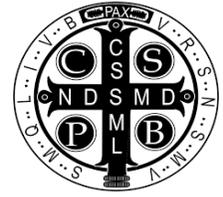
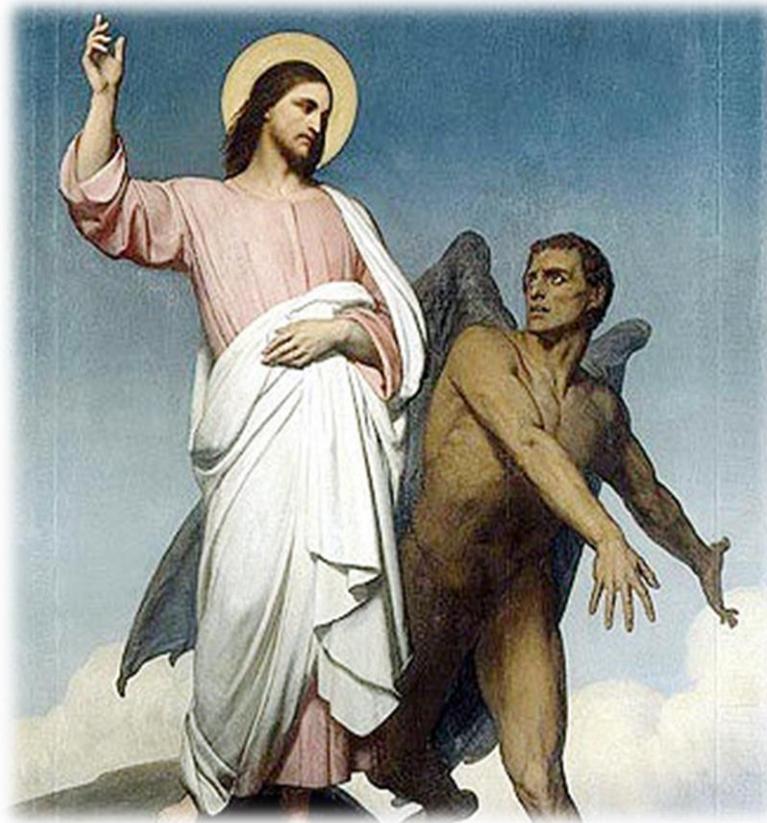


# The Meditation



*“ Thus says the Lord: Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is: and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.” - Jeremiah; Chapter 6, Verse 16.*

**July 19<sup>th</sup> A.D. 2015**  
**Seventh Sunday After Trinity**



**The Temptation of Christ - 1854**

*By Ary Scheffer (1795 - 1858 )*

*Dutch Romantic painter*

## 2.

*The Epistle for the Day: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans; Ch.6, Vs. 19-23.*

*Today's Epistle and Gospel can also be found in the following sources:*

**1928 Book of Common Prayer; Pages 198 & 199**

**The People's Anglican Missal; Page C 65**

**St. Joseph "Continuous" Sunday Missal (1958 ed.); Pages 771 & 772**

### CHRIST or SATAN ?

We are given instruction by St. Paul, in today's Epistle, that there are two standards in life: The standards of Christ and the standards of Satan; the standards of *justice* or the standards of *sin*. No one can straddle the fence and serve under both standards; everyone must fight under one against the other. There can be no neutrals when it comes to spiritual combat for those that are *not for Christ must be for Satan*. We live in a time where there are those who consider themselves more enlightened than the rest, and as a result of their perceived "enlightenment", they constantly deny that things are so black and white, so that everything is tainted with grey. They declare that anyone who does see things as black and white is guilty of some form of prejudice, misinformation or any other number of deficiencies of judgement or intellect ( they like to designate some type of blame as long as it agrees with their thinking!). Everything is grey they say. Well, whether they believe Satan is real or not, he's just fine with this thinking, because by not taking a stance, they're half-way in his court, and don't know it, despite their special status as "*illuminati*". It is often written in this Meditation, such people are living in a deadly form of darkness that is a result of a myriad of forms of broken-ness, and despite their hostility to Christians in particular, they bid our prayers. Jesus desires this of us.

