

homeland which some people - like today also - plotted against. Saint Chrysostom underlines that “nothing is sweeter than the homeland”! It is our duty to love our earthly homeland, considering it a gift of God, which depicts and refers to the heavenly homeland which awaits us.

Maybe we may, obeying unheard of recent viewpoints about History, run over and lessen the majesty of this saga? Why this moral bothering? In the name of what “love” should we abolish national histories, national heroes, even national languages? What will man become in this entire mass mush, where the face of man is humiliated and our homes instead of home churches are almost being altered into dirt dumps of TV trash? Who are all these “enlightened” sirs who put themselves to heal us from “illnesses”, which we never went through, being themselves sick?

Following our holy Fathers, my brethren, we should not be swayed from empty, mortally inspired philosophies and loving our homeland, we should gaze at the good struggle of cocrucifixion and coresurrection with Christ. Amen.

Archim. E. T.

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 29, 2017 7TH SUNDAY OF LUKE**, *Anastasia the Martyr of Rome, Our Righteous Father Abramius*

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

**EOTHINON** : *Eleventh Orthros Gospel*

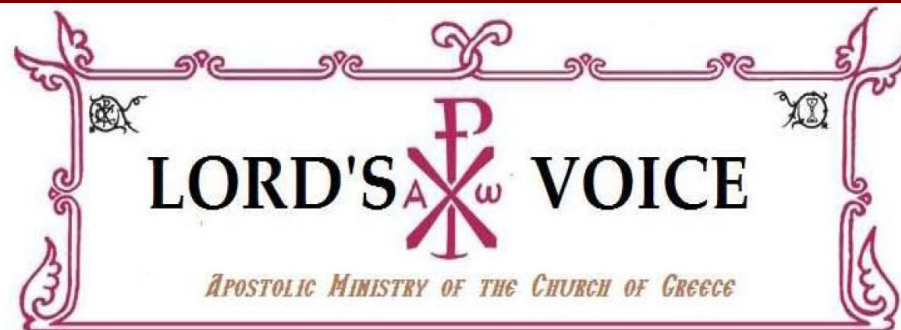
**EPISTLE READING**: *St. Paul's Letter to Galatians 2:16-20*

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

**NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017 5TH SUNDAY OF LUKE**, *Galaktion & his wife Episteme, the Martyrs of Emesa, Patrobos, Gaios, Hermas, Linos, & Philologos, Apostles of the 70*

**EPISTLE READING**: *St. Paul's Letter to Galatians 6:11-18*

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



65<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

OCTOBER 29 2017

PAMPHLET # 44 (3361)

## JUSTIFICATION THROUGH FAITH AND THE SURPASSING OF JUDGEMENT

In today's Epistle reading, my brethren, Paul addresses the Galatians, proving that man is not able to be justified by the Law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, which nevertheless is expressed with works, which will prove it.

### The Law Is Insufficient

Man through the Law understands that he cannot keep it completely. The Law proves man's inability to be saved on his own, because he who transgressed in one thing, is to blame in everything (James 2:10). Consequently, no one is able to boast that he is better than another, since everyone is transgressors of everything.

It is however faith in Christ, which completely overturns this scenario. For example, the thief on the right, was not able to boast about his works, but his amazing cry of repentance “God take pity on me the sinner”, was that which opened wide the gates of Paradise for him and as a real thief “he stole it”. The sinful woman, who “loved much” Christ and washed with the hair of her head the Lord's feet, after she first anointed them with

## ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO GALATIANS 2:16-20

Brethren, knowing 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.

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very costly myrrh, comprises for the Christians of all ages and for us, a safe spiritual guide and leader toward repentance. Both of them had transgressed not in one thing alone, but the Law, in many points. Christ comes, and investigating their internal disposition, He justifies them.

### A journey of co-crucifixion with Christ

Christ said that he who wants to follow me, ought to first take up his cross, carry it and follow me. The saying is heavy, but only thus is man saved. The cross of the desires and of our passions is very heavy, but just as then when even Christ yielded beneath the weight of His cross and Cyrenius was found to pick it up, thus also in the carrying of our own cross (Cyrenius) divine Grace will approach also in the very difficult moments, when exhausted from the merciless battle of our own self and of our passions we bend and yield, probably also we fall, he will lift us up, replacing the cross on our shoulders, for us to continue. Thus man, in the Church, with the sanctifying Grace of the sacraments,

learns in time to affix all the broken pieces, wounds and crushed pieces of his being, on the cross of Christ.

We use the words "broken pieces" in order to denote the fact that the passionate manner of our life is divisive, dissolving, since one is led and carried by the suggestions of the passions and of his desires, resulting in him being broken up into pieces and suffering. The result also of this is the person, from a completely sanctified being that he is been called by God to become, he ends up a pitiable "crushed person". He is thus mortally wounded and, as much as he is aware of this condition and wants to be healed, there is a solution: it is, with bravery for him to be "stretched out", in other words, to be "spread out tight" on the Cross of Christ and, together with Christ, "in awaiting and affliction and patience", with burning heats and freezing colds, to await the Resurrection.

A painful crucifixion-consequently-of the senses and of the desires, a burial of the mind inside the heart, where it undistractedly ceaselessly invokes decisively and urgently the divine mercy and the co-resurrection, which follows, comprises the triple necessity of the spiritual life of each Christian. In this journey of ours, all the blessed spirits of the heavens accompany, with the Mother of God presiding.

### The resurrection of our Race

Just yesterday we celebrated also the saga of the Greeks on the Albanian mountains in 1940. A decisive moment, which judged the course of the Second World War.

Whatever was previously presented, may easily be seen and projected also on our Race, as a crucifactory-resurrectional journey and joy-sadness. It is known that our Virgin Mary in very many cases encouraged the brave fighters of 1940, who with a God-pleasing eagerness and blameless joy, ran to aid in the crushing of the enemy hordes, to preserve the precious good of the