

salvation which is offered to us? When the neglect is prevalent in our relationship with God the Father, when indifference is ascertained about the spiritual life, what justification shall we invent? And furthermore when this salvation "It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him!" In other words the infallible mouth of the Lord preached to us the only truth upon the earth, the revealed faith, which subsequently the generations and generations of Christians who preserved it as their precious treasure imparted to us as Sacred Tradition. When we turn our backs to this truth and trapped in the "here and now" of our little life, we are indifferent to adopt it and to establish it as the source of inspiration and the measure of our decisions, then how do we dare to protest for the seeming prevalence of evil in the world or again because we constantly grumble about the staticness of society and human analgesia! Or again, with what face will we look at Him whom now we systematically are overlooking, for us to mutter justifications about the attitude of negligence and willful ignorance which we are keeping?

Brethren, the Church is doing whatever she can and even more in order to offer the truth of the Word of God in our life. If we will respond to this, is our own decision, for which we are exclusively responsible.

Archim. I. N.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2015 SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS,
Theophylact the Confessor, Bishop of Nicomedia, Hermas the
Apostle of the 70, Paul the Confessor, Dometios the Righteous

TONE OF THE WEEK: Plagal 2nd Tone, **Eothinon** 6th Eothinon

EPISTLE *St. Paul's First Letter to Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3*

GOSPEL *Mark 2:1-12*

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2015 SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS ,
Agapius the Martyr & His Companions, Manuel the New Martyr of
Crete, Holy Apostle Aristobulos of the Seventy, Bishop of Britain.

EPISTLE *St. Paul's First Letter to Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6*

GOSPEL *Mark 8:34-38; 9:1*



63rd Year

MARCH 8, 2015

Pamphlet # 10 (3223)

THE DANGER OF NEGLIGENCE

A prevalent characteristic of our age is the indifference of many toward spiritual things. And whereas, when a cause is given, they seem like people of a good disposition, in their daily life they seem to not have a relationship with the spiritual life and the Church, no matter how much they accept the truth of all that our Church preaches. Furthermore, the complaint of many spiritual people is widespread, especially of all who are occupied with the work of catechism, that our people are uncatechized! Combined with this is also that repeated research and statistics constantly show our homeland forth, Orthodox Greece, a "champion" as they characterize it, of corruption. And so the, up to recently, unique Orthodox country in the European Union, with the rich history and heavy inheritance, is shown today censuringly, denounced for a behavior that negates the Orthodox ethos and incompatible with the ideals of spiritual fulfillment and holiness!

The capabilities

On the other hand, the question is reasonable. So many thousands of people crowd every Sunday in our churches, they partake of the Divine Liturgy, they hear the sermon, many also commune of the Immaculate Mysteries. And subsequently? What happens afterwards?

St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 1.

Psalm 11.7,1

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

"IN THE BEGINNING, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?

Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

Where are all these Christians on Monday morning, when society is developing its daily life, for them to juxtapose to secularity, spirituality, to falsehood the truth, to hypocrisy, sincerity, to sneaky mishandling, honesty, to the corrosion of immorality, the solidity of moral integrity, to the breaking down of indifference, the unity of love!

Things become even more complicated, if again based on the numbers, we make some comparisons. The Church in Greece in our days is developing a huge work and has at its disposition means which it could not even imagine in other times.

Ecclesiastical Radio Stations with twenty four hour programming, thousands of titles of Orthodox books and magazines circulate of tens of special publishing houses, hundreds of web pages and websites exist of an Orthodox train of thought, the Holy Scripture exists in whatsoever form it is sought, printed, online, in interpretation, commented on, etc. Simultaneously the Church is in a condition of absolute freedom to perform her spiritual work and to articulate her own speech. Never before in the Greek land did so many Sacred Churches exist, never before did so many Churches liturgize on Sundays, never in the past were there so many ordained clergymen, never before did we have such a plethora of Spiritual Fathers, never before were so many sermons heard in such a variety of spiritual tendencies, never before did so many Circles of Study of the Holy Scripture, Catechetical Schools, Groups, Camps function, never before did we have simultaneously so many Sacred Monasteries inhabited! And never before has the spiritual deformation of people been documented so intensely.

The problem

So what is happening? Why in the happenstance where the Orthodox Church in Greece is having from a viewpoint of capabilities, probably its best period, its country and its people provenly show signs of advanced rotting? Why is the truth of faith not being understood which is being offered with so many capabilities?

The answer is simple. It does not only suffice for something to be offered, the interest for it to be received must also exist. When it is only offered without being adopted, then he who is working honorably offering the capability, is not responsible, but whoever neglects to respond to whatever is offered to him is. And thus the problem lies in the spirituality of our age. Whereas so many things are offered, with so much toil and cost, there is so much indifference, so much neglect to adopt, such criminal overlooking of the offering, that the responsibility of whoever is neglecting is huge!

And this is what the Apostle Paul comes to show forth, taking cause from the attitude of rejection which his compatriot Jews are keeping towards Christ, the greatest benefactor of humanity! "How shall we escape having neglected such salvation?" How shall we escape the "innate recompense" when we neglect the so great and so important