

In today's collect we prayed:

“Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honour you with all our mind, and love everyone with truth of heart.”

Those who want to fully honour God with their minds see what Jesus said in today's Gospel about the Holy Scriptures. In referring to Psalm 110, attributed to Davidic authorship Jesus says: “David himself, by the Holy Spirit declared”. The whole of the Scriptural tradition, all seventy-three books are inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Let me draw an analogy. Much of St. Peter's was architecturally inspired by Michelangelo. Does this mean that he was working on the construction crews? No not at all, But, under his inspiration, over the course of 120 year's St. Peter's was built. Indeed, he would not have seen the finished product. It is similar with the Scriptures. Under the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures were written by people, like King David.

When people read the Scriptures with an understanding of their divine inspiration the unity of the 73 books becomes clearer in their thinking. Just like Tobit regained his physical sight in today's first reading, we gain our spiritual sight when we see the unity of Scripture. Just as people when walking through St. Peter's can appreciate each individual aspect of the building, we also gain an appreciation of the interconnectedness of the whole, especially when standing under its glorious dome.

Those who love the Lord with all their mind, never tire of discovering the inspired unity of the Bible, understanding most especially how the Scriptures always point to how Jesus is the fulfillment of the Davidic Line and is also the Lord of History.

Mark 12 shows something that is integral to the theological nature of Jesus. Jesus is the son of David in his humanity, and thus David's successor (Lk 1:32; Rom 1:3), while he is also the divine Son of God, and thus David's superior Lord.

Those who are learning to live honouring God with all of their mind, through their love and study of the Scriptures and calling Jesus Lord, then in turn are learning to love everyone with truth of heart. Just as the Scriptures reflect the truth of the true nature of God so too as we grow in living truthful lives we reflect our true and redeemed nature in Jesus Christ. As we learn to more fully understand what it is to call him Lord this begs the questions: If Jesus is your Lord is he commanding your life in every detail? Is he the Lord of your family life? Of your recreational life? Of your professional life? Is the Lord of every room in your house, including the bedroom? Does your sexuality belong to him? Do your friendships serve his purpose? Are you totally given over to him, under his lordship?

When we surrender to the path of love which he has laid out for us, our lives become infinitely lighter, easier, and more joyful, for we are moving with the divine purpose. You will have moved out of what Paul calls “the way of the flesh” and will have moved into the “way of the spirit.”

Flesh refers here, not to the body as such, but to sin. When you are caught up in patterns of self-regard and self-protection, life becomes a burden, and you find yourself taking up the weapons of war all the time. But when you recognize Jesus as Lord, you can let all of that go.

To therefore love God with all our mind and everyone with truth of heart is the path to true freedom and meaning.