

St. Therese Adult Study Series
The Religion of the Day with Father Andrie

Reflection Questions for Chapter 2 Sections 7-12

For the next session on March 5th, please read Chapter 2, pages 31-52 (#7-12) in *The Religion of the Day* book. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice:

“Lord Jesus, humbly I ask through the gift of faith for the blessing of Your Holy Spirit’s grace: To profess eternal truth that is you, in the words I say and in all that I do; To celebrate the nourishment You give that, in believing, forever I will live; To proceed in ways that let others see Grace-filled wonder and hope, because I believe; To pray with confidence that when I seek, though I may grow tired, you hasten to meet; To welcome you always into my heart and your abiding love to others impart. Amen.”

<https://www.heartofthenation.org/daily-prayers> Your reflections will be shared **March 5th** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

1. Salvation Comes Through Human Effort Alone. Here we read about the radical reordering of the external world being done “solely by human effort.” Here pride rears its ugly head again as the progressive’s believe they can fix problems themselves and not wait for God. God’s view of pride as seen in Proverbs 11:2 “When pride comes, disgrace comes; but with the humble is wisdom.” And Proverbs 16:5 “Every proud heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured that none will go unpunished.” Or Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before disaster, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” How would you encourage someone who does not want to wait for God’s solution, that it is the better choice?

When one loses the sense of our own moral wounds, it’s hard to believe we can’t fix it all. How can we fight against the “belief systems that emphasize self-redemption rather than salvation by God in Christ?”

2. The Application of a Technique (Gnosis) to Bring About Salvation. As human beings it is comfortable to apply knowledge to life’s problems. Google has made it easy to “solve” and “diagnose” many things. There are articles saying technology is becoming a new religion. Where have you seen this today? Could we see this today as a reflection of Babylon in biblical accounts? (Jeremiah) How?

3. **A Dualistic View of History.** The author states, "Anything existing in the current age of oppression can be sacrificed or destroyed for the sake of the coming age of freedom." How do you feel about this? What are the implications of this type of thinking?

4. **Two Distinct Kinds of Humans.** As you compare the enlightened with the unenlightened, what differences stand out most to you? How do you feel about how Progressive religion "claims to be able to divide the human race between the good and the evil *in the present*, and it places the authority to make such judgments in the hands of other (enlightened) humans."?

5. **Revolution as the Process by which Salvation is Achieved.** We read here that it is not enough to improve things. "The age of oppression needs to be blotted out and denied existence entirely, lest it continue to taint the age of freedom." The revolutionary path "is a complete break with and destruction of the old." "...evil must be battled as a matter of conscience and that something must die if the guilty human race is to be purified." How can we put out this angry fire that burns here? What are your thoughts on this revolutionary process and how to dissolve it?

6. **The Necessary Failure of Modern Religion.** While it is good to read that "Progressive faiths always fail in bringing about their promised liberation," the desolate wastelands left behind are difficult to see. It will be difficult for those left behind to come to grips with the fact that they must now look *within themselves*. How can we be present to those, especially our young, who need solid direction to fill the void left behind?

What else stood out for you in this chapter?