

# Readings from the Word of God

## Sunday, 11 April 2021

### **Deuteronomy 24:10-13**

When you lend your brother anything, you shall not go into his house to get his pledge. <sup>11</sup> You shall stand outside, and the man to whom you lend shall bring the pledge out to you. <sup>12</sup> And if the man *is* poor, you shall not keep his pledge overnight. <sup>13</sup> You shall in any case return the pledge to him again when the sun goes down, that he may sleep in his own garment and bless you; and it shall be righteousness to you before the LORD your God.

### ***Divine Providence §172***

[Preachers] say that they speak not of themselves but by the spirit of God, and that every truth, like every good, comes from God. They can, indeed, speak the Word, and convey it to the understanding of many; but they cannot introduce it into anyone's heart, and what is not in the heart perishes in the intellect. (By the heart we mean a person's love.)

### ***Divine Providence §129***

Everyone knows, moreover, that no one can be compelled to think what he is not willing to think, or to will what he decides not to will, thus to believe what he does not believe, and absolutely what he is not willing to believe, or to love what he does not love, and absolutely what he is not willing to love. For a person's spirit or mind has complete freedom in thinking, willing, believing and loving. It has this freedom owing to influx from the spiritual world, which does not compel (for a person's spirit or mind is in that world), and not to influx from the natural world, which is not admitted unless the two are in harmony.

[2] A person may be forced to say that he thinks and wills this or that, or that he believes and loves this or that; but if these are not or do not become matters of his affection and so of his reason, he still does not think, will, believe or love them. A person may also be compelled to speak in favour of religion, and to behave in accordance with it, but he cannot be compelled to think in favour of it out of any faith in it, or to will in favour of it out of any love for it.

### ***Secrets of Heaven §9588***

What is sown in freedom remains, because it is implanted deeply in the person's actual will, which is the indispensable element of his life. But what is sown under compulsion does not remain, because the compulsion is not an impulse originating in the person's own will but belongs to the one who compels him.