



From the Pastor's Desk

We are all thinking human beings. As such, we are concerned with human existence and with life beyond death. Just as we take care of our bodies with food, clothing, medical care, etc...there is also a deep spiritual concern among human beings about whether or not there is life beyond death. In the afterlife the human body acquires an extrasensory form, without matter; so there is a skepticism that questions the reality of what is inexplicable from the science field.

The two schools of philosophical thought that have maintained a historical discussion through the course of all centuries are the materialist and the idealist. The materialist school of thought is based on the scientific method, through which an area within the social sciences is studied to measure and discover what is investigated through the scientific method, coming to propose a hypothesis about the phenomena of its investigation. The proof that something existed in the past, or that it exists in the present must be demonstrated through concrete evidence according to science. Thus, science carries with it the current based on what it can measure through the scientific method.

On the other hand, the idealistic school points out that the idea precedes the matter. In other words, before the existence of matter, the idea existed from the beginning. It can be said that there was always a creator who made everything that exists in the universe. Therefore, idealist philosophy believes that the spirit came first and that the matter is the result of a higher being who designed and made that which exists...visible or invisible.

In this area, we have two diametrically opposed concepts; one opposes the other. Some bet on science; on what can be measured, observed, studied, evaluated, and defined as an object of study. The other adds to the inexplicable element of faith. You have to believe in what goes beyond the logical explanation of science.

The big problem is that, science seeks to explain the unknown through the systematic study of things that can be observed, but the truth is that science does not have concrete evidence to explain all the phenomena that exist in the universe. Can we explain the law of gravity logically? Can we see the law that pulls objects toward the center of the earth? Both science and religion lack the necessary tools to explain paranormal phenomena. In other words, neither science nor faith can concretely demonstrate the inexplicable phenomena that occur in our universe through scientific methods.

Selfishness, together with the ambition for power and domination of material things, makes many human beings incapable of caring for life on planet earth in all its dimensions. Instead of ensuring the lives of the most impoverished, huge astronomical sums are invested to build atomic bombs capable of destroying life on planet earth. On the other hand, for those who do collaborate to help those most in need, the monetary number is very small in comparison and they have few resources. While many of those who have great fortunes are more concerned with living luxuriously to satisfy their insatiable appetite to enjoy the delights of life, without any concern for those close by who are in physical need, or for their own life in the hereafter.

Faith in God is dedicated to the preservation of life, proclaiming the gospel, peaceful coexistence among all human beings, collaboration to eliminate malaria, cancer, poverty, the use of non-medically controlled drugs, and to see that wealth be equitably distributed so that there no people who die of hunger, nor entire families that lack daily bread. The God we serve and preach of is the Creator of human life. He is the God who cares for all His children and as the children of God, we must also take care of the needs of all equally.

God the Creator and Giver of Life, plants, animals, and everything that exists, had the vision that all human beings have what is necessary for a dignified life. There is no doubt that some human beings have greater abilities than other people to work, save money and accumulate wealth. This reality does not exempt all of us, however, from being good stewards of resources created by God to be used in helping those in need. Definitely, those resources that we enjoy not only belong to God, but we will all need to give an account to Him on what we have done with them, be it good or bad.

During these Christmas holidays be generous with all people, whether they are part of your family or not. Remember the words of the Lord who said, *“Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, tight, shaken and overflowing will give into our lap; because with the same measure with which you measure, they will measure you again.”* (Luke 6: 38)

The Christian faith guides human beings to believe in God, the Creator of Life, who ordered all His children to emphasize faith above false science. He also invites us to be generous. Faith in God transforms the soul, changes the worldview of the universe in us, and highlights the power and greatness of God.

May this Advent season be filled for you with Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace! Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Rey Díaz, Pastor