

Sunday, October 27, 2019

9:00 a.m. | Adult Education Class

Dr. Rev. Bruce Murphy

Topic:

Medieval Church AD 313-1517

The Blessing and Curse of

Political Power

Questions: What is the proper role of “political power” in communicating/maintaining/providing a context for the Christian message?

Margies comment... **can't forgive Hitler...?**

BLESSING— 313-476 Freedom of Religion

313 Edict of Milan Freedom *for all religions* was protected by the state.

Christians could now worship and meet together without persecution...

State provided peace/order and justice —the context for the Church to mature

325 Council of Nicene Nicene Creed (Athanasius 296-373)

Church leaders from throughout the Empire met to clarify the faith, in midst of differing opinions

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, **the only-begotten** Son of God, ***begotten of the Father*** before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; ***begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.***

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

*And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [**and the Son**]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.*

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



397 Canon of Scripture established (Athanasius 296-373)

66 Books

39 in the Old Testament

27 in the New Testament

Augustine (354-380)

“Not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. Rather, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.” Romans 13: 13-14

City of God— City of Man response to criticism-
Christian religion soft...

State= Justice,

Romans 13

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities[they] have been established by God... [They] are God's servants to do you good. But if you do wrong be afraid for [they] do not bear the sword for nothing. [They] are God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrong doer.

Church-Individual= Love

love and forgiveness in the context of relationship- strong personal connection

Colossians 3

Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you and over all these virtues put on love which binds them all together in perfect unity.



The



CURSE 476-850

Chaos Returns to the Mediterranean World --
as *Barbarians*, Huns and Muslims invade



Both Church and State Threatened

Church as an Institution joins with political power...

uses political power to push forward its religious agenda

...and the state uses the church to forward its agenda

...both justice and love/forgiveness sacrificed

Holy Roman Empire

Charlemagne (742-814) to Alcuin (735-804)

Our task [as secular ruler] is externally, with God's help, to defend with our arms the holy Church of Christ against attacks by the heathen from any side and against devastation by the infidels and, internally, to strengthen the Church by the recognition of the Catholic faith. Your share, Most Holy Father, is to support our army with hands upraised to God, as did Moses in ancient days, so that the ... name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified throughout the world."...

As he conquered, he converted them to Christianity at the point of the sword.

1095-1270 The Crusades... to free The Holy Land

Pope Urban 1095

I, or rather the Lord beseech you as Christs heralds to publish this everywhere and to press all people of whatever rank, foot soldiers and knights, poor and rich to carry aid promptly to those Christians and to destroy that race from the lands of our friends. I say this to those that are present , it is meant also for those who are absent. And all who die by the way, whether by land or by sea or in battle against the pagans shall have immediate remission of sins.

This I grant them thru the power of God with which I am invested. O what a disgrace such a despised and base race, which worships demons should conquer a people which has the faith of omnipotent God and is made glorious with the name of Christ

Later Popes and Emperors/battled...Popes now had their own armies!

The Inquisition 1250— 1500—

Led by the Church to combat Heresy

Cathars— anti-clerical, material world evil, spiritual world good

Waldensians— Peters Waldo...

The overwhelming majority of sentences seem to have consisted of penances like wearing a cross sewn on one's clothes, going on pilgrimage, etc." When a suspect was convicted of unrepentant heresy, the inquisitorial tribunal was ***required by law to hand the person over to the secular authorities for final sentencing***, at which point a magistrate would determine the penalty, which was usually burning at the stake although the penalty varied based on local law.

**Galileo— (later 1630s) earth revolves around the sun
(Copernicus)... not sun round earth**



Along with the order came the following penalty:

“We order that by a public edict the book of Dialogues of Galileo Galilei be prohibited, and We condemn thee to the prison of this Holy Office during Our will and pleasure; and as a salutary penance We enjoin on thee that for the space of three years thou shalt recite once a week the Seven Penitential Psalms.”

Galileo agreed not to teach the heresy anymore and spent the rest of his life under house arrest. It took more than 300 years for the Church to admit that Galileo was right and to clear his name of heresy.

YET... The Essence of Our Christian Faith was Preserved

Individual salvation and *social revolutions*

Treating each person with dignity as a child of God,
including women, children, the elderly and infirm,
manual laborers, *slaves*

All of this primarily in the monasteries...thousands in Europe

Priests and nuns combining

physical labor, prayer and service

Context not only of wars...

but Black Death

Hospitals, Hostels, Centers of learning...

