

The New Creation (6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)

1 Corinthians 2:6-10—Eye Has Not Seen, Ear Has Not Heard

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart *wisdom*, although it is *not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age*, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glorification. ⁸ *None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.* ⁹ But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him,” ¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. (1 Corinthians 2:6-10, citing Isaiah 64:4, 65:17)

1. Wisdom: not a “wisdom” (Greek *sophia*) of this world (2:6)
2. Rulers of “This Age” = earthly kings (and the powers behind them)
3. Lord of Glory = Jesus the “Lord” (Greek *kyrios*) (2:8)
4. Coming of God and New Creation = “what no eye has seen...” (2:9)

O that thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at thy presence...⁴ From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides thee, who works for those who wait for him (Isa 64:1, 4)

“For behold, *I create new heavens and a new earth*; and the former things shall not be remembered *or come into mind.*” (Isa 64:17)

Living Tradition

Thomas Aquinas: *Objection 1*. It seems that Christ’s persecutors did know who He was... *On the contrary*, It is written (1 Cor. 2:8): *If they had known it, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory.* And (Acts 3:17), Peter, addressing the Jews, says: *I know that you did it through ignorance, as did also your rulers.* Likewise the Lord hanging upon the cross said: *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do* (Luke 23:34).

I answer that, Among the Jews some were elders, and others of lesser degree. Now according to the author of *Qq. Nov. et Vet. Test.* (lxvi.), the elders, who were called *rulers, knew*, as did also the devils, *that He was the Christ promised in the Law: for they saw all the signs in Him which the prophets said would come to pass: but they did not know the mystery of His Godhead.* Consequently the Apostle says: *If they had known it, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory.* (Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Pt III, Q. 47, Art. 5)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

1. According to Paul, what is the great “mystery” that “eye has not seen”?

For Further Reading

1. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Letters of Saint Paul to the Corinthians* (trans. F. R. Larcher, O.P.; eds. J. Mortensen and E. Alarcón; Lander, WY: Aquinas Institute, 2012).
2. Gerald Bray, ed. *1-2 Corinthians* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament VI; Downers Grove, IL.: IVP, 1999).
3. George T. Montague, SM, *First Corinthians* (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010).