

Thursday 16 April 2020

Is.5, 21: *“Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight.”*

1Cor.2, 12: *“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.”*

The person who is wise in his own eyes cannot know God, for God is beyond his horizon. Not just relatively, in the sense that he might appear if only man pushes the horizon of his sight to stretch far and wide enough, but absolutely, in the sense that God lies beyond *any* horizon and is completely and utterly, by every possible principle, inaccessible to the grasp of the light of man’s sight and reason.

Not that God cannot be known or that man has no way of knowing God. But for God to teach a person who is wise in his own eyes anything requires that this wisdom be made foolish. This is achieved through the preaching of the word of the cross (1Cor.1). *“Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?”* (1Cor.1, 20)

The person who is wise in his own eyes is not just foolish in regard to the knowledge of God, he is also foolish in regard to the knowledge of himself. The ‘woes’ of such wisdom (to which they lead) are palpable in the distortions of true humanity that we keep producing as we claim to seek and represent it. How far we are from the one true example – Jesus Christ!

But him God gave freely, to be what we truly are (on the cross, judged and condemned – the *“Ecce homo”* of Jn.19, 5!) so that we through him might die to sin and rise to what we should be, and in him will be.

This we grasp not in our own wisdom but as the Spirit teaches *through the foolishness of God in the preaching of the word of the cross* (1Cor.1, 18-25).