

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Bruno II
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, January 31, 2016*

YEAR C - FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Welcome brethren to the fourth Sunday after the Epiphany. Our second reading today focuses on "Agape," a Greek word which translates into "love"; but this is a deep, fulfilling, everlasting love which transcends even our normal understanding of the word. This is why we leave it untranslated throughout our scripture. Obviously agape plays a fundamental role in Christianity, but our scripture today stresses its importance. It places so much emphasis on Agape, that gnosis, the foundation upon which Gnosticism is built, is said to be nothing without it. But it is important to note here that while "faith" and "gnosis" are nothing without it, "agape" alone is a treasure to hold.

These past few weeks I have been stressing the Universal Spirit within Man, gifted from God. And it is my belief that while all are not Christian, all have the potential and ability to reach God, and it is scripture like that today which gives me such a belief.

Oft times we hear, or read, that God so loved man that he gave his only-begotten son to death so we could live. Agape. Love. This is the greatest, the most important, needed above all else. Faith and Gnosis are nothing without Agape. Our scripture clearly tells us that in the end, Agape alone will remain. Even our vaunted Gnosis will be abolished.

So as we walk the world, moving through life as an individual within the collective of humanity, Agape, Love for our fellow man should be foremost in our minds and in our hearts. The love spoken of in our scripture is universal in nature. It can be possessed by all, for all.

So as we look at those within the other religious traditions, let us remember that agape is to be first and foremost in our hearts. If we see this love possessed and promoted by someone, no matter what their religion, then that person is your brother or sister in Spirit. If someone does not possess agape, then it does not matter what they call themselves, be it Christian or otherwise, without agape they are small in faith and without true gnosis. A child is Spirit and still lost to this world. Meditate today on our second reading, most especially this: "...now remains faith, hope, and love, Pistis, Elpis, and Agape, these three; and the greatest of these is Agape."