

Reality and illusory world

"What is truth?" (Pontius Pilate, John 18:38)

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone *"on the side of truth"* listens to me." (John 18:37)

In 1 Corinthians 13:12, Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians: "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known." What does Paul want to make clear with this sentence? – It means that we are looking at the truth upside down! Man thinks that he lives here in the real world; that matter is reality – everything spiritual is unrealistic. But we live in a so-called illusory world; a world of lies and deception, of untruth. And our inner spiritual eye cannot recognize the path to the kingdom of life and eternal truth from God through the dense fog of matter. We are blinded by matter, by our habitual materialistic thinking. ("Whoever sets his heart on this life will lose the life of the hereafter. But whoever dislikes the life and activity of this world will secure for himself the life on the other side as 'the true life' for the future." John 12:25)

Lucifer does everything in his power not only to distract the human soul with the help of matter, but also to hold on to it – to bind it!

He can **distract** us with amusement parks, entertainment of all kinds, the internet, etc. **The bond** to matter is created through the addiction that results from it (drugs, shopping addiction, eating addiction, gambling addiction, nicotine addiction, alcohol addiction, etc.). All addictions, including inner addictions, such as the craving for possessions and domination, the craving for recognition and jealousy, bind the human soul to the illusory world in which it lives, the world of lies; they bind the soul to matter! They **prevent the soul from entering into a connection with its spirit from God in order to make its way back to the Father's house.**

But not only addictions can bind; every kind of matter, as already mentioned, including materialistic thinking, can drive the human soul into dependence on matter. So can thoughts or memories, whether positive or negative, e.g. not being able to forgive, not being able to "let go" of a deceased person, etc. This is why the Lord (Jesus) replied to someone who wanted to "follow" him but first wanted to say goodbye to his relatives: "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:61-62) Worry is not only a sign of a lack of trust in God; it also indicates that a person accepts the lie in which he lives, i.e. he accepts the "untruth"/lie as "true"!

The same applies to idol worship, including the veneration of relics; they also have the effect that the human soul continues to be bound to matter. Man thus makes himself dependent on this instead of relying solely on **faith**, which is of a **purely spiritual nature.**

So it is not the material cross itself that offers us protection, but the conviction and living out the *meaning of the cross; one lives absolute love* (I give – and do not demand, I endure and am patient, all my brothers and sisters (all people of this world) find acceptance in my heart) *and absolute faith* (I trust in the Lord, and he will make all my paths straight, Proverbs 3:5-6). In other words, here too we should not limit our faith to the material cross, but live it out in love and trust in God.

Thus, the statement in Revelation 21, verse 27: "But nothing unclean will ever enter it (the New Jerusalem), no one who serves idolatry and lies...", means that no one who makes himself dependent on matter or worships it can enter the kingdom of God, because he serves lies at the same time.

It is therefore necessary, and this again **depends on the strength of one's own will**, to separate oneself from everything worldly in order to be able to enter the kingdom of life and eternal truth from God.

("Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." 1 John 2:15-17

"If anyone would come after me (follow Jesus into the kingdom of light and truth from God), let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For he who seeks to secure his purely earthly happiness in life will loose the true happiness of life. But whoever looses the earthly happiness of life by following the message of salvation (teachings of Jesus) will gain the **true** happiness of life." Mark 8:34-35

"Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: 'Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts still unreceptive *to the truth*? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And don't you remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?' 'Twelve,' they replied. 'And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?' They answered, 'Seven.' And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?" Mark 8:17-21

"What fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14)

Christ, the Redeemer, showed us how to *detach* ourselves from this world, the world of judgment (for all matter is judged spirit) and eternal damnation ("Cursed is the ground because of you..." Genesis 3:17; "I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman (Eve), between your offspring (temptation) and her offspring (all people)." Gen. 3:15); **a life of simplicity, modesty, humility and great devotion to God.** (Birth in a stable, escape to Egypt, life in poverty, death on the cross...) For it is written: "Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 18:18) He himself showed us the way of liberation from the material web that ensnares us – from spiritual death to eternal life! ("No longer will there be any **curse**." Revelation 22:3; "For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that **the creation will free itself from its bondage to corruption** and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." Romans 8:20-21)

And so I would like to conclude with the following advice for all people who are seeking the kingdom of God: Free yourselves from materialism, superstition and material thinking in order to be able to enter that kingdom.

Amen.