

Paul wants love, not impersonal and undefined, but in its unique form, as love of Christ, to be enthroned in the center of man's being and to overtake his whole being. And when this occurs, then a person cannot but move only out of love, act with love, proceed in his life for love and act in such a way so that love in him does not freeze, but is cultivated. And after love acts thus in man, only then is everything else given meaning. No matter how many capabilities, how many skills, how many opportunities man has in his life, they are not utilized, nor shown forth except only through love. If a person is not living and not acting lovingly, then no matter what he does, it is vain and no matter what he achieves, it does not benefit!

Today's Epistle Reading is presented with the opportunity of the feast of the Holy and Miracle-working Unmercenary Doctors Kosmas and Damian, in order to stress that because medicine is the most recognizable form of benefitting man by man, it is not allowed for it to stray from the path of love. It is not one more job among so many others, but a par-excellence ministry of love, with man himself as the object. So for this reason also, the Church wants to stress to everyone and furthermore to our beloved doctors, that if medicine is not exercised imbued in love, then the easiest path for paradise is altered to a superhighway to hell. So for this reason, be careful!

Archimandrite I. N

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

**tone of the week: Plagal of the First Tone**

**EOTHINON** *Eleventh Eothinon*

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

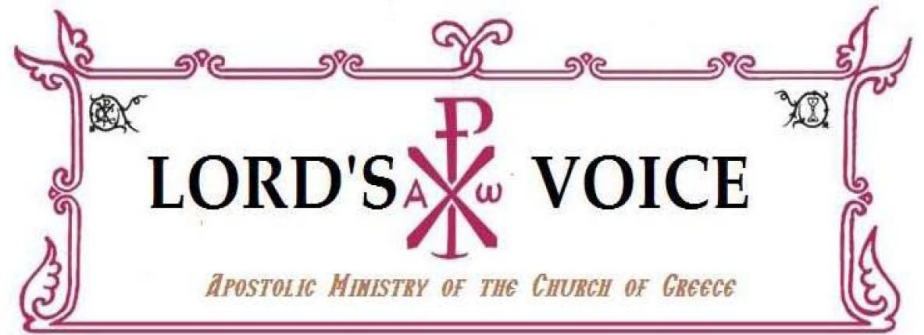
**GOSPEL** *Luke 16:19-31*

**NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2015 7TH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

*Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & the other Bodiless Powers: Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, & Barachiel*

**EPISTLE:** *St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 2:2-10*

**GOSPEL:** *Luke 8:41-56*



**63<sup>RD</sup> YEAR NOVEMBER 1, 2015 PAMPHLET # 44 (3257)**

## THE MOVING POWER

Many people, hearing talk about a moving power, automatically go towards the thought of money, since civilization and our daily life revolve around this, this is what they have submitted for us to believe that the whatsoever view of things, the whatsoever energy, but also the whatsoever belief prevails and is advantageously cultivated. And the peculiar faith in money is so intense, that contemporary man becomes dehumanized, being deadened towards all the rest of things, for its sake! It is considered as the necessary exchange for someone to "exist" in this life and as being capable of providing him everything. Sacrifices, schemings, pursuits, but also a diverse deception, a many faceted crime, opportunistic alliances, have money as their motive even underlying, but also an even indirect aim. And this has ended up being considered natural.

And nevertheless the whole world is wrong! Is believing mistakenly! Is being directed wrongly! Is moving wrongly! Being oriented towards financial magnitudes and making them the center of each one's life, of our society and of our civilization, it is committing a great mistake, whose conclusion is man's destruction and ruination on all levels. The deification of a means, of a serving

**Prokeimenon. Mode 4**

**Psalm 15.3,8**

**Among the saints who are in his land,  
the Lord has been wondrous.**

**Verse: I see the Lord before me continually.**

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

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tool – because that's what wealth is –and its wrong viewing, brings about a subversion in man's terms of existence, with destructive results, as we grasp in the recent especially, but also in the distant history.

## **Human desires**

Man desires and this is a way of expressing his freedom. Simultaneously however, it is also an indicator of our moral quality, since what he desires characterizes him and betrays what

he has in his heart, from what train of thought and what emotions he is motivated, but also what inhibitions he has, since in claiming the realization of his desire it shows up to what point he can reach and what means he can use.

And the Apostle Paul, as a wise pedagogue in Christ, encourages, not in the cessation of desires, since something like this would be contrary to human nature, but in their sanctification. "Seek the better gifts", in other words, constantly pursue the gifts which bring the greatest benefit, so for this reason they are higher, he will tell the Corinthians. He demands, to some degree, striving and eagerness for the spiritual things!

Why this demand? Because previously Paul has referred to the ranking of the gifts, so that the Church of Christ can be constituted as a unified body and he has shown how destructive desires and demands not according to God, but according to man, can become. He has stressed the great subversion with destructive results, advantageous views bring about, but also how unnatural the mutual devaluation and the demand for exclusivity is. And this does not apply only to the Church of Christ, but also to human society more generally, which the more it doesn't sanctify its pursuits, desires and aims, so much more it is shaken up, the more it is broken apart, the more it is mutually torn apart.

## **The par excellence way!**

All these things are fine in theory! In action however how do they happen? How are the desires sanctified? How is the mistake overturned and the correct viewing restored in man's life? The answer is one word: Love. Paul preannounces to the Corinthians that he will show them a path, "the par excellence path", an excellent and wonderful means, with which the best gifts are obtained. And this is none other than love, which he subsequently presents, and analyzes, not cerebrally, but experientially, through his experience, in a way full of lyricism and intensity, so that the rest of Paul's text is called "The Hymn of Love"