

7 June 2020 - Homily

The Most Holy Trinity 2 - Cor 13:11-13 - Jn 3:16-18

By: Fr. Paul Magyar

In Saint Paul's second letter to the Corinthians 13:13 we read Saint Paul's Trinitarian blessing: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." This is the greeting at the beginning of the celebration of Mass that a priest uses. The greeting follows right after the sign of the cross. The sign of the cross is the clearest proclamation of the holy Trinity. We start and end all of our prayers in the sign of the cross, however it is first mentioned in the Bible at the end of the gospel of Matthew.

In Jesus' time there was a rabbinical belief that the limit of the kingdom of God was humanity. Jesus makes it clear in the gospel of John that God loves the world unconditionally. God showed this love in Genesis 22 where He did not require Abraham to sacrifice his son, rather God gave us his only begotten son Jesus. Whoever believes in Christ has eternal life. To believe is to act. Therefore, everyone who acts in a Christ-like manner will attain eternal life. That is the narrow door of acting properly and successfully in the world; as opposed to the wide door of infinite possibilities of acting improperly and unsuccessfully in the world.

Jesus is love and therefore did not come to "condemn" the world. The original ancient Greek word is "Krino" which means to "discern". In the moral sense it is to separate good from evil. The authorized expositions of many texts of the Old Testament asserted that the coming Messiah would destroy the Gentile world. Nicodemus must have often heard this and taught it. This is why Jesus is explaining to Nicodemus the actual reality of the nature of God clearly and methodically. God is not here to destroy the Gentile world, the purpose of the Messiah is not to judge, but to save.

Due to our created nature being made after the image of Christ, a person cannot fail to recognize and believe in a revelation of God. Thus a willful choice to reject Christ is to purposefully hide from God, as Adam did in the garden after committing original sin.

God is love. The mystery of the Trinity is God in three persons, three persons in one God. We love our parents, our spouse, our children. In all three relationships it is fully love, yet distinct.

Praying for all of you

Fr. Paul Magyar