

Not that problems didn't exist, but love knew how to face everything. Today we filled with old folks' homes, which turning a blind eye, we named "Elderly Care Homes", because some people growing up "can't endure" their parents. We filled with orphanages, for which we have invented many "civilized" names, because some people uproot love even from their children. Not that there shouldn't be special institutions, where due to academic progress, specialized care will be granted. That however, should not be the only reason for the existence of these institutions....

Contemporary man cultivates loving beautiful speech, but doesn't have love. The more he departs from the Church, the more he loses love. He silences his conscience making consequently some gifts, however the Church doesn't want man's money, she wants man himself, in order to graft him with her faith, to convince him to exist in love, so that he makes this his personal ambition and so that he is distinguished with this

Archimandrite I. N

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*

tone of the week: Second Tone

EOthinon Eighth Eothinon

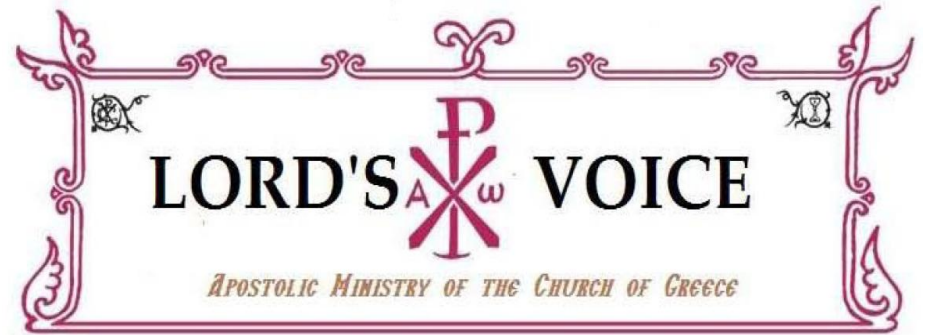
EPistle St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15

GOSPEL Luke 8:5-15

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, *Luke the Evangelist, Marinus the Martyr*

EPistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18

GOSPEL: Luke 10:16-21



63RD YEAR OCTOBER 11, 2015 PAMPHLET # 41 (3254)

THE CHRISTIAN MEANING OF AMBITION

The contemporary way of life knows and cultivates ambition in man and furthermore to a self destructive degree! Ambition is especially cultivated in such a variety of expressions of daily life, so that the passion is difficult to discern, as it is hidden behind noble pursuits and higher aims. Thus, just the longing to obtain positions is no longer given the meaning of ambition. More so thus, man's claim for that which today we call "being recognized" is characterized in this way. Having secured this, contemporary man admiring himself, feels capable of expressing an "authoritative" opinion even about all the things he is ignorant of, whereas simultaneously through this, he believes – many times not wrongly – that he is influencing and directing others as well.

For while this pursuit is so widespread, that many people in order to satisfy their ambition prefer to live in a lie, to the detriment of the truth. How many prefer that they tell them good words, even if they are false, so long as they are flattering them, so that they feel like they are "someone"! How many people don't falsely calm themselves down with false laurels, so that they have the false sense of some meaning in their life, which passes and is lost, deprived of the Grace of the All-holy Spirit! But also how many people participate in those theaters of the absurd, for their own aims, acting conscientiously to the detriment of their brother!

Prokeimenon. Mode 4

Daniel 3.26,27

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers..

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

TITUS, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Ambition as a virtue

Many times the battle against the passions does not lie in their complete uprooting, but in giving them a spiritual meaning. For example, egotism is a passion, but our longing to gain a position in Paradise is holy. Spiritual work lies in the engraving of our egotism with this holy longing, so that we act beneficially for our own self, not with the measures of this world, but with spiritual criteria. And ambition is such a passion as well. It does not need to be uprooted, so long as it is given a new meaning by the breath of the Holy Spirit!

Today what do we hear the Apostle Paul exhorting as a heritage to his disciple Titus? "The saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these

things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds". The Word of the Gospel is not simply trustworthy, but is the only truth. You Titus, should certify this and cultivate the certainty of the faith, so that whoever has believed in the gospel word, can be distinguished, presiding in good works, or rather being the inspirers and leaders of them.

This is a necessary and capable condition for each person's faith to be proven "not in words", but in action. A theoretical, naked faith, sterilized from an accompanying way of life, does not save; it becomes inactive and degenerates into a scorable hypocrisy.

"Preside"

Paul does not use this for by chance. The exhortation "preside" does not mean the adoption of a passive attitude toward life, in which we will await for some opportunity to arise, so that we could per chance do something good. It means the personal and active claiming of an opportunity to identify our faith with the way of our life. It means that we're not simply searching, but we're creating opportunities for good works. And this is not activism.

Paul imbued by the theology concerning the sacredness of the human person, proclaims the personal way of expressing love. He preaches the personal undertaking of the burdens which the loving way entails. It is precisely the opposite of what happens in our age. We close our ears to the anxious voice of the needy referring them to "social programs", to "activities", to institutions... And everyone praises the Church for her truly wondrous activity in the area of caring, not from sincere admiration, but from comfort because they are finding someone to load their related problems on.

For the Church herself, the more her caring works spreads, all the more for failure is admitted! Her failure to convince about her faith and to cultivate love. In olden times we didn't need the rations, because after God was the neighbor.... Now, an object very small in size, the brick, desperately put men far from each other, so that they are ignorant of their fellow inhabitant in the apartment building and they don't care. In olden times with Christian love, grandfather, grandmother, parents and many children lived together in the same house.