

Galaktion and Epistimi

A person reaches the point of even abdicating from his “lawful rights”, out of love for Christ, just like the fools for Christ who, having denied that which we call dignity, with the implied petty sense, and having become a self sarcastic toy of the world, they were living in the light of Christ and through them, Christ was being glorified.

Thus also today’s Saints Galaktion and Epistimi, out of love for Christ, kept their marriage white, strangely combining marriage and monasticism in their “unjoined” spousehood, with the final result being there be heading in the years of the dreadful persecution of Decius. The important thing in its pastoral care is for man to find Christ and He doesn’t intervene too much in the ways its done. Some models which are greatly beyond the average are simply projected, in order to encourage us in our struggle, whereas grounded and with sympathy for the believers the middle way is stressed. Let us pray to our Saints who are celebrating today, that they guide us, to the degree possible, in carrying our cross without protest, in order that we may be illumined in the light of Christ. Amen.

Archim. E. T.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2017 5TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, *Galaktion & his wife Episteme, the Martyrs of Emesa, Patrobos, Gaios, Hermas, Linos, & Philologos, Apostles of the 70*

tone of the week : *Plagal of the First Tone*

EOTHINON : *Eleventh Orthros Gospel*

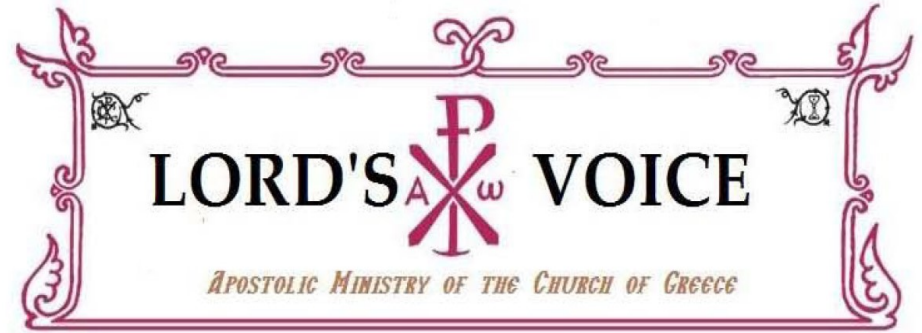
EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul’s Letter to Galatians 6:11-18*

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 16:19-31*

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017 8TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, *John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria, Nilus the Ascetic of Sinai, Martin, Bishop of Tours, Leondos Styppi, Patriarch of Constantinople*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul’s Letter to Corinthians 9:6-11*

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 10:25-37*



65TH YEAR

NOVEMBER 5 2017

PAMPHLET # 45 (3362)

THE CARRYING OF OUR CROSS

In today’s Epistle passage, my brethren, Paul confesses to the Galatians his boast “in the cross” of Christ. Christ told us that whosoever wants to follow Him, will need to carry his own cross, that is the cross of his own self’s desires, passions and weaknesses, without despairing for the “dissolution” that he must undergo, so as to become whole, that is to become integral, resurrected in Christ.

Affliction in the world

Upon hearing about carrying of our cross, usually we despair. It scares us to deny ourself and its passions, as if we will suffer a great destruction. It is true that illnesses, business failures and not only, the deaths of beloved persons and unfavorable occurrences and habits which became chronic, memories and pleasures which excessively fed our fantasy, making our mind difficult to move to prayer, need a great struggle on our part, to be surpassed. More precisely, let this whole filth of our heart, with a decisive movement of self denial, be laid before Christ, so that its dynamic in us can be limited, and for us to also feel somewhat ready for battle. Christ said that in this world we will have

ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO GALATIANS 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

afflictions. Sometimes furthermore, they are very strong, so much so, that they remind us of a birth or a real crucifixion.

Let the believer, having Christ as a model, decide to carry his cross, no matter what this costs him in losses. The secularized mind constantly studies the losses whereas, he simply does not want to struggle, or supposedly he wants to and he constantly delays it, which are rather synonymous. We remain at the fact of affliction, and overlook the second strand of Christ's saying. There Christ tells us to have courage because He will defeat the world and its demonic train of thought forever.

The Saints are our models

It is the Saints who decoded Christ's invitation in their heart and became intoxicated by His love. They were united with Him and comprise His daring historical continuation, His steps in space and time. It is they who we meet in the Church of Christ, and they are one body with us. The matter is to what degree do we have a

realization of the event, if we are living ecclesiastically, in other words, we are dwelling here and now in the land of the Living, in other words, of the living and the reposed.

Thus also pain and affliction and the hardships - of course joys also exist - of the present life become relative, we see them in their real dimensions, with God's illumination, and enlightened mind, and we do not become excessively high minded, a process which the devil uses in order to make them despair, darkening him. We know that with the manner in which the fleeting socio-economic and cultural condition today functions, through a constant puffing up of the mind, it aims at darkening our soul's eye, so that we are lost eternally, so that we sink without return into self deception.

Attached however voluntarily to the cross of Christ, and affixing onto it all our problems and afflictions, we freely give the right to Christ to intervene in our life and He does. Sometimes we perceive it and sometimes we don't. In the Church, Christ becomes whatever each one of us needs: the resurrection of the dead, the hope of the despairing, the comfort and consolation of every type of indigent persons.

When a person carries his cross joyfully, which in essence, refers to the cross of Christ, with the help of divine Grace, he faces strong temptations and is shown fourth wonderfully enduring. We should imitate Saint Paisios the Haghiorite, who when he was informed of the illness of cancer, he welcomed it as his friend whom he was awaiting. There where an atheist psychiatrist would see, for example, a masochistic tendency, we see the co-dwelling of our holy father with Christ in His light. Only one who has died with Christ and has resurrected with Him is elsewhere and simultaneously with us, and tirelessly surpasses every affliction and illness.