

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros  
to the Parish of St. Ambelain  
on Sunday, May 21, 2017*

YEAR A - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Greetings and welcome, by brothers. Last week we talked a little bit about our ongoing reading of the Second Treatise of the Great Seth. One of the things we discussed is how it contains some elements in common with various Gnostic schools, including the Valentinian. One of the elements which runs throughout this work, and which is expounded upon greatly in the Valentinian doctrine, is the tripartite division of society, that is to say the Hylics, Psychics, and Pneumatics. Now, whereas the Valentinian doctrine spells this out clearly and in detail, it is more of an inference or an assumption here. In other words, although we might not find the terms Hylic, Psychic, and Pneumatic laid out in so many words, the description of these classes is clear.

The Gnostics, or Pneumatics, are referred to here as, among other appellations, the "noble people of the fatherhood." But then we see a further division of the rest of humanity into those who have the demiurgic law and those who have not even that. Among those whom we would call the Psychics, are the so-called Christians who appropriate the resemblance of those freed in Christ - the Gnostics or Pneumatics - but who, according to our text, "make use of what is not theirs." This, of course, is true of all those who would use religion to their own end and whoset themselves up as authorities while remaining ignorant to its inner truths. This text cuts sharp and does not leave any room for doubt or interpretation. This part of the teaching is not veiled in any symbolism, but is quite clear and to the point. Let us read an extended passage to illustrate:

"They have imitated it [the true Christian doctrine], and they proclaim the doctrine of a dead man, along with false teachings that mock the freedom and purity of the perfect assembly. In their doctrine they bind themselves to fear and slavery and worldly concerns and improper forms of worship, for they are ignorant and of no significance. They do not accept the nobility of the truth. They hate the one to whom they belong, and they love the one to whom they do not belong."

This continues on, but we need not read it all again. But this clearly marks out a class of people who are not necessarily Hylics in the strictest sense of having no spiritual concern whatsoever, but who are yet under the control of the demiurge, despite their ostensible alliance with the Christ. But their Christ is not the Logos. It is the psychic Christ that the Logos put on during his descent into the cosmos; the one prophesied by the prophets of the demiurge; the one sacrificed to sate the bloodlust of this same demiurge.

Now, we may seem to have painted a very bad picture of this psychic Christ and his father, but that is not really our intent. We freely acknowledge the reality and the value of this Christ. But at the same time, it is important not to confuse the image with the Thing itself. It is only through seeking union with the Logos, which is the archetype, so to speak, of the psychic, or astral, Christ as well as the physical Jesus, that we may hope to balance and reconcile these images within ourselves.