

"In faith - in purity"; refers to the correct and fervent faith as man's response that he accepts Christ to dwell in his heart. And afterwards, in the necessary cleanliness and purity, through which he can accept Christ's love and offer it back to his fellow man.

Paul, in the end, advises Timothy to study these things, to be occupied with them, so that his progress is obvious to everyone. Because the content of man's progress is found in his union with the life of the Lord.

Archim. N.K

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, *Timothy the Apostle of the 70, The Righteous Martyr Anastasius of Persia, Joseph the Sanctified*

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

GOSPEL READING: 19:7-10

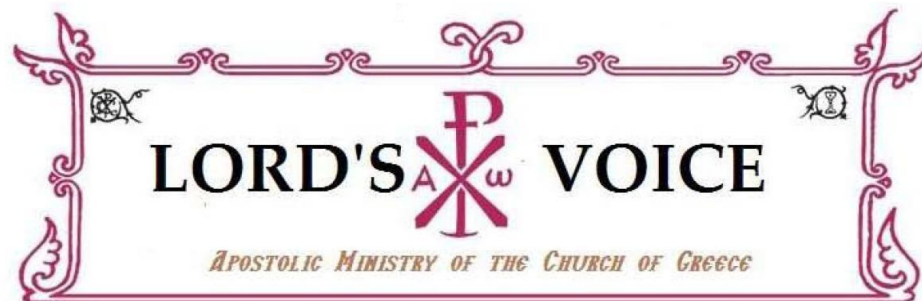
TONE OF THE WEEK : *Grave Tone*

EOTHINON : *Tenth Eothinon*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023 SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE, *Removal of the Relics of Ignatius the God-bearer, Ignatius and Nicandrus of Sinai, Laurence the Recluse of the Kiev Caves, Gildas the Wise.*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1*

GOSPEL READING: 15:21-28



71ST YEAR JANUARY 22 2023 PAMPHLET # 4 (3634)

THE SAYING IS SURE AND WORTHY OF FULL ACCEPTANCE

Today's Epistle passage comes from the Apostle Paul's 1st Epistle to Timothy. Timothy was one of the Apostle's most devoted disciples and trusted colleagues. Paul himself, furthermore, made Timothy Bishop of Ephesus. Timothy finished his life with a martyr's death.

At the beginning of our passage, Paul writes to him about the reliability of the word that deserves to be fully accepted. But about which word is this? This phrase is connected to the preceding verse of the passage and refers to the usefulness of piety, that is, of faith and the evangelical ethos, both in the present, as also in the future life.

That is why, Paul continues, we toil and are mocked, because we put our hope in the living God, who is the savior of all people, and, indeed, of those who believe. The believer's attachment to piety, to the new way of life, and to hope in the truth of God, give other dimensions and inspiration to his life.

EPISTLE READING St. Paul's First Letter to 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.

God, the savior of all people

The Apostle emphasizes the greatest gift of God, which concerns the will of God for the salvation of all people. Salvation is the work of God wrought "in the midst of the earth" (Psalm 73:12), through His Cross and Resurrection, and in this sense, He is "savior of all people".

Nevertheless, salvation is not achieved without man's cooperation. That is why those who will wish and strive to be saved, are saved by their response to the call addressed to them by God. These are the "believers" who consciously participate in the life and death of Jesus Christ

and are nourished "unto eternal life" with the bread of life.

This is what Paul asks his disciple to order and teach. In fact, because when Paul wrote his letter around 65 AD, Timothy was quite young, about 35 years old; he advises that no one should scorn him because of his youth.

"Become an example to the believers"

Therefore, Timothy must, according to his teacher's exhortation, become an "example to the believers", that is, "an archetype of life and image", as Saint Chrysostom interprets. Of course, this does not only refer simply to the example of a moral and correct conduct, but mainly to the manifestation of the presence of Christ through human existence. That is why Paul points out the guidelines that will make him an example of a Christian life, distinguished:

"In the word" means the teaching to believers and the Christian witness to those outside the Church. It also means the attention we should have when discussing with others. A good word for a fellow human being, even if he does not deserve it, acts therapeutically for his existence, with the offering of God's love. On the contrary, the insulting speech seriously injures him.

"In conduct"; refers to the struggle against egotism, which destroys proper communication with fellow human beings. With the power of Christ's humility and love, you accept the other's presence as a bearer of the image of God.

"In love - in the spirit"; the person in the model of Jesus Christ embraces the love of God and becomes spiritual, because his existence is enlivened by the presence of the Holy Spirit.