

loved God and neighbor in practice, without wanting to make followers who will glorify him. He himself, however, may be saved if he has repentance, because the love of God is such that He gives His mercy even to the slightest person. Whoever remains, however, in a life without God, undergoes the danger of not being able to recognize God in eternity.

The way of the Church keeps us humble in whatsoever we do. It shows us that God completes whatever we are lacking. That we do not need recognition by people, but that we feel that we did our duty, we showed love, we shared what we were able. And from the little that we sowed, God will harvest so much so that we are with Him in His kingdom, but also for the trace of those people to remain who fought to leave God-pleasing works behind them.

Fr. Th. M.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021 9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW** The Holy martyr Agathonicus, Holy Martyr Anthuse, Athanasios the Hieromartyr & Bishop of Tarsus, New Martyrs Manuel and John, The Synaxis of the Icon of the Mother of God of Prusa, Afterfeast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin

**STONE OF THE WEEK** : Plagal Fourth Tone

**EOTHINON** : Eighth Eothinon

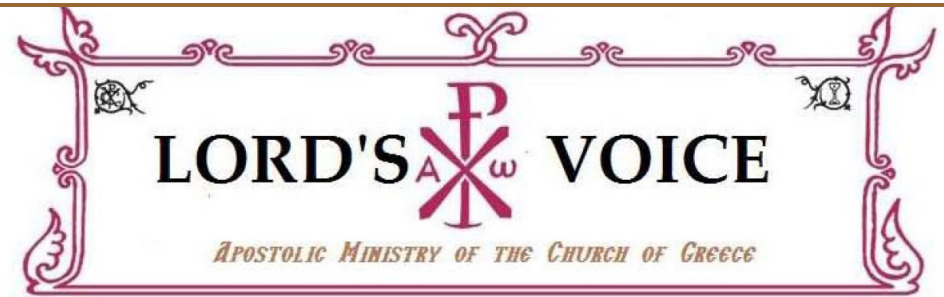
**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 3:9-17

**GOSPEL READING** : Matthew 12:22-34

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021 BEHEADING OF THE HOLY AND GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN,** Theodora of Thessaloniki, Anastasios the New Martyr of Bulgaria

**EPISTLE READING** : Acts of the Apostles 13:25-33

**GOSPEL READING** : Mark 6:14-30



69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR AUGUST 22, 2021 PAMPHLET # 34 (3560)

## THE BREATH OF ETERNITY

We people desire our works and our toils to be recognized. Whoever of us believe in God, have the hope that, even if in this life, we find ingratitude or indifference from our fellow man, God will not forget our efforts and will give us the recompense in eternity. Our thought may devour us, but we cultivate ourselves also in patience. There where we have a difficulty, in any case, is when people are disputing our works. And we make a struggle so that we can convince them about their value, for the toil we have put forth, for the importance of righteousness existing in life for whatever is worth it, to be made acceptable. Especially the parents towards our children, we want them to understand us and we often complain about their ingratitude.

## The ephemeral creations

I wonder do our works please God? We seem as if we want a reward, a recompense. And we look at ourselves, if we are all right, with whatever we are doing as Christians. We calm down our conscience, when we compare ourselves with those who have no relationship with God and the ecclesiastical habit

## THE EPISTLE READING : ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 3:9-17

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

and tradition. Deep down, however, we know that our works do not suffice to defeat death. The toil consoles us, but we know that it does not suffice.

In the world today, there are many who are indifferent and atheists, since our society is walking the path of de-Christianization. They consider that they have cast off the yoke of God. They believe in their own selves, in the power of the secular life, in the achievements of civilization. And they seek recognition in the knowledge that they piled up, in their academic validation, in their image, in how many followers and Internet followers they have, in how many people are speaking about them. And because they do not believe in the resurrection and in eternity, they consider that the work that is discussed in

the "here and now" remains for them, and not that which, time will reveal how much it really was worth, since they themselves will have died.

### The work for God

There also is, however, a third path. It is those who through faith work for God and for their neighbor and not for their own selves. They search for the truth which is Christ. They live with the knowledge that man needs repentance, that is to seek God's mercy for all that he was not able or did not want or did not understand. They do not remain, however, only here. Seeking for God, passes through love for neighbor. And love is revealed through prayer, but also through charity. Through the sharing of knowledge, of material goods, of pondering about life, but also the feeling of humility that they do not suffice. Nevertheless, they do not hide. Some dedicate themselves completely to God. Most live the path of the world. They do not become secularized however, seeking human glory.

### Salvation and justification

So, in the agony for justification in reference to the works of our life, the Church answers through the Apostle Paul: "if the work that someone built endures, he will receive a reward. If, however, his work is destroyed by the fire, he will lose his reward, he himself, however, will be saved, just as one who passes through the flames" (1 Cor. 3:15). So, a reward and recompense will be received by whoever sees his work remaining in the hearts of people, whoever, in other words,