

Part of our problem in coming to life as God wants us to is that we have a very short perspective on things. Our wisdom is not adequate to encompass the divine plan or the divine life. Therefore we confusedly grasp at whatever is closest to us, and cling to that as if it is what will fulfil our being.

The choice of something less than we are to worship does us terminal damage. If you worship what is less than you are, you make yourself less than you should be. The forces within us that let us or make us do this are things like greed, possessiveness, impatience with mystery, fear of what's unknown. We choose darkness over light because we have no confidence that what we've invested our life in will stand the light of day. People settle for the shy privacy that hides the truth and shades the work of God's art that we all are.

In sending his Son the Father sends us the revealer, the perfect image of his own divine glory. The Church speaks of the coming of the light into the world, a light that was the life of men; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can't extinguish it.

In Jesus we are invited to put our trust, not in something a little bit bigger than we are, but in the greatest of all realities. To worship the greatest that can be imagined sets us on a course of detonating everything that is less, relegating all other things to secondary importance. This is the pearl of great price, the treasure hidden in the field, the longing for perfection, the longing for God. Just to long for God is already setting our foot on the path to life. Those who won't do it are frightened of being brought to nothing, of failing in their search.

Jesus invites us to trust God, and to welcome him as the emissary of the fulness of God, the real presence of the infinite God in our lives and within our reach. That he is within our reach is embarrassingly demonstrated by the Crucifixion. That our malice and fear isn't enough to extinguish him is proved by the Resurrection.

When Jesus speaks about a final judgment being pronounced: the grounds are exactly here: they are about how we responded to God's call to us, to trust in him and to believe in his Son. We don't have to have reached, much less created, any perfection ourselves. We only have to trust that God is there, and that he will lead us to the light by his beloved Son, and that we are ready to throw away every alternative meaning and prize in order to possess him and to worship him with our whole heart.