

which he himself considered the “root of all evils”, that he would dynamically fight it, “quelling even the desire for every material thing. The Golden-tongued John, an equally fervent enemy of avarice, will interpret. “He did not say you did not give me anything material, but neither did I desire anything. And this however, is not so great, as the fact that in his own needs and of his companions, his wrinkled hands served them”. It would be fitting for the others to maintain him, so that he could undistractedly do his very toilsome pastoral work. But also in this, he leaves us a bright example of self denial and sacrifice, so that not even the slightest cause exist for scandal for anyone.

The signature to this very precious will of the Apostle Paul could not be anything other than prayer, on bended knee. Prayer full of humility and piety. Prayer to the Granter of the New Testament, of which the will of His Apostle is a small copy also.

Archim. B. L

### **SUNDAY, JUNE, 09, 2019 FATHERS OF THE 1ST**

**COUNCIL** *Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria , 3 Virgin-martyrs of Chios , 5 Nuns beheaded in Persia: Thecla, Mariamne, Martha, Mary & Enmatha, Righteous Father Columba of Iona, Righteous Father Cyril of Belozersk*

**TONE OF THE WEEK :** *Plagal of Second Tone*

**EOTHINON :** *Nineth Eothinon*

**EPISTLE READING:** *First Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36*

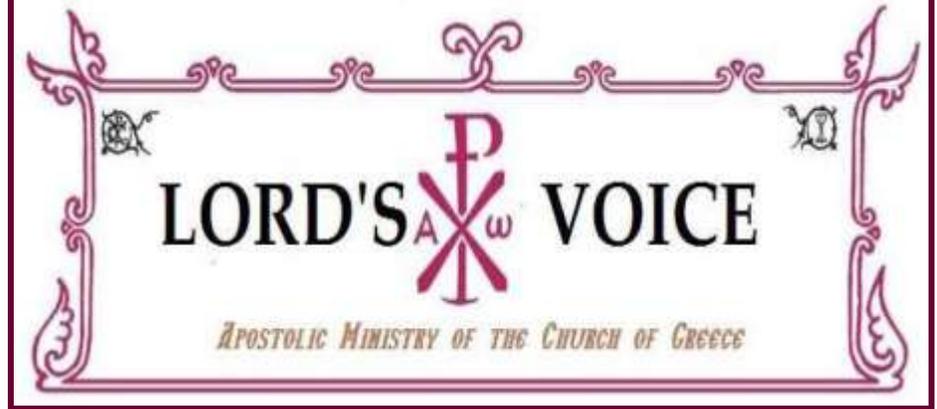
**GOSPEL READING:** *John 17:1-13*

### **NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019 HOLY PENTECOST ,**

*Tychon the Wonderworker , 40 Martyrs of Rome, Mark the Just of Apollonia*

**EPISTLE READING:** *Acts of the Apostles 2:1 - 11*

**GOSPEL READING:** *John 7:37-52; 8:12*



67<sup>TH</sup> YEAR    JUNE 9, 2019    PAMPHLET # 23 (3445)

## THE FAREWELL

“The ritual of bidding farewell” left is the title of the book that refers to the last years of life and of the “offering” of a contemporary existential philosopher, written by his companion. We are putting quotes on the word “offering”, because it is the “philosophy of nothing”, which his entire work generally introduces, it is nothing other than filthy sewage which a toilet pipe pours out». Thus, his former like-minded friend characterizes them, who converted to Orthodoxy and was baptized on the Holy Mountain. Whoever reads this book with which the philosopher bids us farewell, reaps this sense of a stenchy pessimism.

### The will of the Apostle Paul

Completely different is the sense given by the scene of bidding farewell, which is described in today’s Epistle Reading. How can it not be full of the fragrance of the Holy Spirit, when in this, the Apostle Paul bids farewell to the presbyters of Ephesus, and together with them essentially all the receivers of his preaching throughout the ages. This farewell speech of his, is not only the epilogue of his teaching, but also a wonderful epitome and summary of it. We would say that it is the will of the Preeminent Apostle.

## ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 20:16-18, 28-36

IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

In a will, for one to refer to the estate data that he bequeaths, is clearly not considered a blameworthy talking about one self. Thus here also Paul, referring synoptically to the estate of his heart and the wealth of his pastoral experience, uses a language which to a superficial a listener would leave the suspicion that the Apostle is speaking boastfully. "Do not consider this boasting", the sacred Chrysostom hastens to tell us. "Furthermore the Apostle, in order to verify what he said, invokes the witness of his listeners. There the virtue of the teacher shows, when he has his own disciples as witnesses of his achievements.

### With a feeling of responsibility

The first "achievement" of the pastor and teacher Paul, which his disciples must have inherited, is for them to pay attention first to

their own selves. The genuinely humble Apostle, in order to never be in danger of hearing the "teacher who were teaching...[and was not keeping the law]", was putting his body into "subjection", living with strict temperance and asceticism. Only with such presuppositions is the pastor able to correctly be paying attention to his flock. Only, "when you pay attention to your own selves, then you also gain the flock" the true ascetic Golden-tongued one will interpret. And this responsibility is incalculably great, when one considers that, in order for this flock to be saved and become the estate of Christ, His Immaculate Blood was shed unsparingly.

This "flock", expensively paid for, of the rational sheep - the Apostle Paul forewarns - "fierce wolves" will threaten it, will because they appear in the shepherd's clothing, they will be particularly dangerous. It is grievous that many of these false teachers will come from the area of the Church. "Severely fierce, when the battle is civil", mourns Chrysostom. The pastoral epistles of Paul verify the truth of these forsights. Particularly tragic is that six of those "speaking perversely" would be from Ephesus, to the presbyters of whom, the Apostle is talking to now. And their egotism showed in the fact that their basic aim was to create their own followers and not disciples of the Lord.

### "I present you to God"

Here Paul is forced to remind of his main "achievement", the heart of his pastoral care, which is comprised of a triple sacrifice: tears of pain and prayer, many hour long daily care and individualized occupation with each one. All these things however, did not aim at his own projection, but at the glory of Christ. Furthermore, without the power of Christ and the word of His Grace nothing would be able to be founded and constructed. So for this reason, as the Apostle Paul is leaving, he does not feel that after him the downfall will come". Thus now he entrusts the Christians to God, to the only One who is able to continue their edification in the faith and to grant them the inheritance of His Kingdom.

The final treasure of the will of the Apostle and his imitable "achievement" is selflessness and lack of greed. It was natural, that that