

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Bruno II  
to the Parish of St. Ambelain  
on Sunday, November 15, 2015*

YEAR B - PROPER 28

Greetings brethren. Today the world mourns the recent acts of violence which have taken the lives of many in Paris, and left hundreds of others severely wounded. Our thoughts go out to all those involved, most especially the families who have lost their son, daughter, father, mother, or other. *(Pause for a moment of silence.)*

Our Gospel reading warns us that there will be war and famine, natural disasters will abound, but Jesus tells us: "Do not be troubled." I know that is easier said than done, but Christ gives us an insight into how this is possible. The final line in our Gospel reading says, "These are the beginning of birth pains." This is significant. For is not birth the opposite of death?

Here in the physical world, all life arises from some death. Look at the wildfires which have burned so much woodland. new growth will quickly appear. The new trees will grow healthy and strong due to their feeding upon the burned forest which came before them. Science has also proven that they will have an increased resistance to fire in the future, thus the death which preceded them is the cause for their current strength.

Our second reading tells us that Christ died so that we could be strengthened forever, perfectly sanctified so that the death of this world will be but a new beginning. We mourn for those who have died because death is a true mystery to us. But in Gnosticism, God the Father is sometimes referred to as the First Mystery, from whence all things come and to which they shall return.

While we may mourn death, we should not fear it. In a sense it is the beginning of a trip returning us to our true home. While we die to this world, we are born into a body of light. Man is a reflection of the Divine, but Christ was the Divine Itself, transformed into the appearance of man. He was still wholly God, that is a manifestation of pure Spirit which was sent forth from the Father to return us to our true home. he sacrificed his physical self to show us that death was but a new birth.

This does not excuse or encourage violence or enmity in the name of religion. Last week our reading from the Second Treatise of the Great Seth read, "In this way those who are perfect are worthy to be established and united with me, and they will have no enmity. With good friendship I do everything through the one who is good, for his is the unity of truth, that people should have no adversary. If some cause division, they do not learn wisdom, because they cause division and are not friends. They are enemies. But those who live in the harmony and friendship of love of brother and sister, naturally and not only of necessity, completely and not merely in part, those truly reflect the will of the Father. This is universal and perfect love."

While Christ acknowledges that nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, this is not the will of the Father and is not encouraged by Christ. We are to show a universal and perfect love. Suffering is universal to the world and many have died or are troubled in the many war-torn lands of the middle-east. While some may disagree with their politics or philosophy, most are innocent of the violence being perpetuated. Regardless of their culture, our hearts should go out to them just as much as they do for our own. Love, like suffering, is universal.