

It comprises the basis in the thought of proclamations, agreements, regulations, resolutions... And at the same moment love is betrayed and trampled upon by those who call upon it. The greatest victim of wars of the past century, of ecological destructions, of technological developments, of the contemporary organization of societies, of erratic relationships, is love. And this because love does not exist, cut off from its cause and source, Holy God! Nor is man autonomized before God, the more he departs from the Divine will, the more he denies his acquaintance and relationship with God, all the more love freezes unto dying in him, since it does not mature, as egotism chokes it and ambition annihilates it.

Brethren, a Christian loves because he feels, not obligated before the love of God, but very deeply wounded by it! Paul referring to the Son of God who loved him, immediately adds "and who handed himself over for me". Living in the cause and the source of love, he cannot but embrace it and make it the way of existence, since constantly, with proofs, he ascertains God's loving movement toward him. Finally, love does not act as a human capability, "but as a perfect gift coming down from above from the Father of lights".

Archimandrite I. N

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015 6th Sunday of Luke, *The Holy Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius the Notaries, Tabitha, who was raised from the dead by Peter the Apostle*

TONE OF THE WEEK: Tone Four

EOTHINON Tenth Eothinon

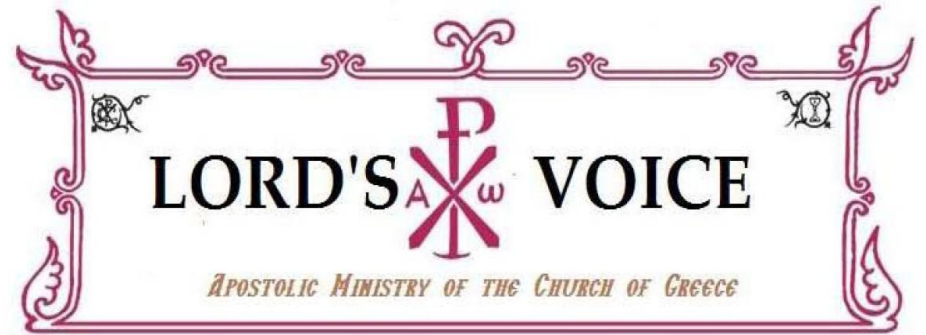
EPISTLE St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20

GOSPEL Luke 8:26-39

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2015 5TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, *Cosmas & Damian the Holy Unmercenaries of Asia, & their mother Theodota, David the Righteous of Evia*

EPISTLE: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31



63RD YEAR OCTOBER 25, 2015 PAMPHLET # 43 (3256)

TRUE LOVE

The large cities might not be allowing us to, however all of us, even if rarely, have the capability of admiring the starry sky. Millions, billions, infinite, innumerable stars, shine in the firmament, composing a unique beauty. The astronomers try to count them, merely to admit that this is unachievable. And all these move, each one in its course, without deviating from its course, without spontaneous things, in a heavenly harmony, which forces you to seek and confess the orchestrator of this composition, the Creator of all, God! How do all these stars and planets move in the heavenly firmament? The physicists explain to us, that in each one there is a power, an attraction of weight, with which they influence one another and align these perfect movements, in impeccable courses.

And God who cares for how the immaterial bodies will coexist and influence one another, will He not care about how His more perfect creatures, His creatures in His image, the humans, will coexist and influence one another? He has striven for this. Except that He did not make a power to restrain us, but blowing the breath of life in us, He gave us something of His own self, something which defines Him and characterizes Him. And this something is none other than love.

Prokeimenon. Mode 4

Psalm 103.24,1

O Lord, how manifold are your works.

You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

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.

Of Him who loved me

What is love? It can't be defined! It is not limited cerebrally in logical expressions! It is defined by manifest behaviors and mystical dispositions. It is destined as our common restoration. It is appointed by the divine will as our judge. It is exiled from the soul, because of the egotistical train of thought, in order to ban us subsequently as being unworthy of the divine gifts, from the cause and source of life. Love is a condition, it is the lived experience, it is the divine experience. Whoever has not lived it, whoever has not implemented it, whoever has not pursued it, cannot understand it.

"I was not born to hate, but to love", Antigone will say in order to define love as an existential goal. I was not born in order to share hate, but in order to love. And she says this, expressing even the corresponding train of thought, in actions, of the ancient world, which nevertheless was preserved as a remembrance of the ancient affinity of man with God before the fall of the First created humans.

And the Apostle Paul comes in today's Epistle Reading to speak to us about love, not as the central topic of his text, but as a continual experience in his life. Except that the Apostle Paul having the experience of the essential acquaintance with the cause of love, as "he was grabbed up to the third heaven" by the Son of God, defines love in its correct context. He doesn't speak about Him whom he himself loves, but about Him who loves himself. He doesn't say, Him whom I love, but of "him who loved me", in other words about Him who loved me.

Love in Christ

What does Paul essentially tell us? He tells us that we are living love because God loves us, or even better, we are living in the love of God. God is love, so for this reason also the love which defines the infinite God cannot but be infinite. While precisely because it cannot be limited, because it does not know boundaries, for this reason it also does not have definitions, on the contrary it itself is the only definition in man's way of existence. Basil the Great insists on saying that God will not count the years of our life on earth, but He will weigh them, in other words, the weightiness of the dispositions, of the actions and of our deeds interests Him, and that which gives special weightiness is love.

What do we observe in our age? Love as a word prevails! It is everywhere, even in sideways definitions, in speeches, of politicians, of philosophers, of thinkers, in texts of authors, especially in fairy tales, in songs, especially in the modern ones.