

us, nor do obligatory mechanical or asphyxiating rules of adopted behavior. Only God's love binds us, our response to this love and the struggle that we not lose this perspective from our life.

"In faith I live", the Apostle Paul will declare, confessing the transfigured, unheard of life which he's experiencing in the communion of faith, which he also cannot get his fill of. Maybe externally there was the similarity of biological coexistence with the rest of the people of his time, Paul however, he was not living according to the flesh. He was living according to that principle which subjected his flesh and he was curbing it, it's the principle of faith! And this faith directed and affixed the mind and heart of Paul into the vision, the experiencing of the wonders of the love of Christ who preceded previously to the Cross in order to open the road for Paul, granting him salvation, sanctification, and the grace of the All-holy Spirit.

My brethren, all these things are not words. It is the imprinted, experiential and living experience of our Church which she communes to whatsoever person follows Christ to the Cross. And Paul comprises the living proof of the infallible promises of our Christ and simultaneously the invitation throughout time to the same way of life.

Archimandrite I. N

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2015 SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS,
Eustathius the great Martyr, his wife and two children, Our Righteous Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Thessalinica, Hilarion the New Martyr of Crete, Afterfeast of the Holy Cross.

TONE OF THE WEEK: *Grave Tone*

EOTHINON *Fifth Eothinon*

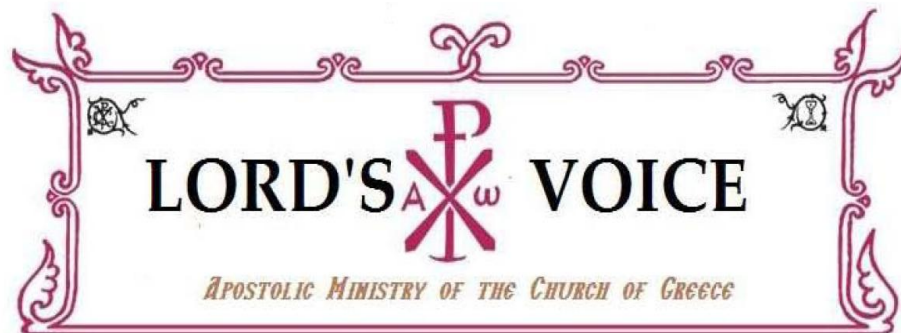
EPISTLE *St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18*

GOSPEL *John 3:13-17*

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE, *Callistratus the Martyr & his 49 Companions, Mark, Aristarchos, & Zenon, Apostles of the 70, Akylina the New Martyr of Thessaloniki, Gideon the Righteous.*

EPISTLE *St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1*

GOSPEL *Luke 5:1-11*



63RD YEAR September 20, 2015 PAMPHLET # 38 (3251)

"IN FAITH I LIVE"

Even though the feast of the Precious Cross according to the calendar passed, the Church insists on living in its echo. And this, because the Precious Cross is not a whatsoever Symbol, but the Symbol. So for this reason also, the Cross never stops being projected, since it is our daily life, our constant support and our weapon. Thus, we do our Cross, not mechanically and hurriedly, but with feeling and a prayerful disposition at every moment of the day, especially when we are praying, when we are leaving from our home in the morning, when we are passing outside an Orthodox Church, at every moment we want to invoke the Lord of Glory. But also our Church, preaching her strong and soul-benefitting Symbol, not only has instituted the special feasts in the year, of the Worldwide Elevation of the Precious and Lifegiving Cross or of the Veneration of the Cross, but she constantly projects the Precious Cross in conjunction with the person of our Christ, both on Holy Thursday, on Holy Friday and in the Resurrectional period, but also every Wednesday and Friday, when the hymnology is just full of special references to the thrice blessed Wood.

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode

Psalm 28.11,1

The Lord will give strength to his people.

**Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God,
bring to the Lord honor and glory.**

BRETHREN, you know 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.

The Works of the Law

Just last Sunday we ascertained from the Epistle Reading that the Precious Cross is projected by our Church as a way of life. It is projected without our Christ, as a proof of His Resurrection and as an invitation for us to also ascend to the height of the Cross, so that co-crucified we co-resurrect with our Deliverer. And today we see the Apostle Paul making an ascertainment, as he juxtaposes what he was living previously, as a zealot Jew, and what he is living now, as a Christian co-crucified with Christ.

What is the ascertainment? "Man is not justified by works of the law". A person is not saved by keeping the mechanical regulations of the Mosaic Law. Why? Because they don't aim at

man's sanctification, but in his oppression to avoid transgressing behaviors. But also because they are so complicated and so harsh, that it is impossible for them to be kept and furthermore combined with threats of death of their per chance transgressor.

If the legal commands are not easy to keep, then why were they given? They were given to prepare the life of grace! They were given to lead to the light yoke of Christ! They were given for man to feel how much death his choices hide in them in the autonomous journey before God, but also what great subverting God does, offering him life! They were given for man to reject them and to make his break from prim and properness and illegality, feeling to what majesty God is calling him!

"I am co-crucified with Christ"

Dead as regards the Law, but also dead as regards the world, the Apostle Paul comes to prove to us that he's not wearing the Cross as a decoration on his chest, but he is bearing it as a train of thought in his chest, his heart. He is crucified together with Christ, in order to be deadened as regards the world. Dead to the passions, dead to sin, dead to secular pursuits, dead to inner worldly perspectives, dead to whatever traps him in the narrow boundaries of this life, of this earth, of this vain deception where we are obligated to live.

Alive however! Essentially alive! With messages of life! With experiences of life! With the eternity of life! Because living in faith, he already lives from the earth, this experience of unending life of the Kingdom of the heavens. He lives the freedom of the next world, the first fruits of the other eternal life, the indescribability and unlimitedness of God's love.

If last week our Church invited us to also ascend to the Cross of Christ, so that being crucified together we can co-resurrect together, today she shows us the wonderful and blessed results of accepting this invitation. Legal regulations do not bind