

CHRIST THE KING

ABOUT CHRIST, AS KING, LET ME RECALL TO YOUR MIND THE TESTIMONY OF A LAWYER, A THIEF AND A MAGISTRATE. NATHANIEL, THE LAWYER, SUMS UP A GREAT DEAL IN THE EXCLAMATION "RABBI, THOU ART KING OF ISRAEL". ABOUT TO DIE ON THE CROSS, THE GOOD THIEF REQUESTS TO BE REMEMBERED IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM. THE MAGISTRATE PILATE UNWITTINGLY MADE HIMSELF A HERALD OF CHRIST'S KINGSHIP, TO ALL THE CIVILIZED WORD OF HIS DAY, BY HAVING THE INSCRIPTION "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS" WRITTEN ON THE CROSS, IN GREEK AND LATIN AND HEBREW LETTERS.

TO BE SURE, CHRIST'S KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD, NOT PATTERNED AND FASHIONED AFTER WORLDLY EMPIRES, BENT ON AMASSING WARSHIPS, AMMUNITION, ALL WARFARE-MATERIAL. CHRIST IS KING NOT IN ORDER TO LEVY TAXES AND MUSTER ARMIES. CHRIST IS KING, INsofar AS HE HAS EMPIRE OVER OUR SOULS, PROVIDES FOR THEIR INTERNAL WELFARE AND GUIDES TOWARDS HIS REALM IN HEAVEN, ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE AND HOPE AND LOVE HIM. AS HEAD OF THE MYSTICAL BODY, CHRIST TRANSMITS HIS OWN LIFE TO ITS MEMBERS: AS KING, HE RULES THEM. IT BELONGS TO CHRIST, NOT ONLY TO GIVE LIFE TO HIS MYSTICAL BODY, BUT TO ORGANIZE THE WHOLE ENTERPRISE OF OUR SALVATION: HE HAS THE RIGHT TO DRAW WHOM HE ^{Ch} CHOOSES TO HIMSELF, TO GROUP THE COMMUNITY OF THE FAITHFUL ABOUT HIM, TO RULE AND GOVERN THEM. CHRIST, THE KING, EXERCISES HIS ROYAL PREROGATIVES IN DISPENSING GRACES TO EACH, ACCORDING TO HIS PLEASURE.

GOD HAS NOT WILLED TO DO ANYTHING WHATSOEVER, IN REGARD TO THIS UNIVERSE AND OF OUR RACE THEREIN, SAVE THROUGH HIS SON. THROUGH HIS ETERNAL WISDOM HE CREATED IT; IN THAT WISDOM HE GOVERNS IT AND