

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, April 26, 2015*

YEAR B - FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

Greetings, brethren, the Lord is risen! Today is the 4th Sunday in the Easter season, which is about half-way between Easter & Pentecost. This is a most mystical time in our liturgical year, evidenced by our continued study of the Johannine scriptures. Let us look, then, at our Epistle & Gospel readings.

In both our Epistle from 1st John, & in our reading from John's Gospel, we see a common theme this week of putting our beliefs into action. Our Epistle discusses the nature of Agape, and this is very much tied to the principle of action. Agape is not a mere fondness or liking of something. It could be better thought of as the intelligence of the heart. We have two sorts of intelligence working in us. One is the intelligence of the head, which we may call the Will. It organizes, plans, & reasons, & formulates the seed-thoughts. But it is the intelligence of the heart, Agape, that receives the seed-thought, gestates it, and manifests it - emotes it - as an action. This is why John tells us here, "Let us not love in word or speech, but in works & truth." That is, to merely pay lip service to the Truth is not true Agape, for it is merely an exercise of the head-intellect. Agape is only expressed in action, in works, or else it is like the seed that fell upon the rocks.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus tells us, "Do what you have heard from you Father." When he said this to those who wished to kill him, they did not know what he was talking about, for they did not know the Most High God. They said, "Abraham is our father." But Jesus then points out that if they were children of Abraham, they would do the works of Abraham. Now, there is no question that Abraham was a priest of the Demiurge. But he had also received initiation into the priesthood of the Most High from Melchizedek. This ensured that even as the religion of the Demiurge was being propagated, the seeds of gnosis would be there also, accessible to those with eyes to see and ears to hear. But whereas Abraham was able to recognize Melchizedek as a priest of the Most High God, the blind Pharisees & Saducees lacked the spiritual discernment to recognize the Eternal High Priest, Jesus. Their actions revealed themselves as children of Ialdabaoth, rather than children of God. Thus, Jesus says, "You are doing the works of your father. Whoever is from God hears the words of God. Thus you do not hear because you are not from God."

And therein lies the key to the gospel, and the justification for our pneumatic interpretation. Since we are children of the Living Father, we hear the words of God in scripture. But those who remain in darkness hear only the psychic message; that is, the words of their father, the Demiurge. now, none of us yet has perfect pneumatic discernment. But once the seed of gnosis is recognized, a process of unfoldment is initiated, and the true Word of God begins to reveal itself in scripture. But no matter how great our level of Understanding, true Wisdom will only come to those who have put their Knowledge into practice. And this is the true meaning & the true power of Agape, that our lives become the active expression of the Logos in us.