

To see how near or how far he is from God and to hasten to the spiritual liturgists and pastors so as to come to know the magnitude of their love, as the Apostle also writes, “to know the excessive love which I have for you”. And to sincerely expose his guilts, to be delivered with the grace of confession from the conscience’s censuring, but also from the judgement of the Gospel commandments.

The Gospel commandments are commandments of love and peace, but their ignorance or scorning judges man because he is deprived of these virtues. And the censure remains. And if we choke this with disbelief and indifference, then we enter into the emptiness of atheism. There the censure is not heard because spiritual death prevails. However, wherever the spiritual censuring is accepted it causes the soul’s repentance, spiritual joy, it brings the breathe of the life of Christ and a taste of spiritual uplifting.

Archim. H. N



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“CHASTISEMENT IN CHRIST AS A FRUIT OF DIVINE LOVE”

In the pastoral work of the shepherd counseling but also censuring is included, which may temporarily cause sadness, however the result is spiritual joy. Because censuring corrects, trains spiritually, so that mistakes and deviations may be wiped out. This meaning is widespread in today’s Epistle reading. And it refers to the believers of the Church of Corinth who with previous epistles, the Apostle had chastised, mainly for the factions which were dividing the body of their local Church. Now however, he is not scolding them but praising them (2 Cor. 2:1-3) because peace was restored between them.

God’s censure a proof of paternal loving care

The prophet David referring to the chastising manner of God says: “Thy rod and thy staff they comforted me” (Ps. 22:4). This means that God with the compass of love always uses his power both for censuring and for supporting the believer. It is a sign of true love, when the spiritual shepherd doesn’t hesitate to sadden his spiritual children in order to bring them back to the correct path. So for this reason also the Apostle tells them that truly with his censuring he saddened the believers.

SUNDAY, September 29, 2013 2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE,
Cyriacus the Hermit of Palestine, Martyr Petronius,
Theophanes the Merciful of Gaza, Dionysios I, Patriarch of
Constantinople

Plagial of the First Tone, Third Eothinon, -**Epistle** Second
Letter to the Corinthians 1:21-24; 2:1-4 , **Gospel** Luke 6:31-36

NEXT SUNDAY October 6 3rd Sunday of Luke
Epistle Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15 **Gospel** Luke
7:11-16

SUNDAY'S EPISTLE **St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 1:21-24; 2:1-4**

BRETHREN, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

But I call God to witness against me - it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

But the fact that the censuring had spiritual fruits, this gladdens him, even if it saddened them (1 Cor. 2:2), since "whom the Lord loves he chastises" (Heb. 12:6), in other words, him whom God really loves, He allows to be tried and to be censured so that he can be corrected.

Sometimes the censuring and the trial may be more intense and cause sadness or even bitterness. However they aim to wake up the conscience from the torpor which sin causes. The words of the Scripture again are characteristic that God "chastises every son whom he accepts" (Prov. 3:12), Heb. 12:6). In other words, to him whom God accepts as if he is his own child, He allows afflictions which whip his conscience, so that he recovers from the side effects of sin. Because if we are patient

and we accept God's chastising love, then He also treats us as his children (v. 7).

The fruit of spiritual censuring a cause of joy

The Apostle Paul calls himself "a colleague of joy" of the believers, since he contributed with his pastoral censuring, so that the joy of the Holy Spirit would again fill their hearts. "I have the conviction for all of you that my joy is the joy of you all". When the believing person shows patience and fortitude in the temptations and the trials which he undergoes in the spiritual life, he will be rewarded with the joy of the Comforter, even if he was suffering from his own fault. Saint James advises us that joy preside in us, when we fall in the dyne of temptations and of afflictions of life. Because faith grows big and gives birth to the joy and hope of eternal life.

Censuring in our age

The people of our age and especially the young people, while they are sensitive to matters of justice and equality, they don't easily accept censuring, especially spiritual censuring. In their personal life they don't accept censures. And probably there the most serious deviations occur and blacken the spiritual condition of the soul, but also the harmony of the soul and body.

The Church as a loving-caring mother of each believer and of each person who wants to believe in the true God, projects the paternal counsels of the saints and of the spiritual fathers, who give opportunities and triggers to contemporary man to see his mistakes and subsequently to correct them