

unrighteous, to those who love Him and to those who have turned Him away from their lives. So, because God loves us, let us also try to respond to His love in one and only way.

Let us first try to love and forgive our fellow human beings and then we will understand how we will live happily in our societies and be full of Christ in our hearts.

superiority dominates in our societies which, wealth and power



72ST YEAR FEBRUARY 4 2024 PAMPHLET #05 (3688)

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

In today's gospel passage, a teacher of the law, wanting to put Christ in a difficult position, asks Him: "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment of the Mosaic law"? Christ's answer is immediate: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second, just as important as the first, is to love your neighbor like yourself". Love is the first element that makes a person a social being and distinguishes him from the rest of creation. If a person does not love, then he becomes egocentric and instead of feelings, he has instincts to feed the passions that they create.

Does love prevail?

However, it is not at all easy to cultivate the commandment of love. That which today dominates our world and human beings' relationships is the "ego", i.e. individual interest and selfishness. So, while the relationship with God and man is a relationship of love and in fact sacrificial love, so that our lives and souls are filled, yet arrogance, the feeling of

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024. 15TH SUNDAY OF

MATTHEW *Afterfeast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple, Isidore of Pelusium, Nicholas the Confessor, Hieromartyr Abramius, John the Righteous, Bishop of Irinopolis, Theodosios the Righteous, Joseph the New Martyr of Aleppo*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 22:35-46*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *First Tone*

ETHINON : *First Eothinon*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024. 16TH SUNDAY OF

MATTHEW *Blaise the Hieromartyr of Sebastia Theodora the Empress, Finding of the relics of Zachariah the Prophet, Father of the Holy Forerunner, George the Serbian*

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

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 25:14-30*

GOSPEL READING : MATTHEW 22:35-46

At that time, a lawyer came up to Jesus and asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put your enemies under your feet'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions

superiority dominates in our societies which, wealth and power mainly, create, but also a tendency to impose our personal, religious and socio-political views, which stem not from the values of our Greek-Christian culture, but from our personal interests and pursuits.

That is why we have distanced ourselves and - so to speak - do not care about God and, consequently, neither also about our fellow man. God is our own self, and our neighbor is only he who satisfies our personal plans and ambitions, and

he remains a neighbor for as long as he serves our own desires.

God's love is man's happiness

However, we have been created by God who is love. We have innate in us the need to love and be loved, that's why we sometimes hear people complain saying "No one loves me, but I love them all." On this complaint, however, we do not understand, that above everyone and everything, God loves us. And God's love is man's happiness. Let us consider, we who may have the same complaint at certain moments in our lives. Do we respond to God's love?

God's love for us is indisputable and given. But do we love Him? Can we tell Him in our daily prayer that "even if people don't love us, they don't understand us, they don't stand by us in our difficulties, we have You. You who love us and will never leave us alone and unprotected"?

God as the inexhaustible source of love.

So, when we understand this love of God, then we will love the whole world. This certainty about love and God's charity, creates spiritual joy in us, fills our soul and mind, as Christ said in the Gospel today, and we see people as a thanksgiving and a gift in our lives. Then is the moment when we thank God for His love, but also all people, because through people, we also serve and love God.

God, my beloved, is the inexhaustible source of love and forgiveness, which He offers to the righteous and the