

fathers. At the same moment, secular wisdom comes to meet us and to put to us the temptation of life without God. To adopt other writings, as supposedly enough for us to be well. To reject enlisting ourself in Church. To have the sense that the academia of the world suffices. However, we have a responsibility before God to cultivate ourselves and to belong to the body of Christ, to be taught and be comforted, to again find a course of life and hope. So, let us pay attention to the word of the Apostle. And let us change our priorities, receiving the grace, the blessing, and the beauty, which the word of God gives us about every circumstance of our life and about every facet of our own self.

Fr. T. M

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE** *Cyrus & John the Unmercenarys, Holy Women Martyrs Theodote, Theoktiste and Eudoxia,, Our Righteous Father Arsenius of Parus, Elias Ardounis the New Righteous-Martyr of Mount Athos Aed from Ferns*

**-tone of the week** : *First Tone*

**EOTHINON** : *First Eothinon*

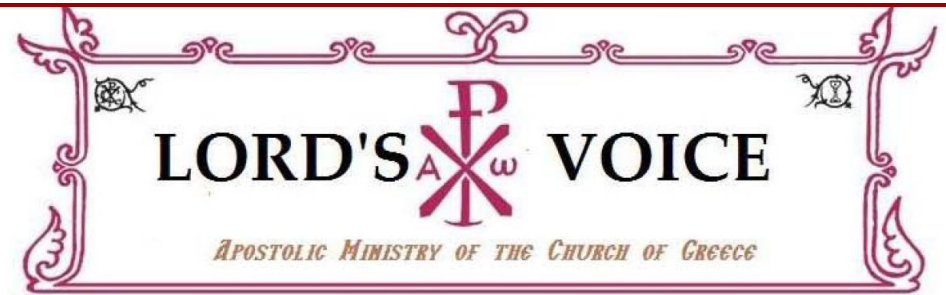
**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15*

**GOSPEL READING** : *Luke 9:1-10*

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2021 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATHEW,** *Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus, Luke of Mount Stirion, Theopemptos the Martyr & his Companions, George the New Martyr of Crete, Afterfeast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple, Richard, King of Wessex*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10*

**GOSPEL READING** : *Matthew 25:14-30*



**69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR JANUARY 31 2021 PAMPHLET # 05 (3531)**

## A DISTINCT TRIPTYCH

In the spiritual life, there is a distinct tryptich, which leads us to progress in God. It is reading, the counsel that consoles, and teaching. All three are included in the spiritual counsels which the Apostle Paul addresses to his disciple Timothy, Bishop of Ephesus, and by extension to all Christians. "Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching." (1 Tim. 4:13). Probably someone might maintain that these things refer to the bishops and the priests, to our spiritual guides. However, these things do not exist only for them. Whatever applies to them, applies also for us. Consequently, if we wish to truly advance, we need to implement this triptych in our life. And furthermore, its implementation should be "carefully" done, in other words, with the dedication of our mind and heart in spiritual work.

### Letter and spirit

Reading the Holy Scripture and spiritual words, comprises an element that leads us to spiritual and ecclesiastical self-awareness. In reading the Gospel, we know who we are. Who God is, in Whom we believe, and what He wants from us. We investigate the hidden things of our heart, because every

## THE SUNDAY EPISTLE TIMOTHY 4:9-15

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and suffer reproach, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

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word of God reveals the depth of our soul. And at the same moment, it shows the continuation of the life of the Church. Where we belong. It is not by chance, that the Holy Scripture comprises a sacred book, not because it can replace the Church, but because our Church shows through it, that "Christ is the same yesterday and today and the same unto the ages" (Heb. 13:8). So, attention during reading, does not have to do only with the mind's concentration when we are reading. It also has to do with our need to be enlightened by God, so that we are able to understand whatever we are reading, to not remain only on their letter, but for us to try to make their spirit our own, for us to live as we believe.

### Counsels that save

The comfort is the consolation that the spiritual counsels give us. We all need these, so long as they show us Christ and our salvation, and that they not simply aim at us feeling better, to make, in other words, our own self the center of our life. The counsels truly console, which are given by those whom our Church

has appointed to serve us. However, each one who struggles spiritually, is able to help us, sometimes with his word, at other times with his silence and patience. However, we need a spirit of discipleship and prayer. To an unhumiliated world "that thinks it is wise," to him who thinks that he knows everything, especially with the ease of the Internet, we are swayed and we don't want to listen and learn, remaining uncatechized spiritually. Simultaneously, we do not pray to receive an answer from God, in whatever grieves us, or in the manner of our life, resulting in us being swayed by unbeneficial words and persons who do not point to Christ.

### Teaching as a work of the Church

Teaching has to do with the authenticity of the experience of the Church, which is presented both by the word as well as by works. Teaching is holiness and its manner. Teaching is the combination of theoria and praxis. Teaching is the evaluation of our works and life, not by people, but by whatever God wants. Teaching is the development of the relationship with him who teaches, because nothing in the Church is impersonal. Teaching is the gathering together in community, in the body of Christ, because everything is made manifest and addresses everyone, when we are able to meet. Teaching is the denoting of falsehood, of heresy, of departure from genuineness. Not with cries, but with vigilance. And with trust in the end, in the Church herself, who is able to accept or also to reject every teaching, even if it seems bright and correct. Because the compass of the Church is not to please, or to praise, but to save.

This triptych is not easy for us to implement in our life. On the one hand, the lack of time and the putting forth of other priorities, does not allow us to study. Egotism and the feeling that we possess the truth, does not allow us to hear the counsels of our spiritual