

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros  
to the Parish of St. Ambelain  
on Sunday, June 21, 2015*

YEAR B - PROPER 7

Greetings, my brethren, on this day of the Summer Solstice. Let's dig right into our readings for today. In our first reading from The Gospel of Truth, we are presented with an image of Christ not merely as the Word, but as the whole Book! It's true, that the Logos, as the Word, is in fact the type or pattern for all words. As the creative utterance, all things that are have come about because of Him, from the pure & perfect Aeons, to the lowliest of material edifices fashioned by that pseudo-creator Ialdabaoth. As we are told in the Gospel of John, "Through Him all things came to be, and without Him came to be not one thing."

Jesus thus embodied & personified the creative treasury of the Father. But this great honor came at a great cost - that of self-sacrifice. We are told that He died so that we may live. But don't misunderstand this. He didn't die so that we don't have to, He died in order to teach us how to die. The path of attainment is a path of sacrifice. Everyone who enters the Temple of the Mysteries & presents himself, or herself, as a candidate for initiation, offers themselves as a willing sacrifice, acknowledging that death is the cost of entrance.

But we learn that we need not fear death, for only that which is false & impermanent dies. That which is true & living lives forever. The Gospel of Truth tells us that we must go up to the Father to receive what is ours - our forgotten Knowledge of the Father. We read elsewhere that nothing ascends which has not descended. So, if we are to ascend to the Father, we know that we have come from Him, & that in returning to Him our perfection will be restored.

Our Epistle from 2nd Corinthinans instructs us in ways that our sacrifice may manifest: in afflictions, imprisonment, dishonor, ill repute, being punished, grieving, having nothing, and so on. But through our sacrifice we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit: purity, gnosis, patience, kindness, & so on. Most importantly, when we present ourselves as God's servants, through our endurance of the hardships we become as tempered steel, spiritual weapons that can cut through the illusions of ignorance, revealing God's perfect Light & Love. This is done first by putting our own imperfections to the blade, for we can only work toward the regeneration of Humanity when we have become perfected tools of regeneration ourselves. This is summed up succinctly in Scripture when we are told to remove the plank from our own eye before attempting to remove the speck from the eye of our brother. Now, this does not mean that we should never admonish one another. It's merely stating that the general regeneration & ultimate reintegration can only be brought about as a result of the collective efforts of each individual doing his or her own part to realize that regeneration at the personal level.

Do not let Christ's sacrifice be in vain. And do not let your own sacrifice be in vain. If we offer ourselves up, but do nothing but complain about our condition, then we are merely suffering for the sake of suffering, descending into misery & self-pity. But learn the art of transmutation, that through suffering strength & joy may abound, and through death new life may spring forth.