



January 2, 2019

Scripture

1 John 2: 22-28

Beloved:

Who is the liar?

Whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ.

Whoever denies the Father and the Son, this is the antichrist.

Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father,
but whoever confesses the Son has the Father as well.

Let what you heard from the beginning remain in you.

If what you heard from the beginning remains in you,
then you will remain in the Son and in the Father.

And this is the promise that he made us: eternal life.

I write you these things about those who would deceive you.

As for you,

the anointing that you received from him remains in you,
so that you do not need anyone to teach you.

But his anointing teaches you about everything and is true and not false;
just as it taught you, remain in him.

And now, children, remain in him,

so that when he appears we may have confidence
and not be put to shame by him at his coming.

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus, as incredibly wonderful as He is, has remained a stumbling block for many. He tripped up the religious leaders, the scribes and Pharisees, by His life and teaching because His message went against their status quo. The harsh language in today's scripture, "liar" and "antichrist", indicate that there were those in the early Church who struggled with who He was. The "liars" to whom John refers were well-intentioned people who just could not accept the Truth that Jesus was God and yet He died on the cross. They held that He only appeared to have died, but He actually didn't. Why? Because God is eternal and could never die. John will point out that Jesus was, indeed, God and He really, truly died for His people. How could this be? It is the mystery of our salvation, a matter of faith. The Church emerged as a structure to defend, uphold, witness to and pass on the True faith, especially against the heresies that emerged.

Food for your Journey

The New Year means a fresh start, a second wind, another chance, a kind of reprieve, a divine act of grace bestowed. If we have made serious blunders, they are made. All our tears cannot unmake them. We may learn from them and carry our hard-won lessons into the New Year. We can remember them, not with pain, but with gratitude that in our new wisdom we can live into the present year with deeper understanding and greater humanity.

--Howard Thurman.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, I believe in You as my Lord and Savior. In a world that has always struggled with the faith, help me to remain steadfast in my faith and constant in my witness to You. Amen