

Reflection on the Collect for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

I have some problems with this week's Collect (the prayer of the week). It begins with "*O God, the protector of all who trust in you*", and goes on to thank God for gifts we have received. (See the whole prayer at the end of this reflection.)

My problem is with the phrase "*who trust in you*". What about the others who are not members of the church, who may be members of another faith or may be not of any faith at all – all those who are not members of our faith? Is God not their protector?

I ask this because, as we celebrate the beauty and joy of a great Canadian summer, there are many who are not celebrating. We are all aware of the sadness and pain of the relatives of the lost indigenous children, of those who have lost virtually everything in Lytton and other locations destroyed by wild fires and other disasters throughout our world. But what about those who are perpetually poor, lonely, homeless and hurt in other ways. Does God not care about them? Do we not care about them?

I think that God's love and protection extends to all, not just to those who trust in Him. And, accordingly, I think that we have to constantly challenge ourselves to think beyond ourselves, not only in this moment but always.

Therefore, when we offer this prayer on Sunday morning, let us, as the letter of Paul states: "*bow our knee before the Father, from whom EVERY family in heaven and on earth, takes his / her name.*" May we be true servants of our God to all of creation.

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy,
increase and multiply upon us your mercy,
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal,
that we lose not the things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen