

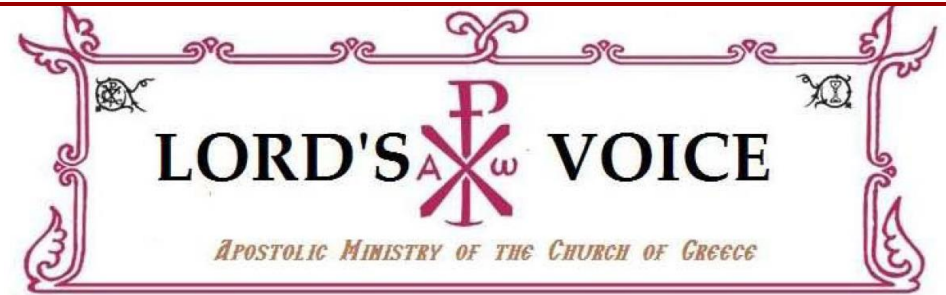
To not function authoritatively, but also to not fear to give a witness.

In order to live, having a clean conscience, the Apostle to the Gentiles journeyed ascetically. He lived, in other words, not for enjoyment and happiness with secular measures, but struggling to please God. He lived with ceaseless prayer. He forbore and forgave. He worked manually, without utilizing his privileges. Everything in him was love for God and for fellow man. And he defeated furthermore, even the temptations of sickness, of rejection, and of loneliness with his humility.

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## THE GOOD CONSCIENCE

We people have within us the voice of conscience. It is the code of values that examines our actions, makes us know if what we are thinking or want to do is good or bad; it allows us to be calm or makes us ponder about our life.

### The voice of God

The conscience according to our faith, is the voice of God; it is the code of the gospel and of the spiritual values that makes us see the will of God and proceed in our life according to this or not, if we are sinning, if, in other words, we are not doing whatever God wants, resulting in us getting tired spiritually, or if we feel that our journey is towards Him. For science, it is the area of clashing between what we ought to do, what we want to do and what we are doing. This area is formulated analogous to heredity, the family, the atmosphere, and personal choices. Religiosity for science, is a factor that formulates the conscience, not however, the only or main one.

The conscience, however, is associated also with the more general course of our life. Did we do whatever we could in order to achieve a goal, a work which we would want, for us to be happy? To keep a person near us? Maybe did we appear indolent? Did we stray

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE ,**

*Anthony the Great , Anthony the New of the Berropas Skete , George the New Martyr of Ioannina , Theodosius the Emperor*

**tone of the week** : Grave Tone

**EOTHINON** :Tenth Eothinon

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's Letter to Hebrews 13:17-21

**GOSPEL READING** Luke 17:12-19

**Sunday, January 24, 2021 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE , Xenia, Deaconess of Rome , Vavylas the Holy Martyr, Xenia of St. Petersburg, Fool-for-Christ , Philo the Wonderworker, Bishop of Karpasia in Cyprus**

**EPISTLE READING** :St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 1:15-17

**GOSPEL READING** :Luke 18:35-43

## **THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (HEBREWS 13:17-21)**

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen

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from our road? Did egotism win in our relationship with the other person? Did we not show the understanding and the patience that would help? So, our conscience helps us to be calm or to be distressed.

### **Faithfulness to the calling of the Father**

The Apostle Paul, addressing the Jews, notes that as a spiritual ruler, he believed that he has “a good conscience in all things willing to live honestly.” (Heb. 13:18). He was certain that he had his conscience clean, since in each case, he wanted to behave as he ought. It is a big phrase from a person who admits that, despite everything that he did in his life, he is the first of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). And he is not making humble speech. He believes it, because he is not comparing himself with the other people, as we wrongly do, but he is comparing himself to the word of God, with the grace that Christ had offered him, and he felt that no matter what he was doing, he owed it to the blessing of God. However, he does not cease ascertaining that

he has his conscience clean, because he is humble. This happens, first, because he remained faithful to the love of God, as this was given to him according to his calling from Christ, in the journey to Damascus. He may have been glorified by people, he may have offered them himself and everything, but everything happened in the name of Christ and thanks to the help of Christ. He does not substitute Christ with himself, but he serves Christ with all his being. With prayer, with the journeys, with the toils and the hardships, with the epistles, with martyrdom, and with death.

His conscience is clean, because, as time passes, he ascertains that his mission was that which gave him joy and purpose. It was not a false aim or something vain, the struggle for the evangelization of people. It was not something that stopped death, but it was also the path and the way of resurrection. His mission passed through the Church. It was not an individual event, but a journey to meet with the neighbor, anywhere on the earth. With his word and example, he helped ecclesiastical communities to be founded and for each person who believed, to be made firm in the truth that is Christ. He had the conscience that he was living for the other person.

### **Truth and asceticalness**

His conscience is clean because, as he sees the end of his life coming, he ascertains that he tried to behave as he ought. This means that he was true. He did not flatter. He did not behave, however, also with harshness. He was discerning. The true person knows how to behave as he ought. He does fall from the truth; however he consoles the other person for his weakness. To stay standing and support his brethren, without falling from the truth. To be a ruler, but to also be longsuffering.