

Second Hand Preacher

Easter Sunday

March 27, 2016

Colossians 3:1-4

For Easter morning, there are two options of the Second Reading. One is from 1 Corinthians and it deals with good and evil in terms unleavened bread and yeast filled bread, not a bad image, but I prefer the upbeat Colossians. That seems to get right to the point in our salvation history. St. Paul wants the Colossians to continue to build their faith by seeing the true meaning of the resurrection.

According to Matthew, Henry's Commentary, "As Christians are freed from the ceremonial law, they must walk the more closely with God in gospel obedience. As heaven and earth are contrary one to the other, both cannot be followed together; and affection to the one will weaken and abate affection to the other. Those that are born again are dead to sin, because its dominion is broken, its power gradually subdued by the operation of grace, and it shall at length be extinguished by the perfection of glory. To be dead, then means this, that those who have the Holy Spirit, mortifying within them the lusts of the flesh, are able to despise earthly things and to desire those that are heavenly. Christ is, at present, one whom we have not seen; but our comfort is that our life is safe with him. The streams of this living water flow into the soul by the influences of the Holy Spirit, through faith."

Are we born of the Spirit or are we tied to the flesh. This question is probably not as easy as it seems. The Spirit is alive in us if we are moved by the resurrection and are committed to the sacraments. However, this doesn't totally wipe away those desires of the flesh. We still have human weakness. So, for most, it is a constant battle. Hopefully we can reach a level of spiritual maturity and the battles can be less, but the battle still exists. There is an old joke that has a sliver of truth to it. Temptation leaves us about a half an hour after we are dead. May we all trust in the Holy Spirit to help us glory in the resurrection.