

Sermon for the Third Sunday after Trinity.

2020

Today's Epistle by Paul the Apostle to the Romans, Chapter 8 vs 18 speak volumes regarding the plight of all mankind at this the most testing of times.

The world has been blinded by its own reality, and the word of God smothered in a haze of distorted myths. Many have fallen by the wayside, and are led by those walking in darkness "can the blind lead the blind" without falling into the pit of never ending darkness?

Society today, has for the time being at least shunned the Gospel Message of Love and healing pursuing instead all that the world has to offer. Tragically, the we know best attitude, will in the end lead to staggeringly serious consequences for us all. What exactly is replacing God as the centre point in so many people's lives?

Our Churches, in the main are empty and many that are affected by the current lock down may never viably reopen. We should all be very alarmed as we depressingly witness the rapid decline in our Christian heritage in this country, it really is very worrying indeed.

However, we have an assurance as faithful followers of Christ, that all is not lost nor ever can be. However we have to acknowledge the fact, that more than ever before in human history we hold nothing more than a toehold in relevance today. These really are challenging times for us all, as we find ourselves cut adrift from mainstream thinking and debate.

At long last we are able to resume holding services in a meaningful way. Worship provides the perfect escape from the tyranny of self, and we all need to escape from ourselves from time to time. Worship is a fundamental need of the soul, and if the instinct for worship is smothered and denied, the soul cannot breathe and grow. Worship, turns our thoughts away from our own pains and problems and lifts us onto supernatural levels.

Intercessory and supplicatory prayers spring from deep personal desires, but true worship is a self-effacing act of adoration. Some people are so busy asking God to do things for them that they seldom remember to praise Him for Himself. The greatest prayer in the world begins with worship: "Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name."

When we worship God we put ourselves into a physical and mental posture of humility and this is a good thing. It establishes the right relation between creature and creator. If we train our minds to see God's glory in every lovely thing we shall live in a perpetual worship.

To try as many sadly do, to live without God is to cut yourself off from your natural sources of energy and inspiration. Vast tracts of your nature will lay fallow and unproductive. Worship is as necessary for the health of the soul as food, water and exercise are for the health of the body.

So when we join together very soon in collective worship and fellowship please remember the words of St Matthew: - V. 14 – 16.

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candle stick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

May God Bless You.

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