

view inspires the Christian to avoid every sin which turns the body away from its destination.

"Glorify God"

Finally, Paul calls the believers to glorify God with their body and with their spirit, which belong to Him. So that the believer's obligation is not only to avoid fornication, but to make his body, his whole existence, a place of glorification of God, an altar where he will offer himself as a living and holy sacrifice, "pleasing to God" (Rom. 12:1).

Archim. N.K

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023 SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON *Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch, Antonius, Archbishop of Constantinople, Meletios of Ypseni, Christos the New Martyr*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20*

GOSPEL READING *Luke 15:11-32*

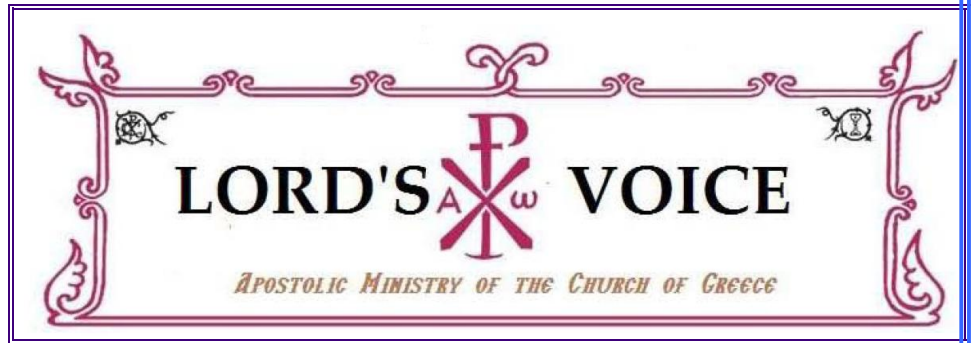
TONE OF THE WEEK *:Second Tone*

EOTHINON *:Second Eothinon*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023 JUDGMENT SUNDAY (MEATFARE SUNDAY) *The Holy Apostles of the Seventy Philemon, Apphia, Archippus, and Onesimus Philothei the Righteous Martyr of Athens Niketas the Younger*

EPISTLE READING: *St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13*

GOSPEL READING *: Matthew 25:31-46*



71ST YEAR FEBRUARY 12 2023 PAMPHLET # 7 (3637)

THE SANCTITY OF THE HUMAN BODY

In today's Epistle reading, the Apostle Paul refers to matters that concerned the Christian community of Corinth. Some of them, wanting to express their unlimited freedom, argued that "all things are lawful for me ". Everything is allowed to me. The "all things are lawful for me" seems to have been some kind of proverb circulating in Corinth or - more likely - it had been said by Paul, but was misinterpreted by the Corinthians.

The Apostle, with the aforesaid phrase, was referring to freedom of the person born again in Christ, regarding commitments, mainly of the Mosaic law, such as food discrimination, or for other indifferent things. That is why he repositions the "all things are lawful for me" in its Christian perspective and interpretation. He emphasizes that the Christian has authority to use all natural things, so long as what is in his power, is not contrary to his true interest, and, consequently, that no one, from being a ruler and a master, become a slave to anything; "but I will not be enslaved by anything".

THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20 6:16-7:1)

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.

contrary to his true interest, and, consequently, that no one, from being a ruler and a master, become a slave to anything; "but I will not be enslaved by anything".

"The foods to the belly"

For example, the Apostle agrees with the Corinthians that in food issues, there are no prohibitions. Food is intended for man's belly, and it is destined to receive them. It is a function

necessary to maintain his biological existence, as long as his earthly life lasts.

Certainly, any excessive use or abuse of food, contributes to the enslavement and alteration of man's freedom. Gluttony, drunkenness, and luxury, destroy his health of soul and body. However, beyond this present life, in the end, both food and the belly have no meaning; they will be destroyed by God, because they will no longer be needed.

"While the body to the Lord"

Paul's teaching on the believer's freedom regarding food and things, some Corinthians extended to the relationship as well, of the human body with prostitution. That is, they believed that this relationship belongs to the morally indifferent things, and that it could be considered natural and necessary, as much as the relationship between the food and the belly, resulting in the free satisfaction of every carnal desire.

After this painful misunderstanding, the Apostle Paul tries to convince the Corinthians that carnal debauchery is a mortal sin. Therefore, he moves not so much on a moral and social level, but he reminds them of their kinship and unity with Christ. The body, he tells them, was not made for us to fornicate, but to glorify the Lord, and the Lord will glorify the body. Paul, with the term "body", as well as with various other terms (flesh, soul, spirit), denotes not a part of man, but the whole man. The "stomach" is an organ, while the "body" is the human entity. Therefore, since the Son of God himself took on human nature, soul and body, in order to deify and make it incorrupt, we believers ought to honor the body as God's temple and dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, and to "purify ourselves, just as He is pure" (I John 3:3-4).

We must not forget that we are members of the Body of Christ and that our bodies will not be abolished by death, but they will be resurrected by the power of God, "unto eternal life". This