

Christ Brought the Most Optimistic Message of All **From *Glorification* by Norberto R. Keppe**

I am going to speak here of the Christ who is unknown, or better, the God who is unknown, because of our mortal envy — the envy which not only leads us to deny Him but, even worse, prevents us from recognizing Him as He truly is. We now have the contribution of science to open our eyes to a dimension that religion and the philosophies separately have not managed to perceive.

I want to speak about the true Christ; the Lord of the earth, the planets and the stars; the owner of all that exists; He who has not one iota of error or deceit; He who is total happiness and joy, which our unbounded envy prevents us from seeing. I want to speak of that Being who, because He is so immense and generous and good, came to earth to show us that we live in one kingdom only, which is His.

The most optimistic message that humanity has ever received is that of Christ. It is incredible how He surmounted with the greatest ease all of the things that cause man so much anxiety. He overcame the errors man makes; He triumphed over death, with resurrection; He achieved a vast universal communion among men. But principally He demonstrated God's love in considering us as His children and heirs, in considering us as the owners, together with Him, of all goodness, of all things that exist, and of life itself. He is a flame of affection, an infinite Being whose full dimension our eyes can never perceive, whose music our ears cannot wholly capture, whose fragrance we cannot fully detect, whose delights — reserved especially for us — we cannot completely feel or taste. Interestingly enough, He has put all of this at our disposal because He loves us. We need only to accept it.

All that Christ revealed and did constitutes a message of greater hope and joy than any other person has ever achieved. Wherever He went He cured illness, forgave sins, and showed the beauty of the kingdom of heaven. He did not condemn a single person; in fact, He became irritated by the behavior of the hypocrites who disturbed the lives of their fellow beings. His principal work was in showing that God is good and loves all men as His children, and the main reason for His existence on earth was to lead mankind to well-being and happiness. He taught that existence 'is the greatest of all gifts, and that God acts exactly like a father who takes pleasure in putting all of his riches into the hands of his children.

God is the most joyful being who exists. To see this we have only to observe the murmur of the streams, the sound of the wind in the trees, the graceful flight of the birds, the radiance of the sun, the music and the perfume that emanate from the forests, the clouds sailing happily across the sky, and especially this incredible creation that develops almost without limits, foretelling of another in which there are no restrictions.

We should give attention to the fact that God's feeling for us is not the same as our feeling for Him; that is, our love, our liking, is limited and His has no limit; we are partial in our liking and He is entirely free in His; we restrict our feeling, and He does not, for He forgives us our errors and accepts us completely without any restriction. We can say that God's affection for us is boundless.

The question that now occurs to me is this: are the things that Christ taught and showed being carried out? Has Christianity ever existed in its pure form, or not? It seems that in the beginning, its followers took Christianity seriously, but in the fourth century they tried to unite so-called spiritual power with secular power. From that time on I believe that Christianity has been mixed with false elements that have been damaging to it.

In a general sense, I do not think it possible to reconcile the interests of the political and economic groups which dominate society with the interests of the Creator. Is there actually, as Augustine said, a City of God and a City of Man — the one, an authentic group that acts according to reality; and the other, a false group that tries to live out illusion and fantasy in detriment to the others? Obviously the latter should, in time, subjugate itself to the former; but to achieve this, the well-intentioned must be firm in their attitudes and not continually make concessions to lies and hypocrisy — not only the lies and hypocrisy of others, but also, and especially, their own.

The world is not sustained by both good and evil; that is, by lighting one candle to God and another to the Devil, as the popular saying goes. The world lives, with all of its errors and mistakes, at the cost of truth, which is its only base.

When we look at the City of Man, no matter how beautiful it is we always find along its winding paths the sad signs of intrigue, slander and crime. But when we contemplate the City of God, that same beauty is there, enhanced by an ambience of great peace and equilibrium. The whole earth we inhabit should be like that but is not simply because we make a great mistake (which I call inversion) by acting contrarily, attributing good to appearances and evil to truth.

The basic cause of such an attitude is the extreme envy we feel toward the Creator; envy which leads us to deny His work and to try to replace it with our own ideas, with the intention of redoing it all the way *we* wish. Since we cannot exist coherently except in harmony with nature as it was created, our attitude is one of destroying everything, ourselves included. It is fundamentally important that we conscientize this envy which leads us to estrange ourselves from the incredible wonder that exists everywhere.

Augustine said that the City of God was the great work that began with the creation and continues incessantly in time and space. It is this great work that our envy has damaged, and the result is the City of Man. These two cities exist mainly in our inner selves and represent our struggle with love — which is life.

If Christ behaved the way He did and was persecuted, condemned and put to death, then it is urgent for man to perceive that there is great error in his civilization — unless he prefers to reach the point of total destruction.

It was Christ who brought light to the world, who brought consciousness, which is true life; He alone has given us direct knowledge of God. Even Christ's favorite disciple, John, said that everything the human being has is given to him by God. If we reject and try to blacken the image of Christ who sustains all goodness, truth and beauty, then obviously we are wronging ourselves and must urgently conscientize ourselves of this. When Christ came to tell us what our attitude should be, He was speaking as one who possesses all beauty, truth and goodness, and He exhorted us to make that attitude a part of our lives.

We must become conscious of the error of wanting to exchange truth for imagination, the error of rejecting and distorting all of the wonder that sustains us, the error of closing our eyes and preventing will from adhering to truth. Our position is inverse to that of Christ. While He gazes compassionately upon our faults, we observe His unlimited greatness, astounded by such magnitude.

Everything that Christ said has a most profound meaning, and since our psychic life is the most ample and profound part of us, if we use it to interpret Christ's words, we will obtain the best explanation. In fact, Christ always addressed His words to man in his wholeness. As an example I cite the parable of the talents, in which Christ tells of three servants whose master entrusted them with a number of talents — five, two and one, respectively. The two who received the larger amounts worked and doubled their

talents and were praised, while the third, who had received one talent and did not increase it, was reprimanded. The parable can be interpreted from a social point of view, but anyone who looks around himself can see that the rich are the most arrogant, and those who think only of material progress are the worst. When we interpret the parable from a psychological viewpoint, however, its meaning changes completely, and its message is that those who work mainly to increase their inner riches — intelligence, aptitude, feeling, comprehension — are the most agreeable.

The aim of revelation is to illuminate man's perception of the fact that after this cycle of existence, he will be the only survivor in a universe flooded with happiness from the Creator because of those who accepted Him.

Christ spoke to us as God; we must speak to Him as human beings. He spoke of the One who gave us all love, life and eternity; we must speak not only of our complete gratefulness for truth, beauty and goodness, but especially of our profound gratitude for everything He has done for us, because He has shown that He appreciates any attitude of ours that draws us nearer Him.

All existence is a true dream of love, as is life itself, for it was born out of an act of God's affection, which is feeling (love). That is what our life is. If we choose not to perceive this, we do it out of extreme envy.