



Daily Reflections

November 11, 2016

Scripture

2 John 4-9

[Chosen Lady:]

I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth just as we were commanded by the Father.

But now, Lady, I ask you,
not as though I were writing a new commandment
but the one we have had from the beginning:
let us love one another.

For this is love, that we walk according to his commandments;
this is the commandment, as you heard from the beginning,
in which you should walk.

Many deceivers have gone out into the world,
those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh;
such is the deceitful one and the antichrist.

Look to yourselves that you do not lose what we worked for
but may receive a full recompense.

Anyone who is so “progressive”
as not to remain in the teaching of the Christ does not have God;
whoever remains in the teaching has the Father and the Son.

Our Scripture Reflection

One of the first real trials that the early Church faced was heresy. For some, believing that Jesus Christ was incarnate, fully human, was unacceptable. John exhorts Church members (Chosen Lady) to remain faithful to the Commandments that have been given to them. They show their fidelity through love, the hallmark of the Church in imitation of her Lord, Jesus.

Food for your Journey

In his book, *Passion for Peace* (Crossroad, 1995), Thomas Merton shares this wisdom: "How do we learn to love our enemy? By seeing him as a brother who is tempted as we are, and attacked by the same real enemy which is the spirit of hatred and of 'Antichrist.' This same enemy seeks to destroy us both by pitting us against one another."

Barbara Kingsolver makes much the same point, as she tells of a letter she received from a friend, just after the terrorists brought down the World Trade Center towers. Her friend, who lives in the South, observed: "Even the Confederate flags are at half mast."

"That sentence," Kingsolver reflects, "struck me as a poem, complete in itself."

--Barbara Kingsolver, "Flying," in *Small Wonder: Essays* (HarperCollins, 2002), 194.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Oh, how the world needs You! Help me this day, as Your faithful disciple to reveal Your love to all people. May they come to know and love You. Amen.