

## Our entrance to the Triodion

With today's Epistle reading, our Church wants to prepare us for our entry into the Triodion. Paul speaks about spiritual struggles, faith, love, longsuffering, patience, knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. And our study, our effort during this compunctionate period, is oriented precisely in this direction. Let us pray for a fruitful and irrevocable harvest (a spiritual harvest) to the glory of God.

Archim. N.K

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2023, SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE: TRIODION BEGINS TODAY

 *Theodosios of Antioch, Agatha the Martyr, Polyeuktos, Patriarch Of Constantinople, Antonios the New Martyr of Athens, heodosios, Archbishop of Chernigov, Afterfeast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple.*

**EPISTLE READING:** *St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15*

**GOSPEL READING:** *Luke 18:10-14*

**TONE OF THE WEEK** :*First Tone*

**EOTHINON** :*First Eothinon*

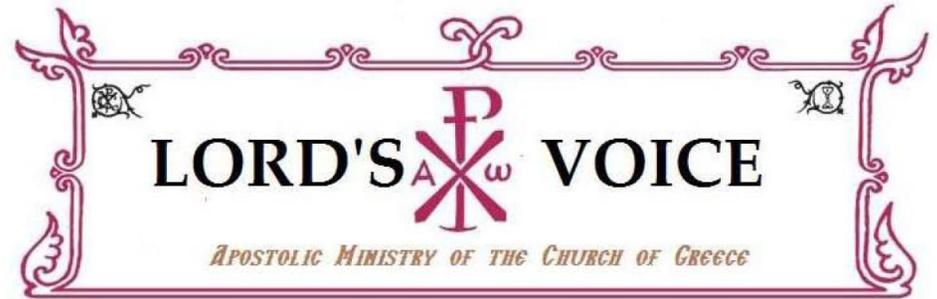
### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023 SUNDAY OF THE

**PRODIGAL SON** *Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch, Antonius, Archbishop of Constantinople, Meletios of Ypseni, Christos the New Martyr*

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**PRODIGAL SON** *Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch, Antonius, Archbishop of Constantinople, Meletios of Ypseni, Christos the New Martyr*

**EPISTLE READING:** *St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20*



71<sup>ST</sup> YEAR FEBRUARY 5 2023 PAMPHLET # 6 (3636)

ALL THOSE WHO WISH TO LIVE PIOUSLY  
IN CHRIST JESUS WILL BE PERSECUTED"

The entire life of the Apostle Paul was a great trial. From the first days of his conversion to the faith of Christ, his persecution by his compatriots and former co-religionist Jews began.

Therefore, wanting to also prepare his disciple Timothy, regarding the attitude which he had to maintain in persecutions, dire circumstances and various adversities, which inevitably break out in life of the Church, he reminds him of the apostolic ethos, as it is expressed in his own life.

You observed me in the teaching, he says, in the way of life, in goals, in faith, in long-suffering, in love, and in patience. Here, since Paul's life was always in accordance with his teaching, Paul presents his personal example and his being's experience in Christ. In this projection, there is no tendency to glorify himself before other people. On the contrary, Paul characterized himself as "the least of everyone" (1 Cor. 15:8-9) and he confessed unequivocally that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first" (1 Tim. 1:15-16). He offers his personal example as an

*EPISTLE READING ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO  
TIMOTHY 3:10-15*

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

experience of mortifying his egoism and as a complete surrendering of himself to the love of Christ and to his brothers in Christ.

**"And the Lord rescued me from everything"**

The sufferings and persecutions are the last element of his apostolic life that Paul reminds Timothy of. "Oh, what persecutions I endured!". What terrible persecutions I endured for the love of Christ! He particularly mentions all that happened to him in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:50), in Iconium and in Lystra (Acts 14:5.19). And this is because Timothy came from these places, specifically from Lystra of Lycaonia, and therefore Timothy knew of the Apostle's

persecutions. "And the Lord rescued me from everything." And from all this, the Lord saved me! The Lord, Paul assures, never abandoned him, but He hastened to help and protect him.

The people of God, who strive to live with piety, faith and likeness of God, await the coming of temptations, trials, and persecutions. They know that "through many afflictions must we enter into the Kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22), and that without temptations, no one would be saved.

Persecutions and afflictions help the believer to live, not only with virtue and truth, but also to experience the deepest meaning of humility in Christ. That is, the absolute trust and devotion of his life to the power of God, and therefore, the finding of his true self, which is inspired by the life and freedom of God; by the crucified love of the Lord.

**"Progress" in evil**

Paul does not fail to refer to the course of the ungodly; "Wicked men and charmers will advance for the worst, deceiving and being deceived". Vicious and malicious people who deceive others, will proceed to the worst; they will mislead their fellow men and they themselves will be deceived.

With this phrase, the Apostle means that what is visible to the impious people, as progress, advancement, happiness, after all, is "advancing for the worst" in other words, to forfeiture and corruption. When these people deceive and fool others, in reality, they are deceiving their own selves. Their seeming progress leads them to be burdened with more responsibility before God and people.