

Successors of the apostles

Paul also advises Timothy to remember the event of his ordination. That he cultivate, so that he increases the gifts which were given to him by prophetic indication of the Holy Spirit, and then by the laying on of hands of the clergy. It is not enough that he simply was ordained, but he must comprise a witness of Christ. To be both the successor of the throne, but also a partaker of the manners. Not simply a new link in the chain of apostolic succession, but a bishop who will have a sense of the flame of the personal Pentecost which overshadowed him during his ordination, so that he constantly comprises and becomes a useful vessel of God, suitable for the ministry which was entrusted to him.

The purpose of all the gifts with which the Lord has adorned us, my brethren, is none other than that God be glorified among us and in the whole universe, but also that our neighbor be served "in love" so that through such a resurrectional and bright witness, both they who seem to stand afar from us, glorify the heavenly Father, but who are awaiting our example so that they may also enter into the joy of their Lord, the Church of Christ.

Archimandrite E. T

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017 15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, *Timothy the Apostle of the 70, The Righteous Martyr Anastasius of Persia, Joseph the Sanctified*

TONE OF THE WEEK *Plagal of the Second Tone*

EOTHINON : *Ninth Eothinon*

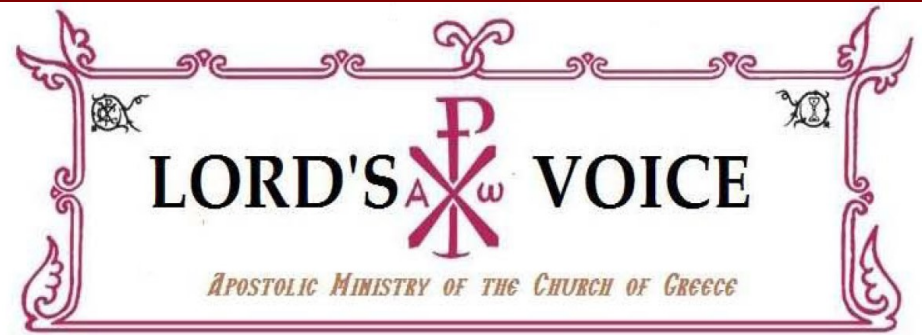
EPISTLE: *St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15*

GOSPEL: *Luke 19:1-10*

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017 SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE, *Removal of the Relics of Ignatius the God-bearer, Laurence the Recluse of the Kiev Caves, Gildas the Wise, Ignatius and Nicandrus of Sinai*

EPISTLE: *St. Paul's Second Letter to Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1*

GOSPEL: *Matthew 15:21-28*



65TH YEAR

January 22 2017

PAMPHLET # 4 (3321)

THE GIFT OF PASTORING PEOPLE

Very important, my beloved brethren, is today's Epistle passage from the First Epistle of Timothy of the Apostle Paul, because, for the receiver, these important counsels of his to the newly ordained Bishop Timothy about his pastoral work in Ephesus comprise safe sailing instructions for us pastors, but also for those people being pastured, of the latter times.

A word through and through true

The word of God is a sword of the Spirit. It searches the unknown and hidden things of our heart, it "dresses" us with spiritual vestments and we understand the hidden things in the Holy Scripture, but also within our own self. We discover the Holy Scripture in our own self. This "reading" occurs with the eyes of our Fathers, inside the Church. Thus also Timothy takes directional lines from his spiritual father Paul, about how he must proceed. Paul underlines to him that the word of God is infallible, it is whatever people need today, so for this reason also, it is worth it for us to accept it and receive it in our hearts. The proof furthermore of our faith in the word of God, says Paul, is for us to forbear mockeries, tortures, and afflictions. These adventures

ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO TIMOTHY 4:9-15

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2.: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

TIMOTHY, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

however we surpass, because we hope groundedly in Christ, who is the Savior of all people, since He wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Particularly however he has in mind those who are trying to believe him with their word and deed. Otherwise, what reason is there for us to forbear all these things, the Apostle questions elsewhere, if in the end, salvation does not exist, in other words, the resurrection of the believers together with Christ and in Christ? Then our faith would be "vain", "empty", he himself stresses (1 Cor. 15:14, 15, 17).

These things he must command and teach people, Paul stresses to Timothy. Everyone nevertheless has need of commandments and teaching: both those sinning "knowingly", but also those making mistakes "in ignorance", in other words, all of us, since we fall sometimes in one the one, and sometimes in the other condition.

More particular counsels

Timothy, even though very young, was called to the Episcopal Office, he receives an order from Paul, that no one scorn him due to his youth. Due to the fact that the epistles were read in the churches, the gathering of the local church of the Ephesians also heard this command. Paul also commands that Timothy be a model for the believers, in other words, an example, archetype, of healthy teaching, of correct faith, of a virtuous life. That his word reveal the truth, Christ. That his behavior be an incarnation of the Gospel, the keeping of the commandments of God, an underlining worthy of imitation and living commentary on the truths of Christ. That the believers discover in him, the One archetype, Him whom they are seeking, Christ. So for this reason also, his teaching ought to be unadulterated. In his unhyprocritical love for everyone, that everyone be quenched, since the love of Christ which he grants them, is living water which quenches, once for all, those troubled and tortured wherever they are on the earth. That his spiritual life be a revelation of his high a spiritual condition which will "inform" the believers. His faith, a result of living experiences, of blessed dealings in his course and of a correct life, that it be imparted to his flock. The basic component of all these commands and presuppositions of correct pastoring of souls, is the bloody struggle to keep purity in soul and body, if it is possible, as we received them during our Baptism.

Not only the pastors, but also the believers, the lay members of the Church, ought to struggle the good struggle, so that their faith in Christ is revealed in their works. That they comprise by analogy to their pastors, mirrors who will reflect the glory of Christ as a result of the teaching of their pastors.