

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 15, 2009

“For by one offering He has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated.”

—Hebrews 10:14

Our readings from Daniel and the Gospel of Mark this Sunday reflect on Christ, the Son of God, who will return in glory at the end of time. Then all in the world will be judged as to whether they will live eternally in the kingdom of God. But as reflected in today’s reading from Hebrews, Christ by His sacrifice on the cross has already made each of us perfect in the eyes of God. Therefore, a person might ask why he must be judged further at the end of time. In making us perfect Christ offered to us the blessing of eternal life. However, we often find ourselves turning away from or rejecting this gift. By our actions we may seek other gifts that the world offers, such as power, wealth, and self-indulgence. We may be so attracted by these “gifts” that we overlook and spurn the one gift which is worth more than all the treasures in the world.

In the pursuit of these worldly gifts we often reject the value and true worth of both ourselves and others, such as families, friends, coworkers and others in our communities. We place selfish interests ahead of others and in those actions we push ourselves away from God and the eternal blessing offered by Christ's sacrifice. Only when we seek God's forgiveness can we once again draw closer to God, and thereby be judged worthy of eternal life with Him. Through the sacrament of Reconciliation we are made whole in the eyes of God. At the moment of our death we will know in our hearts how worthy we really are as we look into the eyes of Christ and see the reflection of our very soul.

Therefore, we need to consciously measure our actions against our worthiness to retain this perfect gift from Christ. We need to be truthful to His word and our own self-worth and be willing to seek His healing grace and forgiveness when we begin to drift away from the path of everlasting life. We should take time today to evaluate our lives to see if we remain worthy to accept Christ’s gift of everlasting life. We need to recommit our lives to remain faithful to God and His mission in this world so that at the end of our days the perfect gift of eternal salvation with God in heaven will be our everlasting future.

Readings:

Daniel 12:1-3 <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/daniel/daniel12.htm>

Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/psalms/psalm16.htm>

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18 <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/hebrews/hebrews10.htm#v11>

Mark 13:24-32 <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/mark/mark13.htm#v24>