

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Bruno II
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, August 23, 2015*

YEAR B - PROPER 16

Brethren, last week I spoke about the creation of the world by the demiurge and the animosity and violence the world holds for Man, counted to what the Genesis account begs us to believe. The world is not some benevolent, sheltering creation designed to support and enrich Man, but a tragic comedy beautiful in its viciousness and ordered chaos. However, the Father's Pure Spirit, gifted to Man, allows him to rise above this fault creation, ultimately mastering it along with himself. This is what our scripture tells us today.

In our second reading it states, "Finally, remain powerful in the Lord and in the might of His strength. Put on the whole armor of God, for you are able to stand before the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the archons, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens." The divine Spirit gifted to Man caused him to live, and also to think. Man not only called out a living, we've come to a point where we believe we can conquer the world. When we first inhabited the world we had to focus wholly on gathering food and staying sheltered. Our whole attention had to be on staying alive. But man was a thinking animal. We not only learned from the past, but we could hand that information on, and most importantly, plan for the future. Our base desire and needs no longer control us. We have risen above the Hyllic Age of Man, and entered the Psychic. We have time now to not just look at the stars, but philosophise and investigate them. No longer does everyone have to hunt or gather but some become teachers, carpenters, and merchants. The thinking man developed so finely that he now has time to recline at his leisure and consider his origins as well as the afterlife. So, as Man evolves, the attempts to keep him ignorant and enslaved must evolve as well. As our sophistication has grown, so has the efforts of the demiurge. Our minds and psyche have become the new battleground.

This is why the Armor of God you are urged by Saint Paul to don is not a physical armor: gird yourself with Truth, the breastplate of Righteousness, shoes of Peace, shield of Faith, helmet of Salvation, and the sword of Spirit which is the word of God. These words resonate with us in today's society, for it seems that at every turn we are subtly pushed away from the dictates of our religious teachings. Desensitized to violence and moral ambiguity, attacked by both atheists and fundamentalists, words like Truth, Righteousness, Peace, and Salvation no longer hold the sway or meaning they once had. In today's world these words need to hold significance.

We wear armor as a defensive mechanism designed to protect ourselves from attack. However, our scripture indicates that we don't just don this armor for defensive purposes. We have been given a sword of Spirit which is the word of God. From both a defensive and offensive standpoint the word of God, the Logos as well as Christian revelation, defines not only the truth of our faith, righteousness, and salvation, but enables us from a mystical and magickal standpoint to confront the Demiurge and his archons on the astral and psychic planes both within and without. We can see direct evidence of this truth when we obtain personal peace through our solitary prayers to God or the Saints, as well as our communal gatherings celebrating the Eucharist which helps negate the demiurgic forces with the intervention of the angelic forces led by the Word of God. Both when we pray Our Father and transform the Bread and Wine, we are wielding the sword of Spirit. When you believe in the face of popular opinion and raise your children in the Christian tradition, you are wielding the sword of Spirit. Never let it be said that you were not given the power to protect yourself. It is up to you to gird yourself with the Armor of God. Learn to wield the sword of Spirit and righteousness, faith, peace, and salvation will be yours.