

and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." 1 Cor 13,1ff

Do have a look in Holy Scripture every now and then. Read in the letters of st Paul Apostle and have yourself set on fire by his love. Ask the HOLY SPIRIT to fecundate your heart and mind. Amen!

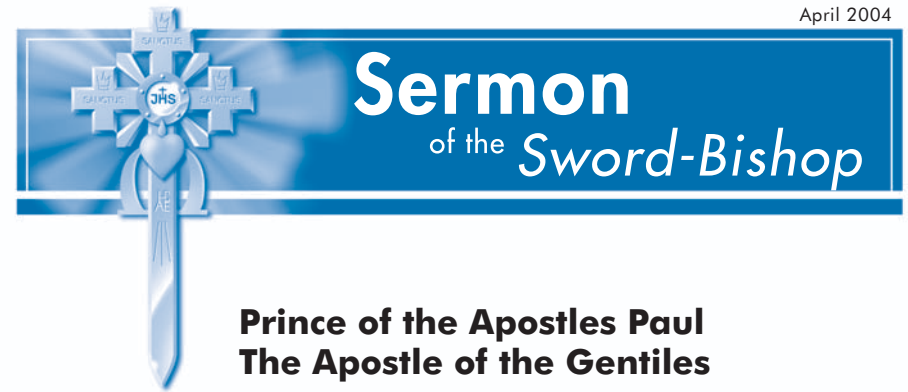
Feast of st. Paul Apostle, 18 January 1998



Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI

**Be blessed by GOD TRINITY,
the + FATHER and the + SON
and the + HOLY GHOST. Amen!**

Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI
sb.



**Prince of the Apostles Paul
The Apostle of the Gentiles**

My beloved, I greet you all very sincerely. Well, I have been very ill for several weeks. To tell you the truth, I wanted to go home, to my heavenly FATHER. But many of you did not let me go because of their prayers and sacrifices. We are grateful for this since there is still so much to do for us. In this difficult period we had the opportunity to think about many things. We have seen: All knowledge man gathers is straw! – Straw, straw, straw ... As the Apostle Paul says: „The gospel which was preached by me is not of man. For I did not receive it from man nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ.“ Gal 1,11ff What we need is: Love, love, love ...

Feast of st. Paul Apostle, 14 January 1996

The Personal Instrument of GOD

Is not Paul an outstanding example and witness to us in many ways indeed? We are condemned by the highest authorities of the Church: „You are not elected by the Pope nor by the committee of bishops and therefore you have no communion with the Church of CHRIST.“ They fail to see that Paul was neither elected by Peter, the Pope, nor by the committee of the Apostles. He was, and so are we, called directly by CHRIST, the Head of the Church, despite the fact that the Church had already been transmitted to Peter by CHRIST. In this way Paul, too, was a personal instrument of CHRIST for a special task. Why should CHRIST not be able to call another personal instrument which is placed directly under His command? Paul bears

witness to the fact that our election as a personal instrument of GOD is apostolic and therefore absolutely valid before GOD and the Church.

The Drastic Cure of GOD

„I was an extreme fanatic for the traditions of my fathers“ Paul said. He thought he was striving for the honour of GOD and belongs to those people that GOD had to throw down the horse literally to elect them. Paul was a typical traditionalist, a fundamentalist; such people must be thrown down the horse, the horse of their extreme fervour on which they ride. Otherwise such people do not recognize their delusion.

GOD does not do any patchwork. If He clears out then there will be a drastic cure. „Saul arose from the ground; and when his eyes were opened he could see nothing. ... And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.“ Acts 9,8ff This again is absolutely typical of the way GOD acts. First Paul had to be washed out completely before he could be built up again by GOD. He had to lose his sight before he could be given the new light.

Caught up into Heaven

Paul was inspired by the HOLY SPIRIT! His drive was the HOLY SPIRIT. For many years he was unrestrictedly active under the direct authority of GOD without going through any school or any authority of the Apostles at first. Peter, the first Pope, and the Apostles he met only some years later. He says about himself: „I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, GOD knows. – And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, GOD knows – and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.“ 2 Cor 12,2ff This again is a testimony to our vocation. How often were we slandered for not having the necessary studies and consequently for not being priest and bishop? What a blindness of those people who should know Holy Scripture – it is because Christian mysticism is denied and likewise the HOLY SPIRIT.

So Paul did not receive the teaching of CHRIST from men, but directly from revelation of Heaven. Of course, he still had to learn from experience. Let us just take the example of when he said: „The women should keep silence in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak ...“ 1 Cor 14,34 But later on when Thekla by GOD's Providence was entrusted to him and became his favourite pupil he instructed: „Go to Thekla, she is full of the HOLY SPIRIT. She will teach you everything!“ This event is not documented in Holy Scripture but we know that it happened this way.

Knowledge Puffs up - Love Builds up

Paul was a scholar, a highly trained academic as one would say today. Nevertheless, he was most deeply inspired by love. We think that he himself was not aware of how much he loved. He says: „... knowledge puffs up, love builds up.“ 1 Cor 8,1 He can be held up as the best example that there is nothing sham about love, that love has nothing to do with a sickly fake piety. In his love for the SAVIOUR he has suffered quite a lot: Storms, shipwreck, hiding, stoning, hunger, thirst, cold and many more things he put up with. Not to mention the constant hostilities and slander. However, he says: „Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?“ Rom 8,35ff All distress made him even more zealous in his love for GOD. – Do you also sing hymns if you are dogged by misfortune and strokes of fate? – Finally he met death in Rome on the same day as the holy Apostle Peter, though at another spot. Since Paul, as a Roman citizen, could not be scourged or crucified, he was beheaded with the sword. On this very spot St. Paul's Church is standing today.

The Song of Songs

Paul writes to the Church of Corinth: „If I speak in tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have to feed the poor,
