

The most pure Temple

There is however also something which must be cast out, for us to live God. It exists in order to prevent our communion with God. It exists in order to separate us from Him, making us His enemies, in order to not allow us to live Him. So for this reason also, the Apostle Paul reminds us of the words of Isaiah to the Jews of the Babylonian captivity: "go out from amidst them and be separated and do not touch anything impure". Don't have any contact with sin and its methods. Avoid its causes, whatever scandalizes you, whatever becomes cause for falling, whatever cuts you off from God the Father making the climate heavy and the relationship enmitous.

My brethren, can someone who is wearing white, move carefreely in an area full of black tar and not be soiled? Can someone healthy, unsafeguarded keep company with patients with communicable illnesses and the not catch them? Maybe are we doing this, despite the fact that our Church gave us the white garment of Baptism and set us up healthy? Afterwards is God to blame because we are not living Him and do not know Him?

The Church exists in order to witness her life experience and to constantly reorient the human journey to meet with God!

Archimandrite I. N

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015 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.

tone of the week: Plagal of the Fourth Tone

EOthinon Sixth Eothinon

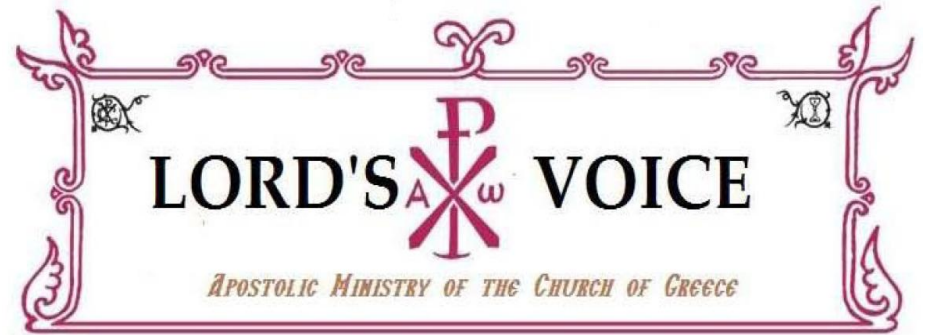
EPistle St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1

GOSPEL Luke 5:1-11

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens, Domnina the Martyr and her daughters, John the Hermit

EPistle St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians 9:6-11

GOSPEL Luke 6:31-36



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WHERE DO WE MEET GOD?

How many times we faithful Christians hear as a challenge from the lips either of good- disposed seekers, or mistrustful deniers the phrase "show me your God", or "where is God?"! But also whoever consider ourselves close to the Church, how many times have we felt like the Apostle Peter that we are sinking in the sea of doubtfulness, losing the Lord! How many times doesn't the sly thought plague us about the path we are following if it is that of Truth, or are we toiling in vain!

All of us more or less have periods of doubt in our life. And the Church welcomes these periods! Not only because they have been recognized for us as a right, by God Himself, Who for this reason exhorts "research the scriptures" (Jn. 5:39), but mainly because through the good-dispositioned doubt and the good-faithed seeking, man is led to the truth of faith.

We know someone when we have communication and contact with him. When we aren't speaking with someone, or we don't know him, for this reason also we don't have communication, or he is our enemy and we have cut off every contact with him. If we aren't speaking with God, if we don't have communication, if we have lost our contact with him, if we are not praying or are living a mechanical Christianity, we feel the pressure of moral obligations, if we are even indifferent about

Prokeimenon. First Mode

Psalm 32.22,1

**Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous**

BRETHREN, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God

God's existence and our attitude toward Him, then it means that one of the two above things is happening. Either we are ignoring Him or we are enmitous towards Him!

God's address

In order for us to get to know Him we must previously find Him. Where is God? Many have traced God's existence in the majesty of nature, in the unexplainableness of historical happenstances, in man's aim of life... And all these things could, up to a certain degree, become acceptable since God, through many signs and ways, makes His presence manifest. Where however, essentially is God discovered? Where does He dwell? Where are we able to find Him?

The answer which the Apostle Paul gives is simple and simultaneously complicated. INSIDE US! "You are the Temple of the living God", he will write to the Corinthians and to the whole world! Not because Paul is saying it, but because the infallible mouth of our God said it: "I shall dwell among them and walk and I shall be their God and they shall be my people". Centuries later, the great struggler of the Spirit, Saint John the Sinaite, the author of the Ladder, will write: "a mind not scattered outward, returns to its own self and through itself to God". When man's mind is not scattered with the external things, with the secular things, pursuits and daily life, when, in other words, man's mind is quiet, then it comes to its senses, man finds his own self and also together, finds God as well! A wondrous ascertainment! If you find your own self, you automatically also find God! And this, because you immediately realize the cause of your existence and turn to the source of life.

Words, probably someone will say. Theories expressed in a beautiful manner, so as to silence, without answering. It is not like this! Our Church doesn't simply say these things, but preaches them! In other words, she has first lived them and subsequently offers them as experiential life. It is not per chance that one of the most important categories of people of God are called by our Church martyrs, precisely because with the whole manner of their life they witness [witness = martyr in Greek] that they found God, Whom they are living to such a degree, so that if they deny Him they are denying their own existence. So for this reason also, they walk towards death so as to continue to exist! But also whoever has the blessing of meeting a person of God, this is what he preserves mainly as a recollection, that he doesn't want to leave from near him, precisely because with him he is grasping God!