**“Doing What is Right in the Eyes of God”**

All our readings today point us to the phrase, **“Doing what is Right in the Eyes of God.”** Doing what is right in the eyes of God, means doing His will. Doing God’s will means burying our own will which always wants the pleasure of this world! It means having faith in God. It means that our hope in the future is based on trusting in God’s goodness. It means focusing only on God; and God who is in charge of all things, will give us the grace to follow Him.

God has already planted His grace in us, it is left for us to find this treasure. It is part of human nature to have something to look forward to. It could be to get a new job or a new house or even just as simple as having a nice dinner at the end of the day. However, our focus as Christians, should be to have the best times in heaven. That is God’s will for us. He tells us that when our treasure is laid up in heaven, He will take care of all the rest of our needs.

We can have an understanding of looking forward to the future by observing little children. Adults have lost this longing because of trying to get ahead in the world. We have buried that longing. Little children live their lives looking to the future for the simple reason that childhood leads to adulthood. Adults usually ask them “what do you want to be when you grow up?” Some might daydream about being a fire fighter, a policeman, a doctor, a nun or a priest.

As children grow up, they have optimism about achieving their dreams. They do not see any road block that would derail their dreams. They live their lives in serenity and patience. It is what we call the innocence of a child. Adults have lost this attitude, due to the desire to actually put their childhood dreams into reality. However, to be childlike, this innocence should be dug up from the bottom of the pile of junk we adults have created for ourselves in trying to get ahead in life. Children’s attitude is filled with hope not with anxiety.

It is impossible for us with our puny minds to imagine how awesome, beautiful, and wonderful God is! That is why Jesus who knows His Father and everything, uses what we are familiar with (as inadequate as they are,) to give us a glimpse of what heaven would be like if we obey His commandments. Some theologians refer to heaven as a beatific vision that brings unspeakable happiness while hell brings unspeakable suffering and torture.

In our first reading, in King Solomon, God gave us an example of what is right in His eyes. Solomon could have asked for many earthly things such as long life, protection from his enemies, and all other things that brings earthly pleasure. Instead, he asked for understanding. Understanding is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. When we have understanding, it would lead us to the gift of the virtue of faith in God.

In asking for understanding and knowledge of how to rule God’s people, God was pleased with Solomon. He gave Him more than he asked for. God gave him not only his needs, but also his wants. Our God is a generous God who could not be outdone in generosity. God’s gifts cannot be bought, they are priceless and already in us. His gifts are pure and everlasting. When Solomon responded to God’s love by asking for understanding, God unlocks the hidden understanding in Solomon’s heart.

Paul complements what is right in the eyes of God by saying, it is the love of God that is right in His eyes. When we love God, we will only desire what He wants for us. We will imitate His Son who gave up everything in heaven to become poor in our world. Paul sees our lives as filled with grace especially during difficult times. When we are in tune with Jesus, during hard times, we will grow in our faith and no matter what happens by way of headaches or heartaches.

Paul says, everything works out for good for those who love God. It is a matter of letting that hidden love of God buried in our hearts come to the surface of our hearts. When it is at the surface, the heartaches and headaches would disappear because that are the works of the devil. We will let go of our hurt and heartaches and be born anew.

The words of Jesus in the gospel about the reign of God’s kingdom, can rightly be applied to God Himself. God is a treasure so precious that no sacrifice is too great to give up in order to enter into His presence. Nothing He created on earth or in heaven could be too great to give up in other to enter into His joy and see the beatific vision. God is the most desirable beautiful treasure or pearl that we should gladly leave behind all other attractions so that we may be absorbed by His splendor.

God created all things for us to enjoy. But He tells us the treasure that is buried and the great pearl of great price is the knowledge of God’s only begotten Son. God tells us that He has buried the knowledge of Himself in our hearts. He tells us that when we have Him, we have everything.

He tells us that when our hearts are moved to look for Him, we will find the understanding of Him in both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament of the everlasting covenant. That is why He said the Scribe who is instructed in the kingdom of heaven, would bring from his storeroom or understanding both the New Testament and the Old Testament; because both contain the treasure and the pearl we are searching for.

St. Augustine put it more eloquently when he said, ***“In the Old Testament the New is concealed, in the New the Old is revealed.”*** So, it is by making use of both the Old and the New that we will understand what is right in the eyes of God.

It is in the Mass that this great treasure and pearl are vividly manifested. In the Mass, we have the Liturgy of the word where we hear from the Old and from the New Testaments which together contains all the buried treasure. In the second part of the Mass, we have the Liturgy of the Eucharist where the priceless Pearl of great price is consumed. In the Eucharist, we receive more grace to keep our hearts burning for more.

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us ask for His grace, so can keep doing what is right in the eyes of God.