Let's briefly examine the conditions and rewards of service under these two afore mentioned standards that are clearly outlined in today's Epistle:

**First, *The service of sin*.** A quote from *The Shepherd of Hermas* ( a 2<sup>nd</sup> century writing) says: "*The devil comes and tempts all the servants of God. Those who are strong in the faith resist him and he goes away from them, because he cannot find entrance. So, he goes then to the empty and, finding an entrance, he goes into them. Thus he accomplishes in them whatever he pleases and makes them his slaves.*" This service is, simply put, *a service of slavery*. It makes people miserable slaves to their own passions, selfishness, and lusts. This service ensnares them into a bondage which becomes constantly more complete. We need only to take a look of the growing forms of addictions that are gripping the nation and the world today: there are the old favorites of alcohol, sex, drugs, money, and egoism, but also there's the growing addiction to technology in all its many forms, and so on. This bondage is a constant quest for the "*next greatest thing*" and will not end until death makes its claim, in which "*he who dies with the most toys*"... doesn't win . . . but is simply, *dead*. Dead to life, light, and most important, *love*. The devil gets the "winner".

This service of sin lowers a person in the eyes their fellow men and women. It robs the person of their nobility of soul and the fineness of character. Such sin is very much opposed to proper reason and honor, and, in proportion, the person becomes enslaved. He (or *she*...it doesn't

### 3.

discriminate!) loses all their peace of mind and inner freedom and self-respect. They notice no changes other than their awareness of being more “right” than the rest of the world, and they hold on to this with growing assertion and even aggression. They believe in their own lies, because they have listened to and followed (as Dante called him), *the Father of all lies*. Even the most abandoned and determined sinner has moments of remorse and bitterness of soul and self-contempt. Often, and perhaps for so many, so deep are they in their enslavement they can no longer discern right and wrong or black and white, for in their world, all is gray.

Sin is a very despotic ruler. It is a very jealous ruler whose demands grow steadily and more exacting, and it becomes more difficult to resist these demands. Sin, when entrenched will fight hard not to let go of its victim. Think of the poor person fighting to free themselves from a drug addiction. That is just one form of battle against killing sin, and yet, other forms of sin unseen, can have a grip on a soul that cannot be released except by Divine Grace.

Finally, sin pays its servants with physical and mental distress, and with shame, disgrace, remorse, and in the end...eternal death.

St. Ambrose tells us: “*The devil’s snare does not catch you, unless you are first caught by the devil’s bait.*” (from: *Explanation of Psalm 118*) This is a point well worth pondering.

**Now**, let’s examine *the service of Justice*. What a contrast there is in the life of grace! This is a service of complete freedom in which a person’s power over themselves constantly increases. It is a service in which loyalty brings happiness and peace of mind. Mankind’s intellect must be free to assent to the truth, and to Almighty God from Whom all truth comes. Mankind’s will must be free – free, that is to choose what is right and just. He must be free to obey God’s Law.

It is a service which begets self-respect and earns the respect of others. It brings out all that is best and most noble in the individual, and it intensifies that person’s inner freedom.

The reward of the service of justice is not a mere wage, but a reward which so greatly transcends the service rendered that it is called a “gracious gift.” This gift is *eternal life in God*.

It’s a reward which passes all understanding, but which will be surely given to those who loyally serve justice to the end.

We have been giving consideration to *two standards; justice or sin*. There is no third standard, no “gray” standard. We must be in either one state or the other. This strikes hard against the modern conception of “anything goes” freedom, and of “rights” for this, that, and everything and everyone else. If a person is not a slave of God that person is the slave of sin. There may be objections by some that this is narrow, opinionated, outdated thinking, and can be disproved by the fact that there are many upright people who have no time for God or religion, but have done much for humanity and are in the forefront of defining that which is “right” and “good” today. It’s touted that these are “good people”. Surely these cannot be called slaves of sin?

