

There is, however, also the interpretation of ascetical literature. There the verse: "He who sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully" is interpreted in the perspective of the considering of life. So for this reason also the interpretation, as a constant injunction, is not only charity, but with all your being, with all your powers, so that with the divine blessing you can end up very fruitful and with good fruits! Faintheartedness, second thoughts, turning back, selfishness and gainfulness, do not please the Lord of Glory, who claims "what is from the whole soul and the whole heart and the whole mind" of each person which refers to Him.

My brethren, the life of each of us is unique and unrepeatable. How we will live it, lies in our decisions. The Lord does not claim many things from our life, nor does He claim few things. He claims everything! So for this reason also, we Christians live our life in its fullness, with our heart, passing our every moment in reference to Him and His divine will!

Archimandrite I. N

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

tone of the week: *First Tone*

EOTHINON *Seventh Eothinon*

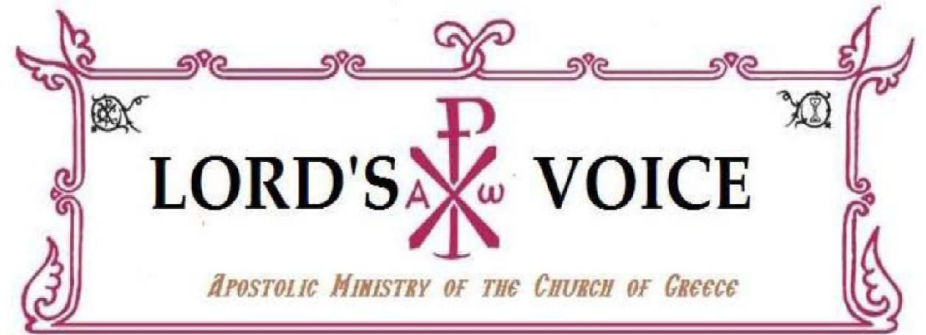
EPISTLE *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 9:6-11*

GOSPEL *Luke 6:31-36*

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, *Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council Philip the Apostle of the 70, one of the 7 Deacons, Theophanes the Confessor, Bishop of Nicaea, Holy Martyrs Zenais and Philonilla, Our Holy Father Nectarius, Arsacuis and Sisinius, Patriarchs of Constantinople*

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

GOSPEL: *Luke 8:5-15*



63RD YEAR OCTOBER 4, 2015 PAMPHLET # 40 (3253)

ON BIG GAINS

One of the worst viewpoints which prevails as a foundation in the secular train of thought, is the tactic of lesser effort. Its devotees – and unfortunately it's a majority – strive for the smallest possible, down to not at all, effort to gain the greatest, if possible the whole world! And this train of thought is cultivated, so that it is spread out completely.

So we see the students being taught that they can effortlessly obtain the knowledge or even if they don't obtain it, that there are side ways which can secure them a comfortable life. Those responsible for the education of our children, squander their efforts not in how to secure them education, but in how they will secure with the slightest prerequisites the graduation of the students and the granting of the degree. Subsequently the students, understanding the time of their studies as an opportunity for other things, give themselves to chasing the slightest passable grade, the familiar 5 [i.e. passing], so that officially they can be alright to obtain the degree unrelated to the knowledge they have. But also afterwards, the utopian claim prevails of little toil and much money. Such audacity is cultivated from this, so that even absurd demands are projected as requests. In the end, the others are always to blame for the whatsoever problems, since "they aren't

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

doing their job correctly" or "they are looking only at their advantage", at the moment when everyone "is under the same judgment"!

This doesn't apply only on a business level, but also in matters of course of life. How many, want, on the one hand, to be called good parents, they strive however, "to live their life also" trying to escape as many things as they are able, from the parental burdens! How many, avoiding their duty to their parents, strive to "settle them" in some institution considering that they are fulfilling their duty to the fullest! How many come to marriage, thinking of how they will be benefitted and not how they will expend themselves! How many close themselves in their comfortableness and refuse to be bound to family and obligations, thus deserting from the

struggle of life!

The spiritual tactic

Presenting embossed the difference of the above described train of thought from the train of thought of the Gospel, the Apostle Paul eloquently uses a very familiar image of that time. Taking cause from the process of sowing he says what is self evident. Whoever sows with stinginess, will reap little fruit. And whoever sows with his heart, will reap richly. Essentially he indicates the difference of the rationalistic, gainful logic from the spiritual practical and beneficial logic. One who doesn't have the experience of sowing, doesn't understand why so much seed is scattered in the fields and the storage bins are emptied. It seems irrational, or at least squandering, to him. If however, the storage bins don't empty, they will not refill and furthermore with many times more fruit. If the seed is not "thrown" and furthermore plentifully in every spot of the field, much fruit, many times more than the seed which according to others "was thrown," will not spring forth!

What is the characteristic of the sowing and subsequently of the fruitbearing? That it is a process which does not show, as it develops under the earth and needs its time. And nevertheless, no one doubts that from the sown seed, fruit springs forth, nor does he have second thoughts about if he will dispose the seed, as it is the only way to reach to the fruit. This process resembles, in other words, the manner of spiritual work.

With our heart

What does the Apostle want to stress? Because the context of the text concerns charity, many godbearing Fathers interpreting the passage, focus on the wholehearted offering to our brother and furthermore to the one who is in dire straits. They stress that we are not allowed either to offer with stinginess thinking of our material advantage first, or for us to have second thoughts about if our offering was effective. They censure charity "for appearance's sake" and cultivate the spirit of sacrifice in every moment of earthly life, not for the "next" life to be gained at some point, but in order for the real life to be lived now and for the "thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven" to be realized.