

V.O.C. – September 2017

September 10, 2017: The Word of God – a word of light

Dear Listeners,

The Bible is the Word of God, we heard last week. We listened to the 4th gospel, “the gospel of glory” written by the apostle John. He started his account with those well-known and deep words of truth: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” John was speaking of the Son of God, whom he calls the Word. By Him God created all things. John’s words remind us of the first words of the Bible: “In the beginning God created heaven and earth.” John starts at the beginning of the world when God created through the Word: “And God said,” we read over and over. God spoke and it was there. God created through the Word, who is God the Son who came into the world in the flesh: Jesus Christ, the Saviour from God! By Him God created life; in Him was life, we read. Hence, last week we focussed on the Word of God as a word of life!

Today, dear listeners, we see that the Word of God also is a word of light. The gospel in the Bible teaches us that life and light belong together. We receive both in and through the Word. He is the Son of God and God Himself, Jesus Christ, and He it is who gave and gives life and light. When God created all things, He did so through the Word, when He said, “Let there be light! And there was light.” Light and life are fundamental matters. The story of the creation of the world mentions this fact specifically. God created the light to make life on earth possible. What could we have done on earth if the earth would have been in darkness all the time?! A world without light is a world without life! Man needs light for his work and ways! It would not have been a problem for God, as David indicates in Psalm 139: “Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as day, for darkness is as light with you.” To us, people, however, light is a necessity! Hence David praises the gift of light, in night and day: “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place...” Light and life, they belong together; they make our existence possible!

Light and life, they belong together, dear listener, not only in the work of God’s creation by the Word but *also* in God’s work of *re*creation through the Word! The Word of God is a word of life *and* light! Again, darkness is covering the earth: there is so much sin and evil, so much terror and terrible catastrophes, death and destruction. Man and mankind, too, are living in darkness! It may make you wonder: where is God? Well, God is there and was there, also and again with His Word. With David we may express our amazement about that too, for despite the fact that we have polluted and corrupted God’s wonderful work of creation, He did not leave us in the dark of death and destruction! “What is man that you are mindful of him,” David says in Psalm 8 as well, “and the son of man that you care for him?” Indeed, God came into this dark world in His Son, the Word that came into the flesh: Jesus Christ. “I am the Light of the world,”

That's what John also says in his account, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." Jesus Christ is the Word of God, and He is the word of life and of light!

When you read through John's entire gospel account, dear listener, you will recognize in Jesus the Son of God as the Word of God. John records many of His speeches in which He manifests Himself as the Word in whom there is life and light! Life is there through Him but also today in Him! He brings new life and He makes a new light shine in the darkness of this world. He showed it so clearly in all the miracles and wonders, in all His words and works. Hence the apostle Paul reminds us [2 Cor. 4:6], "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!" That's still the gospel today! Jesus Christ, the Word of God, still comes to you and me today with His Word as a word of life, a word of light, and he does so in the midst of a world that seems to get darker by the day! Yet, as John says as well, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Between light and darkness, dear listeners, there is a contrast, as there is between life and death. After the fall into sin, the light is shining in a world of sin, of death. Around the Word of life and light, which is the light of man, there is darkness, death, and destruction. It is the dark world of man's rebellion against God! And still, John says, there is resistance against this light of God, the Word of God! It showed when Jesus came into the world as well. At times it may seem that the darkness is winning it of the light. It even seemed that way when Jesus was rejected by His own people, God's own people! And yet, dear listener, but yet, the Light is shining in this world; it is shining in the heart of people in this world! The Light does conquer the hearts of some. It did so in the past, in the life of Abel, Noah, Abraham and his seed, in Elijah's days there were 7,000, etc. etc., people who accepted the Word of God, the Word of life and light. The Word regenerated people, recreated their lives! That was God's work, with God's Word!

Today the Word is still going out in various ways and at various places. It is also coming to you, dear listener, through this "Voice of the Church." Then today the question is very important as well: In your life, where is the light? Are you living by the light that is coming to you from God, in God's Word, and in this word of life and light? In the days when the light came into the world, in the Word Incarnate, John the Baptist came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, John includes in his account, "that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light." Then John sums up what was really happening at that time: "The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him..."

That's the terrible reality today as well, when people get to hear about Him, when His witnesses testify of Him, and yet they do not believe Him. That's why the question is urgent for you too: Are you living by the light that is coming to you from God, also in and through this message? God has made it light again, in Jesus Christ! He has given new life in Him, making us true man again, and we may walk in the light of the life in Jesus Christ! Does that light shine in your life, over your work, giving it a new and true

purpose again? May the Word of God as a word of life enlighten you by His Holy Spirit; may you heed the Word of life as coming to you through the Voice of the Church!