St. Benedict 460-574

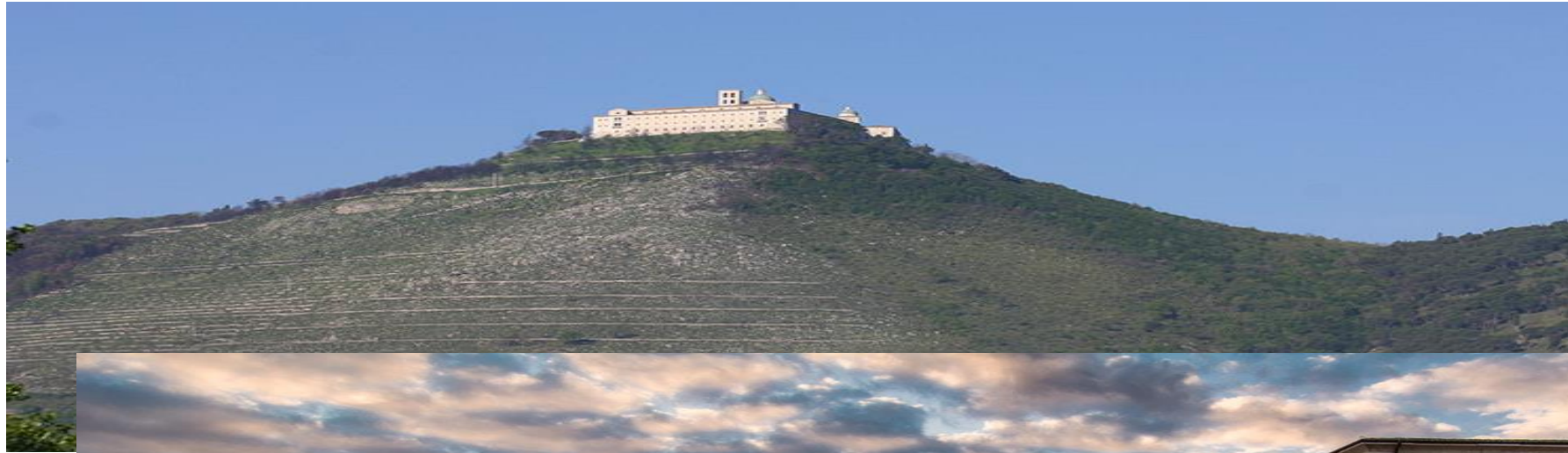
From depression to 3 years a hermit...

