

pervert whatever occurred, to misunderstand dispositions, to misinterpret motives and aims, and in the end, to not understand. The good-hating father of falsehood has the ability to inspire war against whatsoever good, and we are not allowed to facilitate him in this.

At the end of today's passage, Christ speaks to us about a treasure. Not an earthly one, which after it comprises a struggle of life to be obtained, afterwards ends up an agony for its possessors, as the fear chokes them, that they not lose it, that they not find them and grab it from them etc. He speaks about an eternal treasure, comprised of whatsoever goods the person worked in his life, who is not in danger of thieves, corruption, anomalous financial circumstances etc, but it is increased with a huge interest rate, precisely because a Christian does good works «in secret», thus obligating God to safely pay back infinitely many times over in eternity.

Archimandrite I. N

SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2016 FORGIVENESS SUNDAY, *Removal of the relics of Nicephorus, Patriarch of Constantinople, Pouplios the Martyr, Bishop of Athens*

TONE OF THE WEEK: *Plagal of the Fourth Tone*

EOTHINON *Eighth Eothinon*

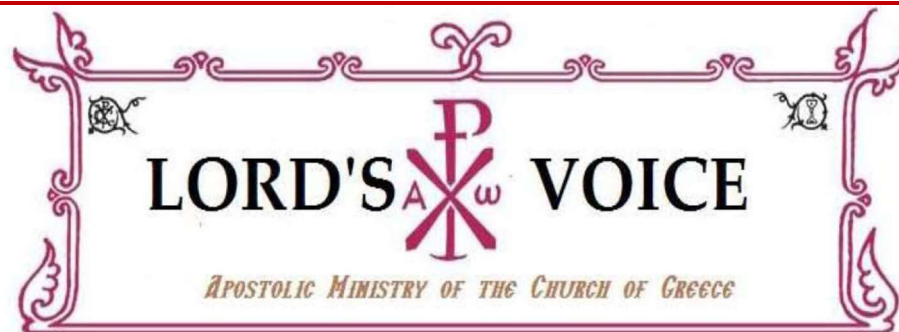
EPISTLE: St. Paul's First Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:14-21

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY *Righteous Fathers slain at the Monastery of St. Savas, Saint Cuthbert the Wonderworker, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Myron the New Martyr of Crete, Photini the Samaritan Woman*

EPISTLE: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51



64TH YEAR MARCH 13, 2016 PAMPHLET # 11 (3276)

SECRECY AND SECRETIVENESS

Many times in our life, we come face to face with secretive people, whose whole conduct and lifestyle betrays that they want something or have something to hide. Furthermore this something, ends up being the cause of many harms, since either the curiosity of others is stirred up, resulting in them ending up in a mistaken conclusion with destructive results, or this secretive person from what he is carrying inside him, suffers so much, that he experiences misfortune or even censuring.

Furthermore, things are even worse when what they are trying to keep secret, doesn't concern a certain person, but is a tactic of a whole group. When many people have something to hide from the rest of people, then a matter of an agenda and safety is posed. Let's not forget that throughout the centuries, plotting groups became cause of great harms to humanity, since some noble and higher goal is rarely pursued, such as the freedom of some people. Usually a matter of claiming authority is posed, or obtaining control over the rest, just as some secret unions, secret groups and sects have, at times, been accused of, not without grounds.

In today's gospel passage a measure is given, according to which a Christian may and must fearlessly and with safety, cover

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 6:14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

facets of his life with a curtain of secretiveness, so that what ends up secret, doesn't comprise a danger, primarily a spiritual danger, for himself and his brethren, but so that it is secured in the eternity of God's memory. An ability of man is given a new meaning and is reoriented, as this henceforth is enlisted in the matter of man's sanctification and theosis.

Forgiveness

Aside from the only sinless God-man, no person exists who has not sinned. And all of us, that in which we missed the mark and were wrong, we fervently attempt to keep secret, so that it is forgotten and is erased. Many people, furthermore, craft a myriad

of things, so as to wipe out proving data, to cover traces, in general whatever associates them with something that in human measures is considered a lesser or greater evil.

What does today's Gospel tell us? Human sin is not fought with forgetfulness and is not hidden with silence, as on its own, many times it shouts and is evident! How is it hidden and how is it wiped out so that it does not censure us? With forgiveness! I forgive, in other words, not simply do I forbear, but I write off, I forget and I don't allow his whatsoever transgressions to influence my love for the whatsoever person. I don't pass over, covering up the other's sin, but I act positively, so that the deviation vanishes and for the condition of peace and love for our neighbor to be restored. Then and only then, the love of God the Father forgives my own sins and wipes them out, so that they not end up manifest "in the day of judgement" before angels and men!

Virtue without egotism

But also whatsoever good, starting from the practical virtue of fasting, today's Gospel calls us to exercise secretly, in other words, in such a manner so that people don't realize it. Why? Shouldn't we Christians give the "good example" to the rest of people? Shouldn't we advertise the good, so that it prevails in our society? These questions touch the boundaries of pharisaical logic, of a way of thought, in other words, that caused and cultivated hypocrisy in daily life, in the name, supposedly of virtue, scandalizing many people and perverting the divine injunctions.

The spiritual treasure

Our people say "do the good and throw it on the shore"! In other words, hide the good that you will do, so well, so that it disappears. The good, of course, does not disappear. It simply is not presented to the eyes of people, who are always ready to