

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros  
to the Parish of St. Ambelain  
on Sunday, July 5, 2015*

YEAR B - PROPER 9

Welcome, & greetings to you all, my brethren. Gnosticism has, at times, been accused of a certain elitism, in that we hold that there is a secret doctrine taught to God's elect, & that this elect alone is guaranteed salvation of the soul unto the Aeons. And it is true that we do generally hold to this principle. But our understanding of this principle, at least in the ACP, is not at all similar to certain Calvinist doctrines, or others who claim that there are only a certain, limited, pre-ordained amount of souls destined for salvation, usually 144,000 - a number that surely has more significance to us in its symbolic value than as a definite quantity.

Now, the concept of only a limited number of souls attaining Paradise while the vast majority toil in much less favorable conditions is not a new or unique idea. In many of the older mythologies the Elysium or Paradise is reserved for the gods & the heroes. Average men & women had no such joy to which they may look forward. Rather, they expected a dismal existence - if any - in a dark & forbidding underworld. But Christ tells us that all may come to the Father. On the other hand, we also read in the Scriptures of God's elect. How, then, may we reconcile these views? How is it that eternal life is open to all, yet at the same time reserved for God's Elect? Our first reading from the Gospel of Truth states the answer very simply & plainly: "The Father's Logos goes out into all...and chooses all."

There you have it. This exquisite Valentinian gospel has once again boiled down the truth to a simple & logically consistent statement: The Logos chooses all. How could it be any other way? If the general plan for humanity is reintegration & restoration of the Pleroma, then the salvation of only a tiny fraction makes no sense at all. We cannot in good faith call ourselves Chosen - chosen to accomplish the Great Work of the restoration of the Pleroma - unless we recognize that each & every fragmented spark of the Divine Man, the primitive & androgynous Adam, is likewise not only called, but in fact chosen to accomplish the same.

This is no easy task, however. When we look around & witness the evils done by those both far from us & near to us, & indeed by ourselves, it is easy to despair & cry out, "None are worthy but Thee alone, O Lord!" But we must remember what we talked about last week in our discussion of 2nd Corinthians, that we must act in accordance with what we have, not what we don't have. In other words, we are judged not according to our deficiency, but what - in spite of our deficiency - we are able to accomplish for the glory of God & the benefit of Humanity.

As explained in our text today, the deficiency is not real, the completeness is real. Darkness & ignorance are not real, they are merely the absence of light & gnosis. But this unreal illusion of deficiency is the world in which we operate. We can look to the laws of physics to justify our claims. Where there is energy, there is order. When the energy is removed from an ordered system, the constituent parts dissipate; we call this entropy. Here in the Kenoma, the deficiency, entropy is the natural law. The Pleroma, or Fullness, is the source of all Light, Life, & Gnosis - that is, energy in its first & ultimate state. By attuning ourselves more closely with this divine energy we may overcome the entropic forces of malice & selfishness, become true workers in God's laboratory, & perhaps one day make ourselves worthy of being named Elect.