

Lectionary
Readings for every day
You Select!



in the HCUC

No. 14

For 6 Sept 2015

Dear Friends

Every now and then someone translates a familiar bible passage or verse with new words and suddenly it shines with fresh clarity and brightness. I want to share with you one of my favourites. It is found in Romans 8:19 and is part of a quite long section (about to verse 30). I've always been uncertain and mostly baffled by what Paul means. It all sprung up recently at the funeral of a long time dear friend who loved creation—especially the land, the rivers and trees. One of the readings at the service included this biblical passage. My heart leapt up because it reminded me of the inspired translation of verse 19, given to us by J B Phillips in his 1947 translation called "Letters to Young Churches". His words are:
"The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons (children) of God coming into their own."
 Let me say again, there is still much of the passage which is beyond my present understanding. Yet for me this verse holds some positive and profound hints worth exploring.

(1st hint) **The whole creation ...** Not just one section of creation. Nothing is left out. If you can name it, then it's included. No matter how unlikely, be assured it is part of creation. From bacteria to bananas, whales to walnuts, flowers to flounders, stars to starfish—are all there. This is more than a hint at oneness. Everything belongs. It is we humans who build fences and exclude some aspects of creation as if they have no worth or value.
(2nd hint) Along with this oneness of creation is **the one consciousness** which flows through the whole creation. Vast as space, more certain than the mountains. We humans are at the very fringe of realising that one consciousness permeates all people, plants and animals, everything we can touch, see, smell, hear has a level of this consciousness. Yes everything. Chief Seattle's (p3) list of family members includes rocky crests and meadow juices. The verse assumes an awareness running through creation—all creation on tiptoe—looking—anticipating.
(3rd hint) This verse hints that all creation is waiting for we humans to recognise, widen, deepen and expand our God consciousness. The greater awareness we have, the greater will be the increase of consciousness through the whole of creation. We are part of an ongoing, developing, forward-moving process evolving more and more. Creation is not yet finished. There is more to come.

Sincerely - Lester

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 7 September:	62:1-7	Col 1:24-2:3	Luke 6:6-11
Tuesday 8 September:	8	Col 2:6-15	Luke 6:12-19
Wednesday 9 September:	15	Col 3:1-11	Luke 6:20-26
Thursday 10 September:	149:1-5	Col 3:12-17	Luke 6:27-38
Friday 11 September:	16	1 Tim 1:1,2,12-14	Luke 6:39-42
Saturday 12 September:	113	1 Tim 1:15-17	Luke 6:43-end
Sunday 13 September <u>Pentecost 16</u>			
Ps 19; Prov 1:20-33; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 14 September:	98:1-5	1 Cor 1:18-24	John 3:13-17
Tuesday 15 September:	101	1 Tim 3:1-13	Luke 7:11-17
Wednesday 16 September:	111:1-5	1 Tim 3:14-end	Luke 7:31-35
Thursday 17 September:	111:6-end	1 Tim 4:12-end	Luke 7:36-end
Friday 18 September:	49:1-9	1 Tim 6:2b-12	Luke 8:1-3
Saturday 19 September:	100	1 Tim 6:13-16	Luke 8:4-15
Sunday 20 September <u>Pentecost 17</u>			
Ps 1; Prov 31:10-31; James 3:13-4:3,7-8a; Mark 9:30-37			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 21 September:	119:65-72	2 Cor 4:1-6	Matt 9:9-13
Tuesday 22 September:	124	Ezra 6:7,8,12,14-20	Luke 8:19-21
Wednesday 23 September:	103:1-6	Ezra 9:5-9	Luke 9:1-6
Thursday 24 September:	149:1-5	Haggai 1:1-8	Luke 9:7-9
Friday 25 September:	43	Haggai 1:15b-2:9	Luke 9:18-22
Saturday 26 September:	125	Zech 2:1-5,10-11	Luke 9:43b-45
Sunday 27 September <u>Pentecost 18</u>			
Ps 124; Esther 7:1-6,9-10,9:20-22; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50			

MORE AND MORE

Here below are some samples of what people have said about their experiences. Each one of these samples I offer as an experience that we may see as having a link to the 3 points on the previous page.

Concerning the vast Oneness of creation: Judith Ackroyd of Auckland writes: “Sometimes when I am in nature on the sea or in a kayak, the sun low in the sky, the sea still, the kahawai shimmering close to the surface, or surging through the water, the gannets diving in front of me, then all barriers between me and the external world dissolve. I become the sea, the fish, the sky—and that is when I know love. This is a rare moment and a gift of awe and beauty.

Another writer has told of her expanding awareness after living for years being angry at the God she had been introduced to. “I started to learn about nature, and its utter perfection. The spirals in sea shells, the precision in a bee-hive. The statistical improbability of life. The systems, including air, water, soil; the interconnection of it all. No human could think up such a complete and whole oneness. It is like a giant jigsaw puzzle. We don’t have the ability to step back because we are so much a part of it.”

Concerning the Consciousness that we share with everything. Victor Frankl—prisoner (and a trained doctor) in a concentration camp tells of visiting a young woman who was near to death. She was calm and cheerful. He asked her why. She pointed to a branch of a chestnut tree glimpsed through a partly broken window. She said “That is the only friend I have. I often talk to it.” Frankl thought she was possibly deranged or delirious. He asked, “Does the tree reply to you?” “Yes” she replied. So he asked “What does it say to you?” Her answer was: “It says to me, I am here, I am here. I am life—eternal life.”

Concerning our expanding cosmic awareness.

“These perspectives will appear absurd to those who don’t see that life is, from its origins, groping—adventurous—and dangerous. But these perspectives will grow, like an irresistible idea on the horizon of new generations.”

- Teilhard de Chardin—from his book— “*The Phenomenon of Spirituality*”

THE ONENESS WHICH SHELTERS US ALL — AND ALL OF CREATION

Here are some brief extracts from Chief Seattle’s letter to the USA’s President whose Government (1854) wanted to buy some Indian land.

Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. We are part of the earth and it is part of us.

The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the juices in the meadows, the body heat of the pony, and man—all belong to the same family.

If we decide to accept, I will make one condition. You must treat the beasts of this land as your brothers.

For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man.

All things are connected.

This we know:
The earth does not belong to man;
man belongs to the earth.

One of the conditions
of enlightenment
has always been
a willingness
to let go
of what we thought
we knew
in order to appreciate
truths
we never dreamed of.

- Karen Armstrong in
“The Case for God”

The future
is
more beautiful
than
all the pasts.

- Teilhard de Chardin

*The whole creation is on tiptoe
to see the wonderful sight
of the sons of God coming
into their own.
(Romans 8:19)*