Monte Cassino

*... prayer, physical labor, study, living in
community*

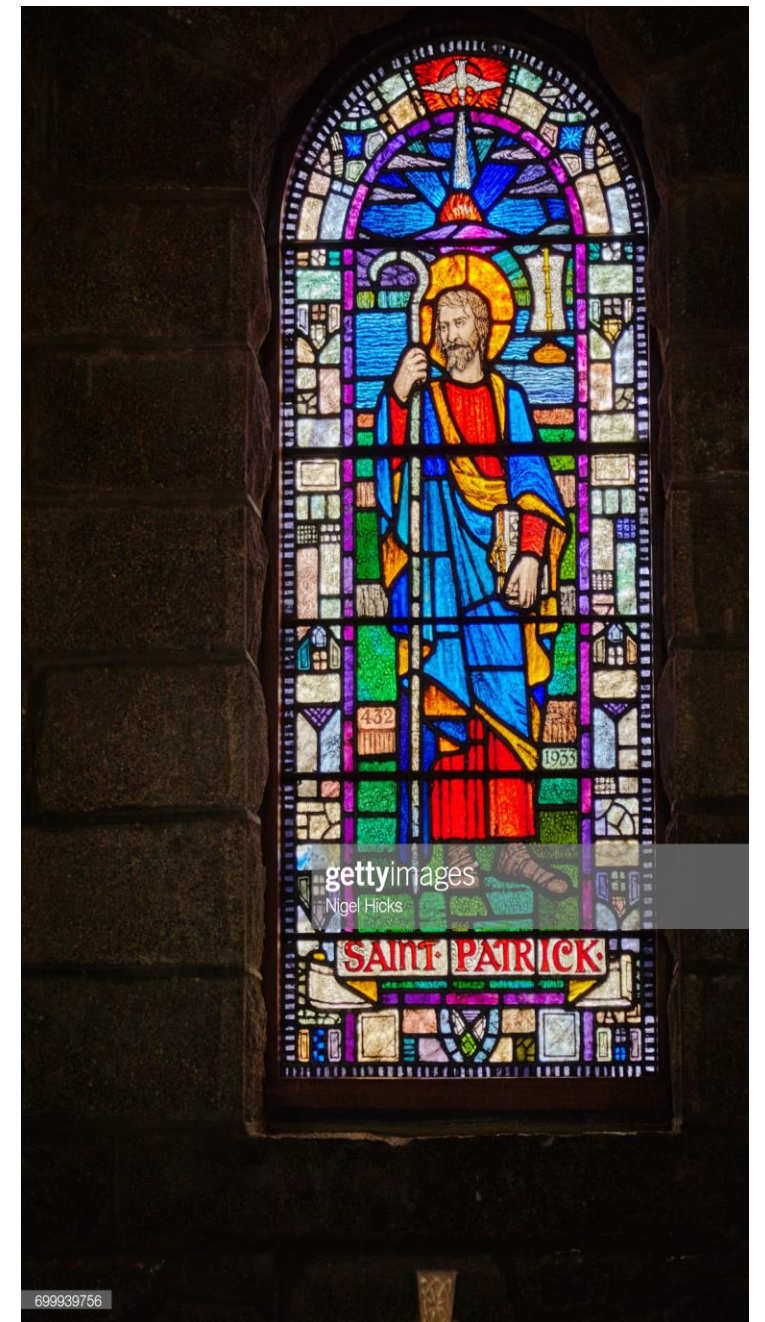
*...haven for people in the community,
charity*

Eventually his 'rule' became the norm



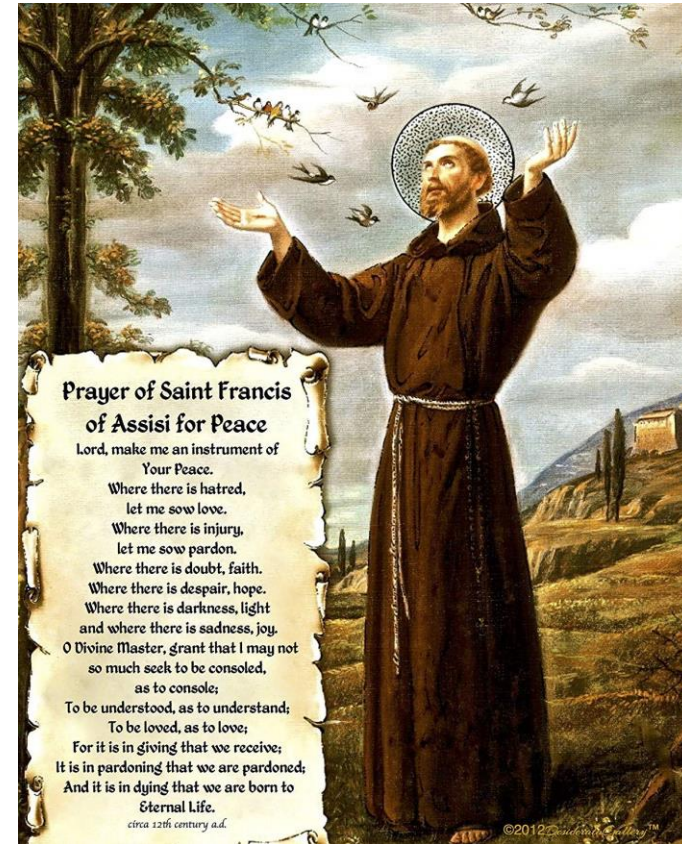
St Patrick 5th C?

Enslaved in Ireland for 6 years...
escaped only to be called back...
dream received letter asking him to
return to Ireland...bringing the
Christian Faith...and instilled sense of
and learning...many copied texts from
ancient civilizations could of been lost



St Francis 1181-1226

From riches to rags—rebellious teen, drunkenness...to army... captured and ransomed,



visions- rebuild the church to save the world... the earth

The restoration of the church will surely come from some new form of monasticism. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A monk in his prayer grieves for the world... seeks God's forgiveness.. And experiences the regenerating spiritual joy of Gods forgiveness

PRAYER...miracle?

