

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, February 25, 2018*

YEAR B - SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Greetings, everyone, and welcome to our celebration of the 2nd Sunday in Lent. Let us first take just a moment to acknowledge the tragedy that has befallen so many lives as a result of the horrific shooting at a high school in Broward County, Florida. Let us pray for the passing of the grief experienced by the friends, family, and community that have been touched by this event. Let us also pray for the souls of the deceased, that they find comfort and rest in the Eternal. And let us pray, especially, for the general enlightenment of society, that we may move away from a culture that permits and normalizes such travesties.

Our greatest forebears in the Mystery Tradition have all envisioned a societal reform that leads humanity to health, wealth, and the general welfare and evolution of all. Whether it is the one envisioned by Plato, Bacon, Andrea, Saint-Yves d'Alveydre, or others, they all have in common the notion of attaining to the Ideal, the Summum Bonum or Greatest Good. These notions of the idealized societies are all geared around the perfecting of society, the uplifting of humanity.

To realize this ideal we must place our sense of responsibility above our perceived personal entitlements. Paul writes about this frequently in his letters; how he sets aside his freedom from the law - which is absolute - in order to fulfill his responsibilities to the greater good, the divine will. In our present society we value freedom, but we do not see an equal emphasis placed upon the value of responsibility. Paul also often talks about the maturity of one's faith. It is this maturing, which is the goal of the initiatic schools, that brings about a sense of duty and responsibility which outweighs the selfish and childish concept of freedom at any cost. To love and seek freedom is laudable; but to seek the accomplishment of the Great Work of universal regeneration is the mission of the initiate.

Our freedoms are not granted to us to use irresponsibly. Our Gospel reading this week says: "Whoever desires to save his soul will lose it. But whoever loses his soul for my sake...will save it. For what does it benefit a man to gain the whole cosmos and to forfeit his soul?" This relates directly to what we've been talking about. Those who cling selfishly to what they feel is theirs by right, irrespective of the consequences, have lost the very essence of humanity. But those who are willing to relinquish even what is theirs by right, for the sake of the betterment of humanity and society, have truly lived according to the spirit and not according to the imperfections of the law.

Now, this is not at all a political issue, in the conventional sense of the word; but it is a societal issue. The initiates must actively uphold and exemplify the principles derived from our esoteric doctrines. Since we do not live in an enlightened State, where the hierophants make policy and judge wisely, each adept must do his or her best to provide an unerring example of the reintegrated human; and all must do their best to become the shepherds of an enlightened society, until each may gain true sovereignty for oneself.