



■ † Fourth Sunday of St. Luke

“Do Not Listen to Such Ravings” False Teachings Spread by Intellectuals*

The thorns and thistles that choke the word of Divine truth, in addition to being riches, pleasures and cares of this life, must also be understood in our times to be various false teachings, spread by intellectuals who have lost the Truth, but also have lost the way that leads to the Truth.

Such teachings differ greatly one from another. Some publicly and openly go against the Truth, while others do so by oblique hints that are nevertheless understood by those toward whom they are directed. In essence, they act like carbon monoxide poisoning: they enter inconspicuously and cloud the head, leading to a loss of clear consciousness.

He who is afflicted by this kind of “carbon monoxide poisoning” begins to rave like one asleep; for everything already appears to him not at all as it is, not as it appears to one who is in his right mind. When you meet such a person you see that not only is all truth suppressed in him, but any feeling for the Truth is also stifled, and a lie has penetrated all the components of his mind.

What should one do?

Do not listen to or read such ravings. If you unintentionally



hear or read them, cast them immediately out of your mind. If they are not expelled, you must, through prayer, submit them to reason, and they will all scatter like smoke.



(*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*.