

“ Special care is demanded for this on our part, because lack of care will have as a result that “we fall out”. Him whom the righteous of the Old Testament and the totality of humanity longed for, generations and generations of people who lived with the expectation, the awaiting, the hope to see Him, to meet Him, Him we have among us, “dwelling and remaining”, while especially when we are receiving His body and His blood, in our heart, and He envelops our soul and body!

Lack of care and forgetfulness of the divine gift fills man with sadness, indifference, spiritual weakness, in order for the nerves of the soul to be paralyzed, and for him to be guided to spiritual death. And, yes on the one hand, for one to be drowning in the ocean with a strong sea storm is somewhat logical, but for someone to be sunk and to drown in the port of the Orthodox Church, isn't it tragic, my brethren?

Archim. E. T.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017 SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS,

Theophanes the Confessor, Symeon the New Theologian, Gregory Dialogos, Bishop of Rome, Phineas, grandson of Prophet Aaron, Paul Aurelian, Bishop of Brittany.

TONE OF THE WEEK *FifthTone*

EOTHINON : *Fifth Eothinon*

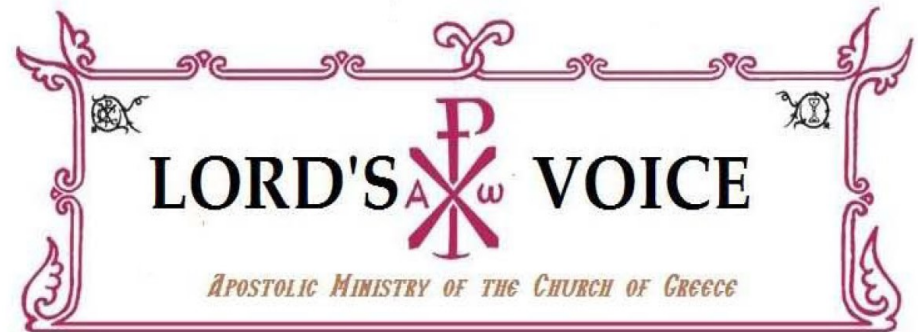
EPISTLE: *St. Paul's Letter to Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3*

GOSPEL: *Mark 2:1-12*

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017 SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS *The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria Demetrios the New Martyr*

EPISTLE: *St. Paul's Letter to Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6*

GOSPEL: *Mark 8:34-38; 9:1*



65TH YEAR

March 12 2017

PAMPHLET # 11 (3328)

THE LORD IS THE ONLY SAVIOR

In today's Epistle Reading, beloved brethren, Paul, making references initially to the Psalms and to the Prophet Isaiah, comments on the creation of earth and of heaven, their temporality and their “by divine grace” alteration into a new heaven and new earth, when the times and years are completed. Christ remains the only unalterable One unto the ages and His human nature after His Ascension remains glorified in the heavens. He is infinitely higher than the angels and His teaching is our salvation, so long as we are not negligent.

The glorification of man

With His Ascension Christ and His ascent to the “right of the Father”, the totality of man is glorified. It remains that we live this glorification in the Church, which is the Body of Christ. Not only is Christ infinitely higher than the angels as their creator, but also the “in the image of God” in humans is stronger than that of the angels, who, even though incomparably more spiritual than humans, are deprived of a body which is enlivened by the soul which is united with it, as occurs in man, notes Saint Gregory

ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER to Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

IN THE BEGINNING, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?

Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

Palamas. Christ remains henceforth the Same unto the ages glorified "with a body".

We become partakers of this glory, beloved brethren, when we take the body and the blood of the Lord in the Divine Liturgy, we are co-crucified, co-buried, co-resurrected and co-taken up with Christ, doing with His grace, that which He does by nature. We place our enemies "under the footstool of our feet", that is we defeat them and, in our mortal body, which is able to suffer, the glory of His dawning kingdom appears gradually, already from this very life.

The work of the angels

The angels comprise liturgical spirits which do not move with their own initiative, but are sent by God to ministries, which serve the plan of the salvation of those who want to be saved. Every exhortation toward good

works, towards prayer, towards implementation of the commandments of God and the working of the virtues, as also every disposition for spiritual life with self denial and love for Christ, is a work of the guardian angel of our soul.

Each one of us who received holy Baptism received as a gift from God the guardian angel of our soul, who all the days of our life pushes us to good, protects us from various spiritual traps and mediates to God for us. The more with our careful life we make known to God that we want to follow Him, all the more tangibly does the work of Christ and His angels, appear in our life, who serve us. There are believers with such a refined conscience brethren, furthermore this grace is given to them by God, that they sense this inner refinement of their be offended, when with their behavior they ascertain that they are saddening the guardian angel of their soul.

The angels also serve the Priests during the time of the Divine Liturgy and furthermore as swarms of ranks they encircle the holy Altar, as the liturgical prayers of the holy Anafora also witness, "envying" in one sense the great gift of Priesthood, because they, not having a body, are not able to do the sacred service. What honor for earthly man!

The danger of negligence

Despite these things, today's Epistle passage rings the danger bell, before an enemy of the spiritual life, which always influences man. This enemy is negligence, the forgetfulness coming from this and the indifference which also follows, in order for the spiritual nourishment of man to be cut off.

We see that in the years of the Law, angels made the will of God known to Moses. Whoever did not follow the divine commandments, tasted the chastising whip of God, as a recompence", payment and punishment, in case they might repent. Now henceforth, the Son and Word of God Himself is preaching and speaking, in the Church, to the "ears of the Church", and the Apostles are reproclaiming His words to the ends of the universe, since they received a command from the Lord to catechize all the peoples and to teach them to keep the commandments that He gave.