

Meditation 2014-02-26
Today is Wednesday following Sexagesima Sunday
Meditation Theme: “What is Heaven like?”

Place yourself in the presence of Jesus Christ. Make sure He knows that every thought, action, and experience of today is dedicated exclusively to Him.

The Scenario: From the Epistle of today’s Mass

Brethren, If I must glory (it is not expedient indeed): but I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ above fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I know not, or out of the body, I know not; God knoweth), such a one caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man (whether in the body, or out of the body, I know not: God knoweth): That he was caught up into paradise, and heard secret words, which it is not granted to man to utter. For such an one I will glory; but for myself I will glory nothing, but in my infirmities. For though I should have a mind to glory, I shall not be foolish; for I will say the truth. But I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth in me, or any thing he heareth from me. And lest the greatness of the revelations should exalt me, there was given me a sting of my flesh, an angel of Satan, to buffet me. For which thing thrice I besought the Lord, that it might depart from me. And he said to me: My grace is sufficient for thee; for power is made perfect in infirmity. Gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Point 1. – The Blessed Apostle Paul speaks of a man he knows. Biblical scholars speculate that Blessed Paul is relating his own experience while trying to not publish his own importance.

Point 2. – This man, possibly the Apostle himself, was given a most singular privilege. He saw Heaven, and the only thing he can say about it is that it is too wonderful to say anything about it.

Point 3. – Paul endured harsh temptations, and he asked God to take them away. God told him rather to “Bear up!” because His grace is sufficient.

Meditation: Saint Paul tells of an experience that “someone” had, possibly an “out of body” experience, where he was shown at least some of the wonders of Heaven. Is it possible that he is telling his listeners what Heaven is like to make going there a more attractive thing? What exactly will Heaven be like? Well, he can’t tell us. But it is great!

Do I want to go to heaven? The most anyone can tell me about it is that it is wonderful, but just how wonderful is that? Saint Paul has said “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, what things God hath prepared for them that love him.” (*I Cor. 2:9*). If you were to ask a goldfish (if you could) just what he thought Heaven would be like, he would respond (if he could) that it would be a place where the water was warm, where there was plenty of food, where the pretty gravel would always be clean, there would be many interesting and varied sunken castles that he could swim around and through, and there would be lots and lots of other fish that wouldn’t eat him. The goldfish

would really be describing the very best of what he knows. When Humans think of heaven, they think in this same format. There would be warm sunshine, good food, plenty of chocolate that won't make them fat, good friends, and great companionship. Saint Paul is telling me that Heaven is SO much better than that. I could not possibly imagine how great it is, because my imagination is limited by my experience. Does this make the prospect attractive to me? Can I possibly believe in something I cannot imagine? Do I believe that God's presence can possibly be THAT good? Do I want to go there? Our Lord has given me the requirements. He has told me to "bear up" under the temptations that assail me because He provides sufficient grace. Am I prepared to accept God's grace? What am I prepared to do to get to Heaven? Should I make a plan?

Colloquy: Take a minute or two to converse with God, in any of His three Persons, or the Triune God complete in Himself. Tell Him what you have learned from your meditation, and thank Him for it.

Hold the Gain: Consider what you can do to keep the fruits of your meditation. Try to plan how you can think of them through the day, and through the days ahead. Come up with ways you can apply your conclusions to what you do in your everyday life, conversations you engage in, the choice of what movie to watch, what books you choose to read.