

The Gloria through Lent. Week 4: You only are the Lord!

You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,

Fully human yet fully divine was crucial for Jesus' purpose in being among us. This was last week's destination as we journey through The Gloria. Christ's Resurrection shows us our future destiny within God's Kingdom, but for Jesus it does not stop there. Our proclamation and praise go beyond even that to proclaim 'You alone are the Holy One, You only are the Lord'; words which we utter with our fellow believers throughout the world.

The authors of the Books of The Bible talk a lot about Idolatry. An old fashioned word in many ways but it's meaning as relevant as ever. Anything which is freely worshipped and honoured in place of God. In ancient times such things as Idols and elaborate rituals, along with gold and all kinds of excessive wealth were highlighted by The Prophets and others. Worship of wealth, often money, is as common as ever, but fresh idols come and go. In our day careers, sex, technology, celebrity and relationships approval, are some examples of things which can easily become peoples Gods. That's me generalising of course. We all have our own tempters. Those things which ultimately mean far more to us than God ever has or ever will. I believe quite firmly that the good Lord of love, will not hold this against us especially if we want to draw closer to him. For that is the real negative side of Idolatry. It's not just about the 'idol' in question, but the emotional and spiritual energy it takes. Some of which might be more productively focussed on the one who gave us life and in whom we live, breathe and have our being.

To ponder this week:

- Is there something I give a lot of time to, which I could do a little less of, and give that time to Godly things e.g. pray, read my Bible.
- Do I know anyone who struggles with an addiction or an obsession? Pray quietly for them each day this week.

