

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, December 6, 2015*

YEAR C - SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Hello brethren, we have so much to work with in our readings today that I'm afraid we'll only be able to scratch the surface. But we'll do our best to address some of the key points.

In our first reading from the Book of Thomas, we are first told of our existential condition in the world here below, mindlessly drawn from one base & fleeting desire to the next. But we are not left to despair, we are given hope to escape the prison of the animal-mind. This is given to us through a short list of Gnostic beatitudes. Let us look at them each briefly.

First we read, "Blessed is the wise person who had sought truth, and when it has been found, has rested upon it forever, & has not been afraid of those who wish to trouble him." Now, we must understand that this "truth" is not like any truth found in the world.. It is a superior, revelatory truth that gives us spiritual sustenance & the strength to recognize the feebleness of the attacks of the enemies of the Light.

Next we read, "Blessed are you who understand beforehand the temptations & flee from things that are alien." The foreknowledge spoken of here is not to be found in some sort of fortune-telling. For even the best of those methods are wrapped up in the workings of the lower planes. True understanding comes from raising the consciousness to the realm of pneumatic archetypes. By experiencing the prototypical spiritual patterns, any aberrations to those patterns will become immediately apparent & may be avoided with ease.

We then read, "Blessed are you who are mocked & not respected because of the love your master has for you." The forces of darkness are always seeking to extinguish the light. The wisdom of the wise appears as folly to the foolish. But the more strong the attacks, the more receptive we may become to the love of our Master.

Finally we read, "Blessed are you who weep and are oppressed by those who have no hope, for you will be released from all bondage." Here we are reassured that there is relief to be found from our existential crisis. And the keys to this liberation are found in the next statement: "Watch & pray." Nepsis, or watchfulness, is that state of mental & spiritual preparedness that we must seek always to maintain. And prayer consists of both the ritual & meditative actions that bring us into closer communion with the Lord. Through meditative & theurgic prayer, "You will reign with the King, you united with him & he with you, from now on and forever."

In our second reading from Philippians, Paul practically picks right up where our first reading left off, speaking of prayer & work. The whole of this reading may be summed up in this excerpt: "And this I pray, that Agape may increase in you more & more with greater Gnosis & full insight for you to discern the superior things." Such was the desire of the first Christians & such is our sole desire in this day.

In our Gospel reading we find strong evidence for a universalist doctrine when we read that, "all flesh will see the salvation of God." Now the cynical person might say, "It says that all flesh will see the salvation, not that all will be saved." But this is surely a reflection of their own wickedness & insecurity, for we know that all sparks must ultimately be reunited in the Pleroma. We may thus rest assured that our efforts towards this end are not for naught, but are part of the real & active plan of reintegration.