

emboldened. An uneducated, spiritually indifferent society, a mass easily guidable for the achievement of their aims is advantageous to the International System and its local fans, so for this reason “the well of the abyss opened up” and they present everything to us, as allowed.

However also the Holy Spirit is “very skillful and well crafting” according to the sacred Chrysostom and silently uses graceful people – also in key positions of the system that is full of holes from every viewpoint. The Divine Liturgies, prayer, vigil, fasting and more generally asceticism in the gospel virtues and the keeping of the commandments of Christ are the salt so that we don’t rot. Man is a sensitive “machine” and how he who functions so that he is not harmed irreparably, is described in the Gospel, as if in an «instruction manual» booklet for Man. So when we struggle as the Gospel says, constantly even more, today’s “be ye imitators of me” of the Apostle Paul will be verified in our life. Amen!

Archim. E. T.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017 10TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW *Maximus the Confessor, Apodosis of the Transfiguration, Our Righteous Fathers Sergius, Stephanus, Castor and Palamonus, Dorotheus, Abba of Gaza, Tikhon of Zadonsk*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Tone One*

EOTHINON : *John 21:1-14 Tenth Orthros Gospel*

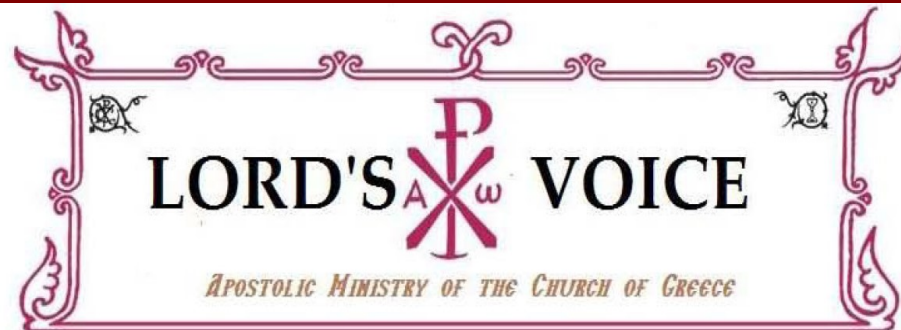
EPISTLE READING: *St. Peter’s First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16*

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 17:14-23*

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017, 11TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW,
Samuel the Prophet, Holy Martyr Luke of Bouleutos, Afterfeast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, Stephen, First King of Hungary, Hierotheos, Bishop of Hungary, Oswin the Martyr, King of Deira

EPISTLE READING: *St. Peter’s First Letter to the Corinthians 9:2-12*

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 18: 23 - 35*



65TH YEAR

AUGUST 13 2017

PAMPHLET # 33 (3350)

IMITATORS OF CHRIST

As a spiritual father of the Corinthians, as he who gave birth to them in Christ, Paul exhorts them to imitate his example, in today’s Epistle Reading, brethren. His example is not different than his life, which continues the life of the other apostles, so for this reason when he describes this manner of life and its trials, he uses the first plural person. While the words that he uses in describing his ministry, have an exceptional “special weight” we would say: “we became a spectacle, fools for Christ, we hunger, we thirst, we are ill clad, we are buffeted, we are homeless, mocked, persecuted, blasphemed, off scourings”. A storm of curses and negative characterizations!

Sacrifice for the sake of his spiritual children

The spiritual father sacrifices himself for the sake of his children, as the Apostle of the gentiles says. He keeps for himself all the unfavorable characterizations and renders to his children all the positive ones, a sign of his humbled heart, where there isn’t a trace of self pleasing and people pleasing, but only the breath of the Holy Spirit. Who of us contemporary spiritual Fathers are able to claim the same thing?

ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 4:9-16

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Who spends time- and money – in order to help those in need, those afflicted, those abused, the homeless, the debtors, the orphans, those facing very sharp family problems, psychoneurotic conditions, narcotics, health problems of they themselves or of their children. Where we ever concerned for the salvation of our rational sheep, to the point of depriving ourselves of sleep in order to search with longing for the lost sheep? Do we “hunger and thirst” for their salvation, to speak with a Paulian terminology? These questions comprise the touchstone upon which the pastoral care of us Clergymen is tested, but also the life of the lay members of the Church, for whom the true witness of the presence of Christ in their life is such a precondition as well as a constantly pursued aim. We live thus because we are not able to exist otherwise.

Forbearance

How many curses and mockeries, how many slanders, how many hardships and oppositions Paul faced in the work of the evangelization of souls! And nevertheless “a fool in Christ” he passed

over the mockeries, the humiliations the obstacles of every type which the world, with the earthly and flesh the train of thought created for him, but also the devil who turned those evil-dispositioned people with exceptional hate against the Apostle.

He blessed and forbore. And he suggests to us also, through his life, that we do the same thing. That we scorn the mockeries, the curses and the slanders. It will be necessary probably at some point for us to prove that they are unfounded, but all this should be done as is due, without paying back curses and ugly characterizations, precisely because the Lord and His saints, who continue Him in history, did the same thing, praying furthermore for those who unjustly were accusing them. And in the end, the truth shines more than the sun!

The spirit of the world

The devil is censured by the life of the Christians. During the history of the world and of societies, we roughly distinguish two groups of people: those who love, confess Christ, following Him in all their life, independent of the consequences, and those who are enmitous toward Him and systematically persecute Him in the persons of the believers. The system being offended, uses silent, for the most part, persecutors in key positions of the social economical and political system. Those who show and make noise are “the peak of the iceberg”. There is the much more important “deep state” of those trains of thought which work day and night, ceaselessly, with demonic diligence and methodicalness.

So for this reason, we see that it bothers the “democratic sensitivity” of the majority of those governing-referring more to dynamic haughty minorities of unreligious technocrats – the promoting and projection from every good intentioned person who has a common mind, mainly however from Christians who attend church and our ecclesiastical leadership, of the traditional values of Orthodox Greece and more widely of Christian Europe, values which promote the human person and project his god-likeness. The projection of marriage and the family, the moral life and example, the sacredness of work, respect for the homeland and the reference to the brilliant pages of our National Life, then when our homeland was our faith, so for this reason, also unheard of things are legislated, resulting in the minorities having been