

GOSPEL OF JOHN 16D & 17 A (16:29-33, 17:1-2)

29His disciples say to Him, “Behold, now You speak plainly, and speak no proverb.
30“Now we know that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.” 31Jesus answered them, “Now do you believe? 32“Behold, an hour is coming and now has come, that you shall be scattered each to his own, and shall leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33“These things I have spoken to you, in order that you may have peace in Me. In the world you shall have affliction; but be of good courage, I have overcome the world.” [Jn. 16:33]

Love is perfected in us when we no longer live, but Christ lives in them

Chrysostom: “He tells them, ‘You still have a long way to go to reach perfection. Nothing as of yet has been achieved by you. In fact, you will soon betray me to my enemies, and you will be so afraid that you will not even be able to flee together. But I will not be harmed by this....He shows them that now, when they say they believe, they really do not yet believe...’”

The Christian life is one of tribulation and exaltation

Chrysostom: “These things I have said to you so that you might have peace,” that is, that you might not drive me from your thoughts but receive me...(These words) are spoken for our comfort and love. . . raise up your spirits, for you will suffer no serious harm... And how have you conquered the world? ...I have cast down its ruler, but you shall know later when everything yields and obeys you.”

IN Christ is impossible is made possible

Origen: “We are not to suppose that each individual must contend with all these adversaries, which would be impossible for anyone...For I think human nature has definite limitations, even though there is a Paul...or a Peter...or a Moses...For not even these could face the whole crowd of opposing powers at once without destruction to himself, except perhaps on the condition that there was working within him the power of Him who said, ‘Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world...when (human nature) feels the presence of the Lord dwelling in it, confidence in Divine help will lead it to say, ‘The Lord is my might, light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the protector of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?’”

The tribulation of Spiritual Warfare - the Way of Salvation

Maximus the Confessor: “Rebelling as we do against God through the passions and agreeing to pay tribute in the form of evil to that cunning tyrant and murderer of souls, the devil, we cannot be reconciled with God until we have first begun to fight against the devil with all our strength...until we have made ourselves the devil’s enemies and fight against him, we continue by deliberate choice to serve shameful passions...God has made us so that we might become partakers of the Divine nature and sharers in His eternity, and so we might come to be like Him through deification by Grace...If we desire to belong to God in both name and reality, let us struggle not to betray the Word to the passions...To deny the Word is to fail through fear to do what is good. To betray Him is to deliberately chose to commit sin. The outcome of every affliction endured for the sake of virtue is joy,

the outcome of every labor is rest, and the outcome of every shameful treatment is glory. In short, the outcome of all suffering for the sake of virtue is to be with God to remain with Him forever and to enjoy eternal rest.”

CHAPTER 17

¹These *things* Jesus spoke, and lifted up His eyes to the heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son might glorify You, ²“even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, in order that all whom You have given Him, He should give to them life eternal.

Chrysostom: “...he himself turns to prayer in order to teach us that in our testing we are to leave everything behind and flee to God.”

Cyril of Alexandria: “When an occasion calls us to prayer, it is fitting for us to pray for that which increases God’s glory before we pray for that which concerns ourselves...for the Father is glorified in the glory of His offspring.”