

underestimating our fellow man. "He who thinks that he is walking well, let him be careful to not fall down," the Apostle Paul stresses to us (1 Cor. 10-12).

The road of improvement passes through the Church, which also interprets the word of God, the Holy Scripture. We should not neglect: "now is the appropriate time, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). Our Church grants us the appropriate means for us to improve our spiritual hearing and to sharpen our spiritual vision. Our participation in the ecclesiastical way of life, in other words, in the saving mysteries of our Church and the keeping of the commandments of Christ, as also the cultivation of virtues, of prayer and furthermore of ceaseless day and night noetic painful prayer of the heart both for our own trials, as well as for the hardships, afflictions and misfortunes of the whole world, of charity, of faith and of deep knowledge of the Scriptures and the divine authors by the believers, will widen our heart and will enlighten our mind "to understand the scriptures". Thus our life and works, true things, will bear fruit glorifying God and nourishing our neighbor.

Archim. E. T.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2014 Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council ,  
Probus, Andronicus, & Tarachus, Martyrs of Tarsus, Symeon the New  
Theologian. Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours, Cosmas the  
Hymnographer, Bishop of Maiuma**

**tone of the week:** First- **Eothinon** Seventh

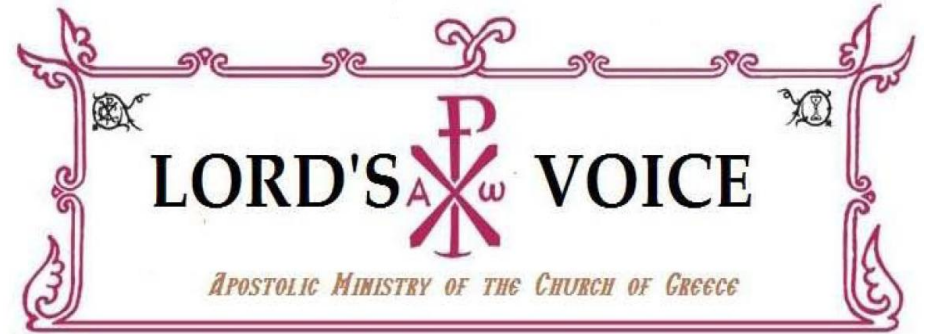
**EPISTLE** St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15

**GOSPEL** Luke 8:5-15

**NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2014 3RD SUNDAY OF LUKE, Joel the  
Prophet, St. Varys the Martyr, St. John of Rilas, Felix the  
Hieromartyr & Eusebius the Deacon, John the Wonderworker of  
Kronstadt**

**EPISTLE** St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 11:31-33; 12:1-9

**GOSPEL** Luke 7:11-16



62<sup>nd</sup> Year

OCTOBER 12, 2014

Pamphlet # 41 (3202)

## THE SEWING OF THE WORD OF GOD

The familiar parable of the sower was heard in the sacred Gospel today, beloved brethren. The seed is the word of God, the sower, the worker of the Gospel, the minister of the word of God.

Christ takes a simple image from farm life in order to present to useful truths so that we can be saved, in other words, to know Him, to meet Him. The seed fell in various qualities of ground and analogously bore fruit in various quantities or even not at all. All these "adventures" which the seed undergoes symbolize also the adventures of the word of God in the hearts of the believers with the analogous results.

### Causes of fruitlessness

The images of the farm road where the seed was trampled upon by the passersby or the birds eat it, of the rock without moisture and the thorns, the Lord compares to the real causes of men's spiritual barrenness. The word of the Lord, to Whom the Priest lends his lips, is radiated toward human hearts. There are people who only and simply hear the word of God. The devil, like an indifferent and simultaneously criminal passerby or like a stealing bird, immediately casts the word away from their heart, in case they might be saved. Their heart, due to the many yearlong influence of the passions and demons has lost its hearing. It remains completely indifferent, and cold. Even in

## Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

### The Gospel of Luke 8:5-15

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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the other case when, as if someone is enthused already upon hearing the word of God, due to hard heartedness - which is compared here to the rock – does not “open the ground” to the saving message to come find him. So for this reason also, in the case of the temptation, they forget whatever they heard.

There is also another category of listeners, according to the sacred Evangelist: they who hear, initially are warmed up, but are choked by the thoughts, passions and their way of life which is full of cares, serving ambition, flesh-loving, money-loving, which in the end also prevail.

### The fruitfulness of the fertile ground

There are however also people with a guileless, good-dispositioned and straight heart. In them the word of God bears fruit, analogous to how much they can contain. Naturally the believers are not interested, nor do they know the amount they can contain. However what interests them is to constantly extol their disposition before the gift-giving God, exercising themselves in the works of virtue and implementing the commandments of God, which according to our Fathers comprise the only excellent medicine for the troubled souls of people. Simultaneously they get enthused, which means that they never fall into the trap of despair, “because God wants all people to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4).

Thus the word of God has a catalytic influence. They understand the word of God and hold it tightly within them, as a foundation for their life. The word in its turn transfigures them. Speaking in a human manner we would say that it penetrates them, kneads them, softens them, smoothens them, it cuts them deeply like a double edged sword and in the end garbs them with spiritual bright vestments, which reflect the glory of the Word of God. We people today need such a type of transfiguration. Of sewers who themselves are transfigured and of transfigured believers, who only then can transfigure others with the works of their virtue. Works of virtue are those which occur for God and not in order to nourish our egotism and to improve our public image.

### In which category do we belong?

If we belong to the first categories of the negligent, indolent, pleasure mongering ones, let us not give up brethren! The road for improvement is before us. If again we’re walking correctly, let us not forget, let us not neglect, let us not become discouraged,