



Daily Reflections

September 13, 2017

Scripture

Colossians 3: 1-11

Brothers and sisters:

If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ your life appears,
then you too will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly:
immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire,
and the greed that is idolatry.

Because of these the wrath of God is coming upon the disobedient.

By these you too once conducted yourselves, when you lived in that way.

But now you must put them all away:

anger, fury, malice, slander,
and obscene language out of your mouths.

Stop lying to one another,
since you have taken off the old self with its practices
and have put on the new self,
which is being renewed, for knowledge,
in the image of its creator.

Here there is not Greek and Jew,
circumcision and uncircumcision,
barbarian, Scythian, slave, free;

but Christ is all and in all.

Our Scripture Reflection

The Roman world in which Paul preached Jesus Christ was cynical and bloated with arrogance and false pride. What Paul offered was pure refreshment. What would it take for the people to experience this new way? They would have to unite themselves to Christ and to rise above the mud and muck of the world. Paul did not call them to escape the world, but rather, to experience a new way that comes from faith, humility and unconditional love.

Food for your Journey

John Buchanan, who tells this story, relates it to the movie "Grand Canyon," a story of ordinary people being saved by ordinary things like "kindness, consideration, honesty, loyalty," things that are "as a matter of fact, not simple at all, but always miracles." Buchanan then quotes Karl Rahner, one of the great theologians of this century:

To keep on through dull, tedious, everyday existence can often be more difficult than a unique deed whose heroism makes us run the danger of pride (Meditations on Hope and Love, 22).

Buchanan continues on about the ordinariness of the gospel: "that's where it is for most of us, slugging it out day by day, trying to make ends meet, and to be as good as we can at what we do, and to use what we have responsibly, trying to be honest and kind and just." He then finishes this marvelous sermon with one more quote from Rahner: "When we are true to our conscience...God's kingdom comes to us just where we are, living quite ordinarily, carrying on patiently."

-With thanks to John M. Buchanan,

"The Ordinariness of the Christian Life," 19

January 1992, Chicago, Illinois).

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, I encounter so many people who lack true happiness and peace. Lord, give me a generous heart so that I may lovingly present Your way to them. By the way I live my life, may they become attracted to You and Your way. Amen.