



73<sup>rd</sup> Year

September 7, 2025

Pamphlet #36 (3771)

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## **THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (Galatians 6:11-18)**

### **The new creation**

*Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.*

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## **THE BOAST OF THE CROSS**

Today, in the Epistle reading, we heard Paul boasting about the Cross of Christ. Earlier, he had said that he had no reason to boast, neither about his missionary struggles, nor about the sufferings and tortures he endured for the love of Jesus. There is only one thing he can boast about: the Cross of Christ, the life-giving wood!

## **The Cross: the measure of divine love**

For Christians, the Cross is not a scandal or foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:23), as the Jews and pagans respectively claimed, but our great boast. This is true for three main reasons: First, because on the Cross, the immeasurable love of God for man was expressed. It was so great that He offered His Only Begotten Son as a sacrifice, so that every person who believes in Him may gain eternal life. Thus, it is the measure of God's infinite love for man – a love that ultimately has no measure. Likewise, Christ's love for humanity has no measure, for "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). Christ willingly sacrificed His life out of love for humanity, to liberate us from the tyranny of the devil.

## **The Cross: the defeat of death**

The second reason is that on the Cross, death was defeated. Those who planned and executed the greatest crime of all time believed that by raising Christ on the Cross, they would rid themselves of His presence. The devil also had the same sense, as he had often tried to tempt Christ and cast Him down from the heights of His divinity. He thought that by Christ ascending the Cross, He would be defeated by his power. But how could the executioners of Christ and the devil have imagined that the Lord willingly guided His steps to the Cross? It was not Christ who followed events, obeying the plans of men for Him. He Himself directed the course of events. Voluntarily, Christ led Himself to the Cross, and thus, through His own death, He conquered human death. He defeated the dominion of the devil, who leads humanity toward annihilation of his soul and spiritual death. That is why Christ "trampled down death by death" – He overcame death through His own death.

## **The Cross: prerequisite of the Resurrection**

The third reason why the Cross of Christ is the boast of Christians is the fact that the Cross is the prerequisite of the Resurrection. If Christ had not drunk the bitter cup of pain and had not endured a shameful death on the Cross, then there would be no Resurrection – and that would be the greatest tragedy of the human race. There would be no salvation, there would be no redemption. This is the great message of the Cross in every age. If Christ had died definitively on the Cross, it would have been a universal human tragedy. But the fact that Christ “rose from the dead” constitutes the salvation of the human race.

Therefore, the message sent by the God-Man through His crucifixion concerns every person who is crucified in this life. And all of us, in one way or another, carry our own cross. Christ tells us: “In the world you will have tribulation; but take courage, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). The human perspective is not rooted in this life, but in eternity, and this perspective is justified through the crucifactory death and resurrection of Christ. That is why, every time life’s trials attempt to overwhelm our existence, we must turn the eyes of our soul toward the Cross of Christ. From it, we will draw strength and hope to overcome difficulties, to conquer our problems, and to rise again from the many forms of death we face. Amen!

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Archimandrite E. Oik.

### **From the publications of the Apostolic Ministry:**

***Η ΖΥΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΥ***  
***(THE LEAVEN OF THE GOSPEL)***

2<sup>nd</sup> Expanded Edition, in Greek

Homilies on Gospel passages and feasts of the liturgical year by  
Metropolitan Agathangelos of Phanarion.

September 7, 2025: Sunday Before the Elevation of the Cross

Forefeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos;  
Saint Sozon the Martyr († 304); Saint Daniel of Katounakia († 1929)

4th Tone – Eothinon: 2 – Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18  
– Gospel: John 3:13-17

NEXT SUNDAY: Sept. 14, Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross  
Epistle: 1 Cor. 1:18-24 – Gospel: John 19:6-11,13-20,25-28,30-35

### TRAINING SCHOOL OF CANDIDATE CATECHISTS

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- Presuppositions: Students of both genders are accepted, ages 18-40, after they present: (a) Proof of studies (at least a high school diploma), and (b) a recent photograph.
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- For more information, those interested can contact:
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  - Email: [katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr](mailto:katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr)
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