



SESSION 13: THE 2ND ECUMENICAL COUNCIL & THE CAPPADOCIANS – READINGS

“Who is so ignorant of the good things God has prepared for the worthy that he does not understand that the crown of the righteous man is precisely the grace of the Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the source of sanctification, spiritual light, who gives illumination to everyone, using His powers to search for the truth – and the illumination he gives is Himself...He shines upon those who are cleansed of every spot and makes them spiritual through fellowship with Himself...Spirit-bearing souls, illumined by Him, finally become spiritual themselves, and their grace is sent forth to others.”

-Basil the Great

Evil is non-material and largely explained in terms of ignorance. Salvation comes primarily through enlightenment – thus his (Gregory’s) use of the term ‘light’ to refer to God. “I am not so unaware of the divine greatness and human littleness, as not to think it a great thing for the whole created realm to come near to God, who is the brightest and most shining purity, far above all material and immaterial nature.”

-Gregory of Nazianzus

We need time to be introduced to the Trinity. “For this reason. I think, that He gradually came to dwell in the disciples, measuring himself out to them in accordance with their capacity to receive Him... You see lights breaking upon us gradually; and the order of theology, which is better for us to keep, neither proclaiming things too suddenly nor yet keeping them hidden to the end.”

-Gregory of Nazianzus