



TASTE Reflection Questions
January 16, 2025

Behold, I Make Things New
Msgr. Charles Pope

*And remember, I am with you always,
to the end of the age. ~ Matthew 28:20*



1. Msgr. Pope gave us two definitions of the “Normal Christian Life”:

- a) It is to be in a life-changing transformative relationship with the Lord
 - b) It is to be in living conscious contact with God at all times...to have our minds touched by the presence of God
- How are these definitions different from the typical Christian life with low expectations?
 - How can we **RAISE OUR EXPECTATIONS** and thus, more closely align to these definitions?
 - If we can be inspired by other human beings (e.g., teachers), how can we be even more inspired by God?

2. Regarding “Becoming a New Creation” through Baptism, Msgr. Pope shared a list of: a) scripture references, b) words from St. Cyprian, c) words from the Easter Liturgy, and d) lyrics from gospel music songs.

- How did you feel about the prophetic declaration of reality in each one of the scripture verses? Did one scripture stand out for you?
- In the early church, Christians lives were different because of their relationship with Christ, not sin free, but hopeful. How has your life become different and hopeful since you have encountered/met Christ?
- Do you think the transformation happens immediately as an event or incrementally? Explain.
In your life, what is the difference between being a new creation and still being a work in progress.

3. Msgr Pope Asked, what is scripture? He then gave us the definition that it is the prophetic declaration of reality, not a slogan, or holy card saying. Scriptures are rock-solid states of reality. He went on to say that we must take the scriptures seriously and then ponder them.

- How does that definition give you confidence and trust in what the scriptures say?
- How can these declarations draw you closer to God and trust Him more by pondering them?

4. Msgr. Pope reminded us that “All things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28). He also said too often “we don’t expect much and therefore don’t remember much.”

- Now thinking about your own life, have you recognized God working out even bad situations for good?
- If not, **ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR ANOINTING TO SEE HOW GOD HAS WORKED IN YOUR LIFE?**
What new revelations came to mind?

5. Sadly, Msgr. Pope said that we are discouraged easily and are wired for negativity. He said the antidote for this is to **PRACTICE AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE** and that we can even be grateful for the difficulties and suffering in life. It all starts with how we think about things..

- How did you feel about the example of Joseph (being sold into slavery, thrown into jail...) and how each setback afforded him opportunities that he would not have had otherwise either for himself or others?
- What was your take away from – “Sow a **thought**, reap a **deed**, sow a deed, reap a **habit**, sow a habit, reap a **character**, sow a character, reap a **destiny**? What will you do differently because of this?