

SHALOM: August 2010: 28th August: Saturday, 21st Week of the Year

“The human race has nothing to boast about to God”. How true that is of our present age and the world’s recent history. Wars, hatreds, massacres, oppressions, injustices, hunger and poverty that we could relieve but don’t... an endless list. This is not, of course, what St Paul was talking about in his letter to the Christians of Corinth. But maybe it’s a timely reminder of who we really are, we who so easily become proud of ourselves and our achievements, be they personal or the achievements of medicine, science, technology and so on. Some people even boast about not “needing” God any more, in our “enlightened” age.

To boast at all is to presume we have some virtue or goodness or ability of our own that gives us a right to look down on others, compare them unfavourably with ourselves. But the truth is that we don’t have anything of our own. What we call “mine” is always a gift of God. And that’s especially true of my faith, of my being a Christian. It’s purely God’s choice that’s made me so, not any virtue, talent or ability I could say is “mine”. This truth about me is Christian humility, a recognition of my reality.

Yet, in Christ and through Him I can be proud and boast of what God has done in me, and for me. It’s not a pride or boastfulness that makes comparisons or judgements, but one that is grace-ful, truthful, and humbly grateful. God is my wisdom, my power, my goodness, my holiness. To Him alone be glory.

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