

The World Turned Upside Down

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP - RADICAL PERSECUTION

1 Thessalonians 3-6 | 3 August 2016

PASSAGES OF PARTICULAR NOTE

1. 1 Thess 3 - an example of St. Paul's gentle care for his spiritual children

1.1. REPETITION FROM LAST WEEK: " In the Gospels, Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. **We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!**" (Pope Francis, *Homily for the Solemnity of St. Joseph on which his Petrine Ministry was Inaugurated*, 19 March 2013)

Notes

2. 1 Thess 4:3-5 - " For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from unchastity [Greek *porneia*]; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like heathen who do not know God;"

2.1. Sexual sin is particularly dangerous. St. Thomas Aquinas says that, while we should face most temptations head on, we should flee from temptations to sexual sin because it is so easy to be conquered by them. Where do I struggle with sexual sin (even venial sin)? What practical steps am I taking in my life to overcome it?

2.2. Do I struggle with sexual sin that is mortal sin (pornography, masturbation, adultery, most use of contraception, fornication)? What am I doing about it?

For Prayer

2.3. Am I addicted to sexual sin? Do I need to look into some form of a Sex Addicts Anonymous group?

2.3.1. There is a group out of New Orleans Called "My House Catholic Men's Group" and there is a possibility of one opening up locally. Do I need to speak with Father privately about joining one of them?

3. 1 Thess 5:11 - "Therefore **encourage one another and build one another up**, just as you are doing."

3.1. Are we doing this, or are we tearing our brothers down? Our sons?

4. 1 Thess 5:12-13 - " But we beseech you, brethren, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work."

4.1. Respect and holy obedience for the priests and the bishop.