

flattening everything. But even if this does not happen, that man leaves dying and does not take any of his earthly goods with him, the question arises: “while the things you prepared whose will they be?” in other words, for what were all these things prepared? For future generations? But perhaps does the vanity of the present not get transferred to the future and make this also vain?

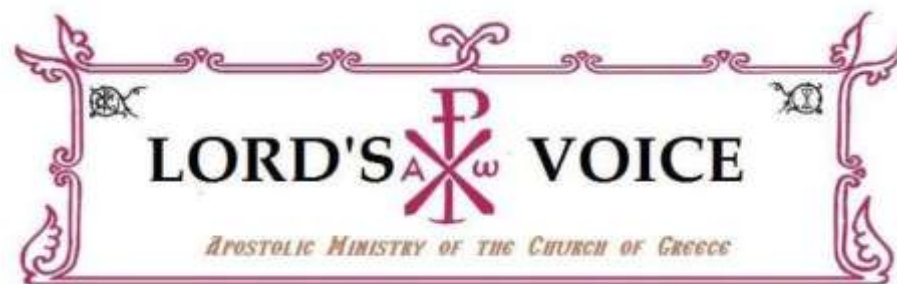
Why aren't we thinking in Christ? Jesus has the power and the grace to guarantee us both the present and the future goods.

Archim. Ch. N.

SUNDAY December 1st 14th Sunday of Luke, 14th Sunday of Luke, Nahum the Prophet, Philaret the Merciful of Amnia, Ananias the Persian.

Plagal of the Second Tone, First Eothinon, -Epistle St.Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10 , Gospel Luke 18:35-43

NEXT SUNDAY December 8th 10th Sunday of Luke, Epistle St.Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22 , Gospel Luke 13:10-17



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THE WORK OF THE GRACE OF GOD

The Apostle Paul, referring to the salvation of men, stresses that all this wondrous manner of our deliverance from sin is completely a work of the grace of God. So for this reason he mentions with emphasis that “by grace you are saved”. Which human work, no matter how good or wise or great it is characterized, could free human nature from the dynasty of sin. Only God, “who is rich in mercy, with the wealth of the mercy and compassion which characterizes Him, has the power but also the desire “through his great love” (v. 2:40) both to wipe out sin and to enliven us from the spiritual deadening which sin caused us.

Sin deadens man

The devil has managed to convince many people that if they live their temporal life as sinful as possible and they intensely gain it, they don't lose it. He whispers to them that they have one life and they must enjoy it, to satisfy the desires of the flesh. This way of life however brings about deadening, death of soul, but also of body. It chases away

SUNDAY'S EPISTLE St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10

BRETHREN, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Because as the Apostle reminds us, “we are his making”, in other words we are made by God, our existence is not automatic, but the fruit of divine love, the result of creative grace and the energy of the Almighty.

There is the delusion that even if we are sinning, nevertheless we are living. The life we are living however is a life without God, without grace and blessing. We exhaust the time of our life and bring in us spiritual death which is sealed with the end of our earthly life without God. We live without faith in eternal life and we die without the hope of the resurrection.

Our salvation in Christ a work of divine grace

The presence of Christ in the world had a unique and majestic purpose: Our deliverance from sin, our rejuvenation from the deadening of sin. God “coenlivened us to Christ”, in other words He gave us the capability of us reliving spiritually, through the grace of the saving work of Christ. His sacrifice on the Cross is the par excellence work which restores man alive from sin. Even the virtues of the greatest Saints did not have, nor do they have the power to “unglue” us from

sin and to grant us life, and furthermore life from the dead, resurrectional life, as it dawned from the resurrectional tomb of the Resurrected Christ.

Whoever accepts and communes Christ, incarnated, crucified and resurrected” enters into the grace which He gave. We believers are children of deliverance in Christ, “created in Christ Jesus”. With the offering of His blood, He created “new creation” and “new people”, whom He created with His grace. He created a new way of life which begins from here and surpasses the present age, extends to the new age (to the upcoming ages), the age of wealth and grace and gift, which the Lord has promised to all the members of the Church.

He inaugurated the Christian lifestyle on the earth, so that all the believers can adopt their life to the new factors of spiritual life in Christ. Here the good works are invested as an implementation of the commandments of Christ because they contribute to our progress in God, to our sanctification, to our perfection in Christ. Works which are separated from divine grace don't contribute to man's spiritual ascent. They are works which remain in the past, whereas the works of faith remain eternally, because they are based on the holocaust of the sacrifice of the Godman and are accompanied by His lifegiving and saving grace which is a gift of the fullness of eternal life.

Active in Christ

Our age is characterized by a rising of activities, works of development, achievements which make the human mind wonder at how much knowledge and civilization developed. However all these toils are in danger of being lost if they are not made firm in the perspective of the grace of God.

Works without God, works without faith in man's eternal destination will certainly not escape the stigma of vanity. A totalitarian war and furthermore with contemporary technology is capable of