discern and reject false doctrine so that we can always remain in Your Truth. Help us love Your Word, live Your Word, speak Your Word, impart Your Word. Give us the light of the Holy Spirit so that we can always discern the truths of God from the lies and falsehoods spread by Satan. Help us live in the truth by adhering to Your divine teachings. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk