

and no one will control us. And help comes with trusting in God as our Father in the person of Christ. The relationship with the Saints and our spiritual fathers, who show us that the passions submit to the will of God and they do not defeat us. Help comes when we choose the path of love which makes us live also for the others. The love which makes us find ways to surpass the habit and to qualitatively renew human relationships. The love which directly and indirectly censures all those who unjustly treat society and their neighbor. The love which makes us defeat every fear. He who knows the truth about the world and his own self is not controlled. And he humbly trusts in God for whatever is not in his own hand to change. So let us listen, and let us live in the Church, the triumphant saying of the Apostle: "With God nothing and no one controls me"!

Fr. T. M

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021 SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON**

**SON** Righteous John Cassian the Confessor, Basil the Confessor, Kyranna the New Martyr of Thessaloniki, Jonah the Righteous Martyr of Lerios.

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

**EOTHINON** : Fifth Eothinon

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to Corinthians 6:12-20

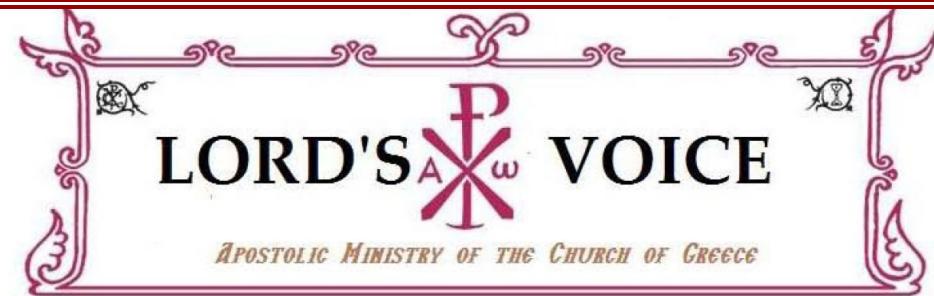
**GOSPEL READING** : Luke 15:11-32

**SUNDAY MARCH 7, 2021 JUDGMENT SUNDAY (MEATFARE**

**SUNDAY** , The Holy Martyred Bishops of Cherson: Basileus, Ephraim, Eugene, Capito, Aetherius, Agathodorus, and Elpidius, Lavrentios of Megara, the Righteous, Paul the Simple

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

**GOSPEL READING** : Matthew 25:31-46



**69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR FEBRUARY 28 2021 PAMPHLET # 09 (3535)**

## AUTHORITY AND FREEDOM

We people are not free, as we would like. Others control us, often our passions and habits, our culture with the needs which it gives birth to, our anxieties and agonies. Parents are controlled by the children and their desires, the children, by the viewpoints of the parents. Sometimes our heart revolts. We want to react. And usually, our reactions are three. Habit and reconciliation, anger and wrath or the attempt for us to define our journey.

### Fear preserves habit

Habit is the easiest reaction. Either we don't perceive the effect of authority over us, or we feel that our strengths do not suffice for us to resist it, or we enjoy the somewhat few privileges, which thanks to the authority, are granted to us, and which secure a, sufficient for our factors, life, all these things make us be left to its influences. For example, the passions which have an effect on us, whether we realize that they imprint the lack of asceticism and spiritual struggling, since our faith is not so strong, or we consider them weaknesses which are justified, precisely because we are humans, or we baptize them as elements of our character, for which we are not able, or we do not need to do something. Sometimes, we leave ourselves to the logic of our age, which considers them a right and deifies them.

## **EPISTOLE ST.PAUL 1<sup>ST</sup> LETTER TO CORINTHIANS 6:12-20**

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

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Sometimes, we leave ourselves to the logic of our age, which considers them a right and deifies them. So, we have a habit of living with these, and we do not react to their authority, which sometimes becomes a tyranny.

The same thing happens with the other people, whether our own people, or friends, or our employers, or those who formulate the ideology of the age. We usually are people of our age. People who do not want clashes. Where it suffices for us to have the daily bread or to avoid what is worse. Because authority takes advantage of the fear for what will happen in the case during which we do not obey all that it imposes on us. We fear that, if we lose the firmness which the authority brings, joy will be lost from our life. Our social position will be lost. We will remain alone. And so fear preserves the habit.

## **Wrath which does not save**

Another reaction is wrath. We ascertain that, while we were formed to be free, authority oppresses or chokes our personality. It deprives it of joy and meaning. In any case, despite the fact that we get angry, when the time comes in which we are called to take life in our hands, to see our own self fighting to correct whatever it can correct, especially in our world, we ascertain that the toil is great, and the result doubtful or impossible. Either we are not ready, or we feel alone and unaided, or we are trapped in the impasses which authority constantly strives to remind us of, and so we remain alone in wrath. We get angry even with our own self, we condemn everyone and everything, but we do not dare. Especially in whatever concerns our passions, many times we ascertain that they function destructively for our life, but repentance and taking up the spiritual struggle is not in our priorities. Probably because we've been convinced of their almightyess.

## **The path of love**

There also is a third reaction. It is the attempt for us to define our journey. It is that healthy decision for us to not get used to, to not become reconciled, to not give up, nor to relax our struggle, in wrath or anger without any gain, but for us to undertake step-by-step the struggle for us to define what we want from our own self and our life. And for us to seek aid. To humbly recognize that we submitted to the authorities which separated us from joy and love. We did not abandon however, the ability to think, nor our will to be freed. And to work in repentance.

Only in the Church and in our life is there the capability for us to define our journey. So, for this reason also, the Apostle Paul shouts: "I shall not be controlled by anyone" (1 Cor. 6:12). Nothing