Well, yes they emphatically can. There are sins much more deadly than just the sins of the flesh; and indeed, the first of the seven deadly sins ( POP QUIZ: *know what they all are?* ) is that of *pride*.

**Pride** is not a sin of the flesh at all, but a sin of the mind. No one who is acquainted with the intellectual slavery which characterizes these supposed free-thinking people - their own intellectual slavery to their own *prejudices, misconceptions, and false principles*, as well as their

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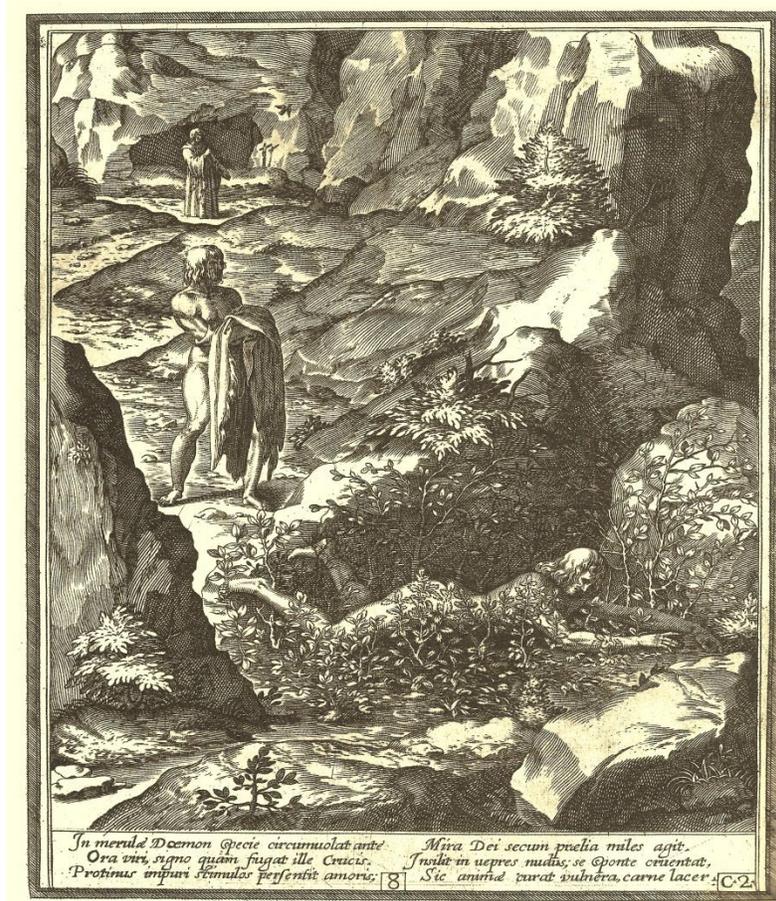
moral slavery to the “spirit of the age”, ( intellectuals call it the *zeitgeist* ) – no one acquainted with these things would regard such people as truly free.

We must consider: *life everlasting* or *eternal death*. We must decide which is to be our lot. “*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God, is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*” ( *Rom.; Ch. 6, Vs. 23.*) If we sow the seed of sin we must expect to reap the harvest of sin. If we chose Jesus Christ; we choose life. This is merely the natural law of cause and effect.

**Prayer for the day:** Being made free from sin, ye were made slaves to justice.

- *Romans; Ch. 6, Vs. (from the Vulgate Translation)*

### St. Benedict Life and Miracles



One day the evil one flutters around Benedict’s head in the form of a blackbird. With a sign of the Cross he drives it away, but is immediately seized by a strong carnal temptation.

About to yeild to temptation, he recovers himself, removed his clothing, and casts himself naked among the thorn bushes, rolling in them for a long time.

