



Daily Reflections

November 14, 2016

Scripture

Revelations 1:1-4; 2:1-5

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to him, to show his servants what must happen soon.

He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who gives witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ by reporting what he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud and blessed are those who listen to this prophetic message and heed what is written in it, for the appointed time is near. John, to the seven churches in Asia: grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne.

I heard the Lord saying to me:

“To the angel of the Church in Ephesus, write this:

“The one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks in the midst of the seven gold lampstands says this:

"I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate the wicked; you have tested those who call themselves Apostles but are not, and discovered that they are impostors. Moreover, you have endurance and have suffered for my name, and you have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: you have lost the love you had at first. Realize how far you have fallen. Repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.""

Our Scripture Reflection

The Book of Revelation has been misunderstood and misinterpreted throughout much of Christian history due to the images and symbolism contained within the book. What can I tell you about Revelation? Bottom line, it was written to be a book of hope. Written during a time of persecution, it was meant to communicate a message of hope and victory to those weighed down with pain and suffering. The essential message boils down to this: Jesus Christ, the Lamb, is the alpha and omega, the first and last, everything is in His hands. Through His death and resurrection we have nothing ultimately to fear. He has won the victory and we are called to share in His victory by remaining steadfast and faithful. What an important message for those who believe in Him today!

Food for your Journey

So far from Jesus being some Atlas figure who supports the weight of the world for us, John Shea argues that "The divine hero is always relevant in the sense that escape from responsibility is always attractive That Jesus was crucified for us does not mean we have been saved from crucifixion; that he bore the sins of humankind does not mean we do not need to repent; that he overcame the world does not mean we can succumb to it ... Jesus, the divine challenge, evokes responsible action in the world."

--John Shea, *The Challenge of Jesus* (Chicago: Thomas More Press), 46.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Lamb of God, during the difficult times in our world today, I ask You to strengthen my faith and keep me strong and loyal to You. Amen.