

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, February 19, 2017*

YEAR A - SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
PROPER 2

My brethren, welcome. We read today in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians a continuation of the themes that we've been discussing for the past couple of weeks. Paul identifies himself as a "wise builder." Now, while there is only one Grand and Sovereign Architect of all worlds, we each must strive to be an architect in our own right of edifices worthy of the Holy Spirit. And these edifices are our own selves.

This process begins by chipping away at all the false, impermanent, and illusionary elements that we have accumulated since our incarnation into this world. This will gradually reveal a material suitable for shaping into a holy edifice, a veritable temple of the Spirit of God. And after one has truly become a master builder, it is even possible to continue one's spiritual evolution and to become an architect oneself; a co-creator of divine reality.

Paul goes on to continue speaking of the false wisdom of the world. He writes, "if anyone among you supposes to be wise in this aeon, let him become foolish that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." Now, this may sound very simple, but its simplicity is somewhat deceiving. When one is "wise" according to the world, it is more than just false beliefs that must be shed. With this false wisdom comes a false pride and a puffed-up sense of self importance. All this is supported and reinforced by the misplaced respect and adoration of one's equally ignorant peers, thus creating an infinite chain of darkness; and a chain it truly is. For the one trapped in this cycle it is exceedingly difficult to break free; for just as the world's wisdom is foolishness to God, so does God's wisdom seem as foolishness to the one lost in the mire of materialism and hollow philosophy.

The process of escaping this cycle of false knowledge and wisdom entails, in part, a humbling of oneself, realizing that the distance between the so-called wise of this world and the so-called foolish is nothing compared to the infinite gulf between the so-called wise and divinity. For, as we read in our Gospel reading from Matthew, the Most High "makes his sun to rise upon the good and the evil, and rains upon the just and unjust."

But humbling ourselves is not an abandonment of the search for true wisdom. It is merely abandoning the false knowledge of the world and understanding that any so-called "truth" here below is relative at best, and possibly diametrically opposed to the pneumatic Truth that we seek. It is not easy to give up the comfort of the world's approval, but the surety that comes once the dross is stripped away is immeasurable more satisfying and leads to true Wisdom.