

Sixteenth Meditation: On the reward that a Brother of the Christian Schools should expect in heaven, if he is faithful in his work

First Point

Saint Paul complained because some of the Corinthians said they belonged to Paul while others said they belonged to Apollo. He told them that each of them would receive his reward in proportion to his labor. This should make you realize that your happiness in heaven will be greater than what will be enjoyed by those who have worked only for their own salvation, and it will be much greater in proportion to the number of children you have instructed and won over to God.

The work of each one, that is of those who have labored on the building of the Church, says the Apostle, will be made known on the day of the Lord, because fire will be the test of the work of each one, (especially those who have instructed children and formed them to piety); those who have formed them in the Christian spirit will be seen, and those who have procured for them a solid piety. Such teachers will easily be distinguished from others who will not have trained their disciples in any good practice, and who will have been negligent in guiding them. The one whose work will survive, says the Apostle, that is, the one whose disciples will have acquired a strong piety through the teacher's effort and concern, will be rewarded in proportion to his work.

Consider, then, that your reward in heaven will be all the greater as you will have accomplished more good in the souls of the children who are entrusted to your care. It is in this spirit that Saint Paul told the Corinthians: You will be our glory in the time to come on the day of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

You can say the same thing of your disciples, namely, that on the day of judgment they will be your glory, if you have instructed them well and if they have profited from your instructions, because the lessons you have given them and the profit they have made from them will be unveiled before the whole world. Not only on that day, but throughout all eternity you will receive the glory of having instructed them well, because the glory that you have procured for them will reflect on you.

Fulfill the duties of your work so well, then, that you may be able to enjoy this blessing.

Second Point

What a consolation for those who have procured the salvation of souls, to see in heaven a great number whom they have helped to obtain the advantage of enjoying so great a happiness! This will happen to those who have instructed many persons about the truths of religion, as an angel said to the prophet Daniel: Those who instruct many persons in Christian justice will shine like stars throughout all eternity. They will shine, indeed, in the midst of those whom they have instructed, who will eternally bear witness to the great gratitude they have for so many instructions they received from their teachers, whom they will regard as the cause, after God, of their salvation.

Oh! what joy a Brother of the Christian Schools will have when he sees a great number of his students in possession of eternal happiness, for which they are indebted to him by the grace of Jesus Christ! What a sharing of joy there will be between the teacher and his disciples! What a special union with one another there will be in the presence of God! It will be for them a great satisfaction, sharing together the blessings for which the call of God had given them hope, the wealth of the glorious heritage of God in the dwelling of the saints.

Put yourself in such a position in the future by fidelity to your duty, so that at the moment of your death you will possess such a great happiness, and be able to see your disciples likewise, after they have ended their days, possess this happiness along with you.

Third Point

The holy King David says that he will be filled with gladness when God will grant him the grace to see him and to enjoy the glory of heaven. For the sight of God fills all the powers of a person's soul in such a way that all consciousness of self is lost, so to speak. The person is entirely present within the divinity and totally penetrated with God himself. This is the happiness that will be possessed in heaven by those who have procured the salvation of souls, who have done

this in a way that has been useful to the good of the Church, who have by their care restored the robe of innocence to a great number of their disciples that may have lost it through sin, and have helped to preserve the innocence of many others who have never lost it.

This will happen to those who have carried out the role of Guardian Angels for the children whom Providence has entrusted to them, who have had an ardent zeal in their work, who have practiced this zeal continually, and who have saved a great number of these children.

Ah! what a thrill of joy you will have when you hear the voices of those whom you have led as if by the hand into heaven, who will say to you on the day of judgment, as well as in heaven itself, what the girl delivered from the devil by Saint Paul said to the Apostle and those who were with him, these men are servants of the great God, who have proclaimed to us the way of salvation. Then they will represent the good you have done among them. Some will represent to Jesus Christ on the day of judgment the robe of innocence you helped them keep in all its purity. Others who have committed sin, and who with your help have washed away their sins in the blood of the Lamb, will represent to him the trouble you took to lead them back on the path of salvation.

All of them will join their voices to obtain for you a favorable judgment from Jesus Christ, praying him not to delay putting you in possession of the happiness you procured for them by your work and your concern. Oh! what glory there will be for those persons who have instructed youth, when their zeal and devotion to procure the salvation of children will be made public before all people! All heaven will resound with the thanksgiving which these blessed children will render to those who have taught them the road to heaven!

Act, then, in such a way by your good and wise guidance of those who are entrusted to you, that you will procure all these blessings and all this glory for yourself.