

# Readings from the Word of God

## 22 May 2022

### Matthew 8:5-13 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, <sup>6</sup> saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralysed, dreadfully tormented.”

<sup>7</sup> And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

<sup>8</sup> The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, “Go,’ and he goes; and to another, “Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard it, He marvelled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! <sup>11</sup> And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup> But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

## ***Secrets of Heaven §3263:2***

As regards the Lord's spiritual church it should be realised that it exists throughout the whole world, for it is not confined to those who possess the Word and from the Word have knowledge of the Lord and of some truths of faith. It also exists among people who do not possess the Word and therefore do not know the Lord at all, and as a consequence have no knowledge of any truths of faith—for all truths of faith regard the Lord. .... Among Non-Christians remote from the church there are many who know from the light of reason that there is one God, that He has created and preserves all things; and also that He is the source of everything good, and consequently of everything true; and that being the likeness of Him makes a person blessed. And what is more, they live according to their religion, in love to that God and in love towards the neighbour. From an affection for good they perform the works of charity, and from an affection for truth they worship the Supreme Being. Such people among the non-Christians belong to the Lord's spiritual church. And although they do not know the Lord while they are in the world they nevertheless have within themselves a worship and tacit acknowledgement of Him when good exists within them, for the Lord is present within all good. For this reason also they acknowledge the Lord in the next life without difficulty, and receive the truths of faith better than Christians do in whom good is not so much present....

# Additional Readings

## ***True Christianity §3:2***

For our part, the specifics of faith are these:

- (1) There is one God, the divine Trinity exists within him, and he is the Lord God the Saviour Jesus Christ.
- (2) Believing in him is a faith that saves.
- (3) We must not do things that are evil—they belong to the Devil and come from the Devil.
- (4) We must do things that are good—they belong to God and come from God.
- (5) We must do these things as if we ourselves were doing them, but we must believe that they come from the Lord working with us and through us.

The first two points have to do with faith, the second two have to do with charity; and the fifth has to do with the partnership between charity and faith, the partnership between the Lord and us.

## ***True Christianity §337***

The Faith That Saves Us Is Faith in the Lord God Our Saviour Jesus Christ

The faith that saves is faith in God our Saviour, because He is Divine and human. He is in the Father and the Father is in Him; therefore they are one. If we turn to Him, we are turning to the Father as well—to the one only God. Faith in any other god does not save us.

We are to believe or have faith in the Son of God, the Redeemer and Saviour, conceived by Jehovah and born from the Virgin Mary, who is named Jesus Christ. This is clear from commands that He, and later His apostles, frequently repeated.

The following passages make it clear that He himself commanded us to have faith in him:

Jesus said, "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that all who see the Son and believe in Him should have eternal life, and I will revive them on the last day." (John 6:40)

Those who believe in the Son have eternal life. Those who do not believe in the Son will not see life; instead God's anger will remain upon them. (John 3:36)

So that all who believe in the Son would not perish but would have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son so that everyone who believes in him would not perish but would have eternal life. (John 3:15-16)

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will never die." (John 11:25-26)

Truly, truly I say to you, those who believe in me have eternal life. I am the bread of life. (John 6:47-48)

I am the bread of life. Those who come to me will never hunger and those who believe in me will never thirst. (John 6:35)

Jesus cried out, saying, "If any are thirsty, they must come to me and drink. If any believe in me, as the Scripture says, rivers of living water will flow out of their bellies." (John 7:37-38)

They said to Jesus, “What shall we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered, “This is God's work, to believe in the One whom the Father sent.” (John 6:28-29)

As long as you have the light, believe in the light so that you may be children of the light. (John 12:36)

Those who believe in the Son of God are not judged; but those who do not believe have already been judged because they have not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:18)

These things have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Son of God and through believing may have life in his name. (John 20:31)

Unless you have believed that I am [he], you will die in your sins. (John 8:24)

Jesus said, “When the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, has come, it will convict the world of sin, of justice, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in me.” (John 16:8-9)