

apostolic authority of Paul, who taught the release from the law of the Old Testament. Here we are talking about another form of persecution, internal this time, which refers to the distortion of the gospel truth.

## The Church, the bearer and guarantor of the truth

The Holy Orthodox Church, despite any inevitable human errors during its historical course and the non-compliance of certain of its representatives, does not stop preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as a revelation of God to the world and an invitation to communion and union with Him. This is the Gospel of Truth; the Gospel of Paul and all the Saints; the criterion, in the end, of our conscience and the power of our rebirth in Christ.

Archim. N.K

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 2023** 6th Sunday of Luke,  
Averkios, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Wonderworker, Bishop of  
Hierapolis Seven Holy Martyred Youths of Ephesus

**EPISTLE READING :** St. Paul's Letter to Galatians 1:11-19

**GOSPEL READING :** Luke 8:26-39

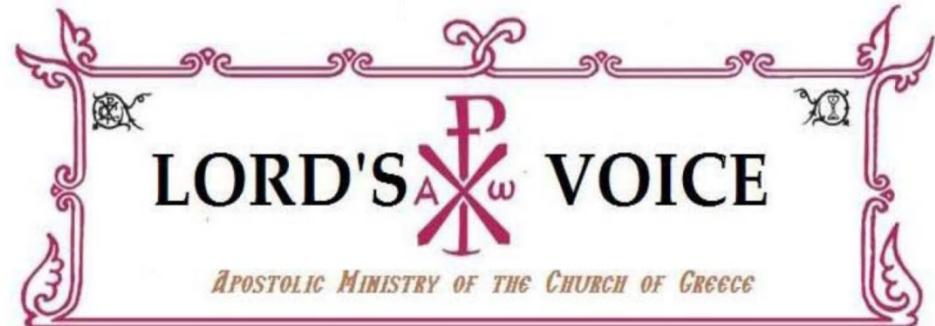
**TONE OF THE WEEK :** Third Tone

**ETHINON :** Ninth Eothinon

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 2023** 7th Sunday of Luke,  
Anastasia the Martyr of Rome, Our Righteous Father  
Abramius.

**EPISTLE READING :** St. Paul's Letter to Galatians 2:16-20

**GOSPEL READING :** Luke 8:41-56



**71<sup>ST</sup> YEAR OCTOBER 22 2023 PAMPHLET # 43 (3673)**

## THE WORD OF GOD THROUGH THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

The Gospel, according to the Apostle Paul does not come from man. The Lord Jesus revealed it to him. That is why the Truth of Gospel is enhypostatic, that is, it is identified with the Person of Christ. And yes, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God was revealed in a specific historical context, and was formulated in the language of the time, but at the same time, it does not cease having eternal and timeless status. Since the Gospel is Jesus Christ himself, Who is "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

This truth is the conscience of the Church. In the Small Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, the liturgist, holding up the Gospel, exclaims; "Wisdom arise." Behold the Wisdom of God, the presence of Christ in the midst of the Church and the hearts of the faithful; let us stand upright, in spirit and body, to express respect and our devotion to Him who became everything for man. And the gathering of believers hymns God by chanting: "come let us worship and fall before Christ...". Come everyone and let everything praise God, to worship and fall before Christ, embracing Him.

## *EPISTLE ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO GALATIANS 1:11-19.*

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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Therefore, the Gospel preached by Paul is not some human moral teaching, but the offering of his personal experience from his salvific communion and union with the Lord. Thus, the phrase "it is not according to man" does not mean the underestimation of the human factor on the part of Christ, but reveals the exaltation and validation of man as an accomplice of God in the work of salvation.

### **Christianity persecuted**

From the beginning of its historical appearance, Christianity was persecuted both externally and internally, with particular cruelty. There are countless holy Martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the Gospel and the faith of Christ. In fact, as we have also pointed out at other times, it is characteristic that even in our days, Christianity is the only

religion that is persecuted in every way and has martyrs to present all over the world, even today. The Apostle Paul himself in our passage today, after making a review of his life before his calling to the apostolic office, says that he passionately persecuted the Church.

And this, because he had great zeal for his ancestral traditions, and he was devoted to Judaism. However, while he was heading towards Damascus, in order to destroy the Church and imprison the Christians, he was granted to meet the Risen Christ. And then from a persecutor, he became persecuted, and from an opponent of Christianity, he emerged as the par excellence Apostle of Christ, who loved Christ more than anyone else. The Grace of God works these miracles both then and today.

### **The slandering of Paul**

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians, from which our passage comes, emphasizes that the Gospel of Christ justifies, saves man, through faith. And in general, he preaches that the crucificial sacrifice of the Lord bears the acquisition of the goods of man's adoption by God, and his freedom from the yoke and the legal types of the Old Testament which, thus or otherwise, had a pedagogical and temporary character. However, Judaizing Christian false teachers, who surrounded the newly founded churches of Galatia that Paul founded, slandered him, causing tumult and scandal to the faithful. They argued that for salvation in Christ, it was necessary to observe the ritual provisions of the Mosaic law, and they tried to annul the work and shake the