

The value of boasting of the Cross in the world we live

In our age the center of weight of our attention most people have focused on the present life, on the life each one is living on the earth. And it is logical and acceptable for us to give value to this life because it is the only one which we can see with our natural eyes. And each one of us places his aims and has reasons to boast in his successes and in the fulfillment of his expectations. However life is unforeseeable and we are many times in unexpected upheavals. We plan some things and end up in other things, In some things we hope, and other things come to us. And we easily lose our trust both in our own self as well as in the promises of this life. And we search to find the causes and we are led to fateful impasses. Optimism is followed by disappointment or even despair.

However, we Christians are able to hope without doubt in the new life which the Crucified and Resurrected Jesus inaugurated, the new creation which the Ap. Paul also confesses. The life of immortality and incorruption, which doesn't show with natural eyes but with the eyes of faith.

Archim. Ch. N.

SUNDAY November 13th Sunday of Luke Our Holy Father Clement, Pope of Rome , Peter, Archbishop of Alexandria , Hermogenes, the Martyr. **Plagal of the First Tone, Eleventh Eothinon**, -Epistle St.Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18 , Gospel Luke 18:18-27

NEXT SUNDAY December 1st 14th Sunday of Luke, Epistle St.Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel Luke 18: 18:35-43



61st Year November 24, 2013 Pamphlet #47 (3156)

THE BOAST OF THE CROSS AND THE NEW CREATION

Humility is a Christian's basic virtue. Every type of egotism, boasting and haughtiness opposes the teaching of the Gospel and prevents the believer's spiritual life. However, according to the Ap. Paul, there is one word of boasting for every Christian which supports him and benefits him spiritually. It is the Cross of Christ. The apostle writes that "let it not be to me to boast, except in the Cross of the Lord". The Apostle Paul prays that it not be, he can't conceive of boasting in something else as a Christian, aside from the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. What is this boasting in the Cross of the Son of God? The sacred Chrysostom says that Christ took for us the form of a servant and underwent all that he underwent on the Cross for our sake, who became slaves to sin, enemies and ungrateful to God. However He loved us so much, that he didn't pity his own self as a human and handed himself over to a death by crucifixion to deliver us from the slavery to sin

SUNDAY'S EPISTLE St. Paul's Letter to the 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.

So it is the magnitude of the love of Christ, which appeared on the Cross, for which we boast, we are shaken and glorify God. Our boasting is not related to pompousness and egotism, but to our deep gratitude to the person of Christ, who became for us guilty of death, "the death of a cross", so as to present us innocent before his "Father in the heavens".

Because with the Cross "the excessive love of the Master Christ" appeared (Saint Nikodemos) to us humans, for this reason we should not be at all ashamed to confess and boast in the Cross of Jesus. It is a lack of knowledge of the mystery of the Cross and lack of faith if we avoid out of cowardice or small-heartedness to project in us but also to the outer word the blessed wood of the Cross. It's as

if we invalidate our salvation, as if we don't consider the utmost sacrifice of the Godman for the salvation of the world.

The mystery of the Cross as rebirth and recreation

Boasting, faith and the confession of the Cross is not only an expression of gratitude for the gift of God's love, but also a gate of man's rebirth. The Ap. Paul characterizes the life of a Christian who believes, participates, lives the mystery of the Cross as "new creation". This means that he foretastes "the glory and the incorruption of the Resurrection" (Saint Nikodemos) of Christ.

In the grace of the mysteries of holy Baptism and of communion of the Body and of the Blood of Christ, the Christian participates in the mystery of the Crucifactory sacrifice of the Lord and simultaneously tastes the joy of the Resurrection also. Because after the Cross the glory of the Resurrection of the Godman followed. The believer lives "the life of the Gospel from the Resurrection" Basil the Great tells us. He foretastes "the alteration which will exist after the resurrection of the dead" (Theodoretos). In other words, he awaits with boldness the common resurrection of the reposed in Christ and perfected saints and the righteous and the "alteration" of the bodies from corruption to incorruption, from mortal to immortal. It is the new life which the Lord Jesus has prepared for all those who believed him, followed him and remained faithful members of His Church.