By wounding his flesh, Benedict saves his soul.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** Come ye children, and hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear Of the Lord - Psalm 34

## The Meditation

is produced by the Benedictine Community of:  
 Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory  
 4 Shaw Road  
 Raymond, Maine 04071

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**PLEASE NOTE: Sunday Public Mass at the Priory Chapel commences at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Monastic Office of Terce.**

**PLEASE NOTE ALSO: There are No public restrooms so please plan accordingly.**

## PRIORY KALENDAR

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Week of July 19<sup>th</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup> - A.D. 2015

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### In Trinity-tide

Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup> . . . . . **Seventh Sunday After Trinity** . . . . . *comm. St. Vincent de Paul; C. 17<sup>th</sup> cent.*

**Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> . . . St. Margaret of Antioch; V. & Myr. 3<sup>rd</sup> cent. Syria** **Note 1**

Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> . . . RM – *Requiem Mortorum*

Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> . . . . . **St. Mary Magdalene; Penitent, 1<sup>st</sup> cent.**

Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> . . . . . *feria in Trinity tide*

Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> . . . . . **St. Charbel Makhulf** **Note 2** . . . . . *also vigil of St. James the Apostle*

**Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> . . . St. James the Apostle; Myr. 1<sup>st</sup> cent.**

Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> . . . . . **Eighth Sunday After Trinity** . . . . . *see Note 3 for feast of St. Anne*

**Note(s): 1. July 20<sup>th</sup> St. Margaret of Antioch;** It is recommended that all pray for the suffering peoples of Syria, especially the Christians who are in danger of being completely exterminated.

**2. July 24<sup>th</sup> - St. Charbel Makhulf:** 1828 – 1898 (Lebanon) Maronite Monk and priest; named “the Wonder worker”. Please pray for all Maronite Christians, especially our dear friend Sr. Rafka Parmenter.

**3. July 26<sup>th</sup> – St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary** – transferred to Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**KALENDAR KEY:** Ab. = Abbot, Abs. = Abbess, Abp. = Archbishop, Anc. = Anchorite, Ancs. = Anchoress, Ap. = Apostle, Bl. = Blessed, Br. = Brother, Bp. = Bishop, Card. = Cardinal, C. or Conf. = Confessor, Comm. = Commemoration, Dcn. = Deacon, Doct. = Doctor of the Church, Ev. = Evangelist, H. = Hermit, LBr. = Laybrother, LSr. = Laysister, K. = King, M. = Monk, **M.M. = Month's Mind ( 30 day requiem for the departed )**, Myr. = Martyr, N. – Nun, Obl. = Oblate, P. = Priest, P. or Po. = Pope, Pr. = Prior, Prs. = Prioress, R. = Recluse, **RM = Requiem Mortorum, ( monthly requiem of the departed )**, Q. = Queen, Ven. = Venerable, Vir. = Virgin, W. = Widow,

6.

**RELIGIOUS ORDERS:** C.O. = Congregation of the Oratory –Oratorians, C.P = Congregation of the Passion – Passionists, C.S.J. = Congregation of the Society of Jesus – Jesuits, Er. Cam. = Camaldolese Hermits, F.P.O. = Franciscans of the Primitive Observance, O. Car. = Carmelite Order, O. Cart. = Carthusian Order, O.C.D. = Order of Discalced Friars = Carmelites, O.F.A. = Augustinian Order, O.F.M. = Order of Friars Minor – Franciscans, O.F.M. Cap. = Capuchins, O.P. = Order of Preachers = Dominicans (Blackfriars), O. Praem. = Order of Canons Regular – Norbertines ( White Monks), O.S.B. = Order of St. Benedict – Benedictines, O.S.U = Ursulines, O.C.O. = Order of the Cistercian Observance – Trappists, O.C.S.O. = Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance = Trappists.

**FASTING:** ..... A = Abstinence, F = Fast, F & A = Fast and Abstinence

## Animal News

Where's Br. Chip?



Stay tuned, friends, to find out!



Christ in the wilderness – 1540

By Moretto da Brescia; (Alessandro Bonvicino) 1498 – 1554

Italian Renaissance painter

P A X

