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Suggestions For Sunday 28th June by Revd John Elliott

Passages from Scripture

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 8

Matthew 10:16-33

or Matthew 10:16-42

Teachings of the New Church

The innocence belonging to wisdom is genuine innocence, because it is an inward thing. It is innocence of the mind itself, that is, of the intent and the understanding that results from it. And since there is innocence in these there is also wisdom, because they contain wisdom. This is why they say in heaven that wisdom is the home of innocence, and that there is the same amount of wisdom in an angel as there is innocence. As proof of this they point out that those in a state of innocence attribute nothing good to themselves, but regard everything they receive as attributable to the Lord.

... ... Because their greatest love is to be guided by the Lord, and because they attribute all they receive to Him, they have been steered away from consideration of themselves, and the more this is the case, the more the Lord comes into them. This is why anything they hear from Him either through the Word or through sermons, they do not store up in their memory but act upon it immediately; that is, they intend it, and they do it. For them, the intent to do is memory itself. No matter how simple and straightforward they appear on the outside, inside they are wise and prudent. This is what the Lord means when He says, 'Be ye wise as serpents and simple as doves' (Matt.10:16). This is the sort of innocence that is called innocence of wisdom.

Part of paragraph 278 of [Heaven and Hell](#) pub 2010 tr K C Ryder
Regarding The Bronze Serpent (Num.21:9), see [Arcana Coelestia](#) 8624

Hymns

44 Christ whose glory fills the skies *tune* Ratisbon 7 7 7 7 7 7
150 He who would valiant be *tune* Monk's Gate 11 11 12 11
313 O loving Lord, you are for ever seeking *tune* Pax Dei 10 10 10 10

Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that all our life comes from You. Your love in every good affection warms our heart. Your wisdom alone gives us all true knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Your power moves our bodies and minds, and acts in every good deed we do. We thank you, too, that Your life gives us the freedom and the power to choose to enjoy Your love and wisdom. We acknowledge, O Lord, that it is people, and only they, who can damage the goodness of Your creation, by their misusing Your life and choosing to take Your gifts for selfish pleasure. As we confess Your greatness, enter into us and dwell in that which is Your own, that we may find joy in You.

Lord Jesus, You have shown us that a saving faith is to believe in You. So help us to believe, in order that our own opinions may be subdued. We desire to accept with our whole heart what You have so mercifully revealed to us for our salvation. Grant to us, O Lord, this blessing – that our faith may make us whole.

In our temptations, O Lord, when the influences of hell would draw us into their own evil practices, and where our own inclinations would lead us astray, make known to us, we pray, Your constant nearness, Awaken in our minds a consciousness of what we have already learned of Your truth. Your Word is our protection and strength. May we be ever mindful of its power.

[Prayers, slightly altered, contained in **Book of Worship** that was published in 1971](#)

Prayer for the Working Day

Lord, I shall be very busy this day, if I forget thee, do not thou forget me.

[Sir Jacob Astley \(before the Battle of Newbury\)](#)