

I Will Praise Him Still

By Fernando Ortega (1997)

Stanzas 2 & 3 by Curran Bishop

Paraphrased from Jeremiah 29:10-14 & Psalm 123:1-2

See print copy for words.



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

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And Jesus grew in wisdom
and in height and weight, and
in favor with God and man.
—Luke 2:52—

See print copy for picture.

Jesus In the Temple at Twelve

Old Orchard Church
August 18, 2013—10:15-11:50 a.m.

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of Our Learning

Jesus Christ is Lord of our minds;
Jesus Christ is Lord
of our studying and learning,
of our investigations and theories,
of all that we understand and
of all that we do not understand.

In him is hidden every treasure
of wisdom and knowledge.

Praise be to you, O Christ—
You, the living Truth;
You, the source of every skill;
You, the great “I Am”
without beginning, without end.
Uncreated,
you created the universe from nothing,
with the Father and the Spirit;
Yet in great humility you became one of us,
And even learned, as we learn.

Sanctify our minds for the high glory
of thinking, of arguing, of learning, of knowing.
Receive our praise, and fill us with wisdom,
that in love and humility we might gladly
share what we ourselves have learned.



Scripture Reading

Old Testament Lesson: From Job 28
New Testament Reading: Colossians 12:1-10

Back to School Sermon

“Standing Firm”
2 Timothy 3:10-17
Mark Robertson, associate pastor, preaching

Thoughts On Knowledge and Wisdom

[In 1 Corinthians 8] the Apostle Paul says that to rely on knowledge, to seize the freedom of pure enlightenment of the mind, to demonstrate the truth at all hazards and in every way by every means, is not Christian. Paul subordinates knowledge to love. He argues that love must come first, and that if acts based upon knowledge injure and mislead the weak, they are not only not praiseworthy, they are sinful.

Roland Allen in Missionary Methods: St. Paul's Or Ours? (1912)

Blessed are those who animate all their knowledge, begin all in Christ Jesus. The University is a Paradise, Rivers of Knowledge are there, Arts and Sciences flow from there...bottomless depths of unsearchable counsels are there. But those...which the Prophet speaks of, the waters of rest, they flow...from this good Master, and flow into him again. All knowledge that begins not and ends not with Christ's glory, is but a giddy, but a dizzying circle, an elaborate and exquisite ignorance.

From a sermon by John Donne (1572-1631)



Cursed be all that learning that is contrary to the cross of Christ.
—Jonathan Dickinson (1688-1747), first president of College
of New Jersey, now Princeton University



This 20th century was supposed to be the century to abolish ignorance through mass education. Instead, it has been the century of propaganda, mass movements, conformism, slavery to fashion, and the standardization of thinking.

This was supposed to be the Century of Man. Instead, it threatens to become the century of “the abolition of man” (to quote C.S. Lewis' prophetic title). If “God is dead,” how can the image of God survive?

When you leave a room, the mirror stops reflecting your image. When God is banished from our world, the image of God, the human soul, is banished with him.

We are living in the last days, in the split second between the departure of the person from the room and the disappearance of his image in the mirror, between the death of God and the death of his image. This time cannot last for long, just as the mirror cannot continue to reflect the image of the absent person for more than a split second.

From Making Choices (1990) by Peter Kreeft