

Trinity 11 2017 sermon

An “eclipse is a partial or total blocking of light of one celestial object by another.”

This my friends is what we saw this week with the solar eclipse – an amazing sight to see day turned to darkness as all nature is put into confusion.

I want to go deeper than the celebration and the cheering and examine this as more than just an event...

rather; let us evaluate and compare the light of heaven to the darkness of a world / which lives in sin.

In the Collect we read of being made partakers of God’s heavenly treasure through Jesus Christ our Lord

and in the Epistle of having the Gospel preached and received, upon which we stand, and by which we are saved.

Finally the Gospel follows up by setting the condition upon which we received these gifts (these heavenly treasures) –

it is through the humility of acknowledging our sin and praying for God’s mercy.

The solar eclipse we saw this week exemplifies of the goodness of God blocked out by a prideful “human race.”

This sickness, this disease called sin, enters into the world through man's arrogance and pride of desiring "our eyes to be opened, and becoming "as gods", knowing good and evil," thus determining, on our own, what is good and what is evil.

We have set ourselves up to judge of right and wrong, according to our own reasoning and judgment.

We can take anything: rationalize and prioritize what ever we want – setting priorities to reflect **our will** and confirm **our desires**; regardless, of what God has revealed to us.

Some today ... proudly proclaims "who cares what god says...?"

Let me be very clear: we are not God (thank God!),

but as Christ said of himself, we are "**SERVANTS**" of God, thus we are "**SERVANTS**" to His people.

We ... like every other, are sinners

and WE HAVE fallen far away from what we were Created to be.

In the Gospel this morning, it is the Lord Jesus himself who tells the story of the man who thought he was righteous .

Due to his own "goodness" of being not an extortioner,

no, he was not an unjust person,

and he proclaimed not to be an adulterer,
 and he fasted and gave tithes),
 and yet this man (yes, this Pharisee)
 demonstrates by his own words, as one who is not a servant,
 but as one who **exalteth himself** above his fellow man.

And Jesus tells us: this man is “abased”

(coming from the Greek word of (Tapeinoō Pronunciation tä-pā-no'-ō
 (Key)

(too / pa / naw / oo)

meaning to make low, to Bring low ,

and Metaphorically: to be ranked below others who are honored or
 rewarded.

Sadly this Pharisee probably loved God; however he did not love (he did
 not respect) his fellow man...

this is the tragedy of the world / in which we live today!

I would say that this man had an easy love – for it is easy to say “I love
 God” but it is not easy to apply it in our lives.

If we love God, then we should love the things of God and not things
 contrary to God...

Proverbs (8:13) tell us: The fear of the LORD

(THE DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION OF WISDOM)

is to **hate evil**: pride, and arrogancy, the evil way, and the froward mouth – the perverse mouth;

these things, yes ... we are also to hate –

Pride, arrogancy, evil, and a perverse mouth...we are to hate!

Through pride and arrogance (of becoming our own “little gods”) we take God’s words and, most often through sin, our eyes are opened

and we allow (**heck I would say even promote**) the making of God into something trivial, when we place our creator – our God,

along with his words

into some sort of rationalization of “proofing text” and theories of Evolution which leads us to “EVOLVE” God, and God’s Words,

into something of our own desires and our own reasoning.

Much of the western world has turn over to “institutions”

the development of our children as to what is right and wrong.

We have allowed the words of institutions

to become sufficient for the fulfillment

of what they call Love which to them is really some sort of humanized “social justice.”

There is no JUSTICE WITHOUT GOD!

Not the will of the parents – but the will of others are determining the future for our children.

And all of this is done regardless of the truth of Scripture:

Hear the words of Jesus:

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them,

he it is that loveth me:

and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father,

and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Scripturally love is:

“long suffering” – not seeking revenge but suffers wrong within a godly manner...

Love is kind – the opposite of harshness, hardness, and bitterness...

Love is not envious – not jealously desiring what one does not possess...

Love is not self-promoting - In humility, it consider others as more important than self...

Love does not behave in an unbecoming fashion – it avoids the appearance of evil...

Love seeks not its own things - but things *which are of Christ*...

Love is not easily provoked - not easily angered...

Look at Jesus – see the Cross – it is there for you to see –

LOVE IN ITS PURITY. SEE IT ... FEEL IT!

Now let me ask (?) How does **the world** view Love?

Society takes the word "LOVE" and defines it without these TRUTHS of Scripture.

This is so detrimental to our children, because without "THE TRUTH" charity (love) degenerates

into something of a sentimental pool

of feelings ranging from tenderness to harshness, from sadness a utopian joy, of which is not even possible...

as Love eventually becomes nothing but an empty shell void of any truth.

We have allowed "Love" to fall prey to contingent / subjective / world of emotions and opinions. (Pope Benedict XVI)

The word LOVE has become so abused and distorted to the point of it actually coming to mean just the opposite,

as sin is accepted, justified, and even glorified.

Our development, especially the development of our children, cannot be turned over to sinful man (to us).

The development of God's children requires "a transcendent vision",

(Something that is **above and beyond** our human experience)

it needs God:

without him, this development is either denied / or it is entrusted exclusively to man.

Man, who often falls into the trap of thinking he can bring about his own salvation (I can do anything....)

And this ends up promoting some “Warped” and “DEHUMANIZED” form of development.

(Killing in the name of God – Killing out of feeling of being wronged, killing out of Jealousy – just who do we think we are?)

This my friends, unfortunately and sadly, is what we see and read about daily...

This hatred must end...

This world will only be saved by our Lord Jesus Christ...

there is no other way for He is: the Way, the Truth, and the Life...

we cannot save ourselves, we cannot do it without Him.

We, and our children, must have an encounter, a relationship with God, one that is based on His Truth and His Love.

If we do this, only then we will begin to see His divine image in others, thus, truly coming to discover “**others**” as our brothers and sisters, all part of God’s Creation (remember all that He created was called “GOOD”)

and only then we will begin to grow in a love that reflect God's True Love.

It is through pride,

(which leads to arrogance,

which leads to false confidence,)

that we have evolved from a good people to a sinful people.

It is we ... who have taken the goodness of God and distorted this goodness and allowed it to evolve into something contrary to God.

None of us have no room to boast, as did the Pharisee; therefore, let us stand with the Publican,

humbling ourselves before the Lord

and praying that he be merciful upon us...

and upon our children and their children.

IF WE WILL BE HIS PEOPLE

AND PROCLAIM HIS NAME **IN OUR LIVES,**

THEN HE WILL BE OUR GOD.

Instead of staring at the sky, let us focus upon Him -

He who died upon the cross

to cure us of the True darkness, which is sin.

Instead of communing with the universe,

let us commune with God
through His Body and Blood

so that we may dwell in Him and He in us...

Monday the world was in awe of the suddenness of the change from
light to darkness,

Today ... let us experience the total awesomeness of His Love...

A love which can only be revealed in **His truth.**

Come: for this is my body – this is my blood.