

‘Heaven on Earth’:

Members of the Church and Citizens of Heaven

Supplementing the talk by Dr Christine Mangala Frost

‘Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth ... you are the light of the world”’. *Matthew 5:13,14*

‘Our citizenship is in heaven’. *Philippians 3:20*

Christ Comes in Power



Christos Pantocrator
Chora Church, Constantinople (Istanbul), c. 1320

Christ Comes in Weakness



The Nativity
Benaki Museum, Athens, 17th century

Christian Faith makes a difference

- A It changes lives – even those of cannibals
- B It teaches the value of all human beings
- C It brings us to aid the poor and the disadvantaged
- D It involves us in the world – rather than detaching us from it
- E It promises us a resurrection body – not the extinction of our personalities
- F It sees death, not as a friend, but as the last enemy – it teaches that we are born for life, not death.

The coming of Christ changes everything

- A Christ came to persuade – not to bully
- B Christ suffered by doing it *his* way
- C Christ conquers, Christ is risen!
- D Our true citizenship is in heaven, not on earth
- E Christ will return to ‘makes all things new’.

We are the light of the world and the salt of the earth

- A We bring in the Kingdom – but by Christ’s methods
- B Christ warned us that in the world we would have trouble
- C We battle with the world, the flesh and the Devil
- D We suffer persecution from the world
- E We suffer persecution even from within the Church.

The signs of the two Kingdoms

The World’s Kingdom

- A Self-interest
- B Competition
- C Power for the few
- D Obedience through law, threats
- E Differences based on power
- F Hate, fear, lies, frustration, ugliness, depression, *leading to death*



Saints Cyril and Methodios
*Mural by Zahari Zograf (1848),
Troyan Monastery, Bulgaria*

The Kingdom of God

- A Love for God and our neighbour
- B Co-operation
- C Power, a gift of God to all
- D Agreements, honoured in love
- E Equal esteem
- F Love, joy, truth, peace, beauty, fulfilment, *leading to life*

The saints are with us (not in deep freeze)

- 1 Mary, the Mother of God
- 2 The Desert Father Paphnutios
- 3 Saints Cyril and Methodios
- 4 St Gregory Palamas
- 5 St Seraphim of Sarov
- 6 St Herman of Alaska

Recommended Reading

- i. Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy* (St Vladimir’s Seminary Press: Crestwood, New York, 1982 pbk.) ISBN 0913835089
- ii. Luke Veronis, *Missionaries, Monks and Martyrs* (Light and Life Publishing: Minneapolis, 1994) ISBN 1-880971-00-3.

