

Thought for the Day - Friday 15th July 2022

By John Ohen

The Rock

The Church is built on the foundation that is Christ and on two rocks, Peter and Paul. Both of their lives testify to the power of God to change and to transform.

They were both human like any one of us. Peter was impetuous, impulsive, and unstable. Saul, later Paul, was zealous, proud, and violent. Peter betrayed; Paul persecuted. On one occasion Jesus even saw the work of the devil in what Peter was saying, then Jesus said to Peter “get thee behind me Satan! . . .you don’t have the concerns of God, but mainly that of human” (Matthew 16.23NIV). Paul had blood on his hands, as he related to the murder of many Christians believers, as he himself freely admitted. (1. Timothy 1. 13 NIV). The good news is that both men changed, and were so willing to follow Christ, that they became martyrs. Paul was beheaded and Peter was crucified.

The question is what changed them? What transformed them, so that they became the “Rocks” upon which the Church was built? The key was the gift of revelation, which is open to any of us if we pray to the Holy Spirit for help. Peter received his at Caesarea Philippa, enabling him to proclaim Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, (Gal. 1: 12). We too can receive this grace of revelation to enable us to take a deeper hold of the riches and treasures of the mystery which is Christ himself. Matthew gives us an enlightening insight into the words with which Jesus accepts Peter’s confession, flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven (Matthew 16.17). Grace of revelation comes from God.

Bible passage: Matthew 16. 13- 19.

Prayer:

Lord like Peter and Paul we proclaim that you are the Rock, the Cornerstone and the Son of the Living God, guide and protect us in all we do, for your name’s sake.

Amen.