

Homily Outline

Worldview Intoxication with the World of Space and Time

1. The Christian view of matter

It is almost a definition of Christian conversion to call it the process by which a person comes alive to the invisible world in all its ramifications. “We look not to the things that are seen,” says Saint Paul, “but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2Cor 4:18)...The unseen but real—God, angelic beings, human souls, the heavenly throne room—holds first place in the Christian vision as being of primary importance. Things that are seen take on importance only as they reveal and open up the unseen world that interpenetrates and upholds them. This is the meaning of sacramentality. From Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age by University of Mary. Pg. 83

“Sacramentality”?

- a. Enchanted
- b. Opens us to wonder and awe

Everything – people, relationships, forgiveness, mercy, kindness, simple acts of generosity...everything in the world has an eternal meaning that we as believers can see and know with the eyes of faith. We are playing for keeps in this world – because this world leads to eternity.

2. Matter is what matters

The opposite of the Christian worldview – a reduced version of existence. “Reduced” as in limits reality to that which is observable:

The modern progressive vision is almost the antithesis of sacramentality. Under the modern vision, we look constantly, eagerly, incessantly, with anxiety and hope and longing to the things that are seen. Whether we hold, theoretically, that there are unseen things as well hardly matters. We are distracted and delighted and dismayed by the things of time and space, and we attempt to make our lives meaningful according to their logic alone. — From Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age by University of Mary. Pg. 83

From the Catholic Dictionary definition of “materialism”

- *The theory that all reality is only matter, or a function of matter, or ultimately derived from matter. There is no real distinction between matter and spirit; even man's soul is essentially material and not uniquely created by God.*
- *In ethical philosophy, materialism holds that material goods and interests, the pleasures of the body and emotional experience, are the only or at least the main reason for human existence.*

So, materialism actually means two things in this definition from the Catholic dictionary here.

- In one way it refers to people who think that only matter matters – the spiritual is a pie-in-the-sky dream.
- In a second way it refers to people who are really interested in material things – find the obtaining and possessing of material things to be the point of life.

3. What are the consequences of a materialistic worldview?

People accept the first part of the definition of materialism because they live by the second part.

- Material goods and pleasures of life are very immediate
- So, we bet on new technology or entertainment, or food or lust or whatever...

And because we are actually immortal souls created to dance with the living God, called to an eternal destiny that won't stop haunting us, it is natural under such a vision of smallness that we fall into creeping despair and attempt to medicate our misery by taking huge doses of the true opiate of the masses—electronic entertainment. From Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age by University of Mary. Pg. 84

Conclusion

Again, the point of these homilies is to notice the ways that we experience these elements of the modern progressive worldview as we navigate this world and this life, and to become aware of the unconscious ways that we may have accepted these elements into our own worldview.

WE LOOK NOT TO THE THINGS THAT ARE SEEN, BUT TO THE THINGS THAT ARE UNSEEN. FOR THE THINGS THAT ARE SEEN ARE TRANSIENT, BUT THE THINGS THAT ARE UNSEEN ARE ETERNAL (2Cor 4:18)

THINK OF WHAT IS ABOVE, NOT OF WHAT IS ON EARTH. (Col 3:2)