

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, May 7, 2017*

YEAR A - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Greetings everyone. Last week we discussed in part the soul's struggle between the physical and spiritual natures. We see this struggle personified this week in our Gospel reading from John, where Jesus represents the higher, spiritual nature, and the Pharisees represent the lower, physical nature. The reader, presumably, is the soul which weighs the various arguments.

First, the Spirit, Jesus, says "I am the Light." But the Hylic Pharisees at once retort that a self-testimony is unreliable, attempting to plant the seed of doubt in the soul, the seat of consciousness. But Jesus, representing the entire Pleroma, or Spiritual Fullness, says that he is not alone in speaking for himself, but that the Father - that is, the Spiritual source itself - speaks his truth. And again, the Hylic, which is rational and empirical, asks "Where is this Father?"

This back and forth continues without any real resolution, for the Hylic mind is utterly incapable of comprehending the Pneumatic mind. This is perfectly representative of the sort of struggle we are often faced with. Now, the Psychic mind, which mediates between the two, is capable of identifying with each. So, some might look at this as an irreconcilable struggle, a war wherein one must choose one side or the other; the Angelic Hosts or the Demonic Horde. But it is not quite that simple.

When the lower, Hylic nature says "Where is this Father?" it is not so much the denial of the Spiritual, but rather an utter ignorance of it. When viewing the exchange from the center point of the soul, the psyche, we realize that the Hylic and the Spiritual, personified here by the Pharisees and Jesus, are talking about two completely different things. There are really two different conversations going on. We can look at the words of Jesus and realize that he is obviously referring to purely spiritual states, events, and hypostases. We can likewise look at the Pharisees and see that they are inquiring after a literal, physical father. The Pharisees are perfectly correct in their reasoning from the perspective of their own limited sphere of understanding.

It is upon us, then, looking at it from a central perspective, not to deny the spiritual fullness, but also not to deny the relative truths of the lower realms where we must live and act, but rather to reconcile the two; and to not allow the reasoning of the Hylic realm, which is true only within that realm, to confuse us as regards the Truth of the Pneumatic or spiritual realms. By understanding well the laws of the higher and the lower, we are in a position to help shape the events below in conformity with the higher Will. The soul that can serve the Divine Will perfectly, will also exercise perfect mastery over the lower worlds.

This approach of reconciliation helps one to avoid unnecessary conflicts, within and without, and keeps one from falling into the traps of fundamentalism. Remember that all "sin" has one common source: ignorance; and that through Knowledge comes a perfect Understanding which leads to a perfect Wisdom. And this Equilibrium constitutes the Regeneration and Reintegration that we seek.