



73rd Year

October 5, 2025

Pamphlet #40 (3775)

THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1)

The purity of the flesh and of the spirit

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD

A profound truth is revealed by Saint Paul in today's Epistle reading: man, as a psychosomatic being, is a temple of the living God. God endowed him with the greatest privileges; as it has been said, "He placed His seal upon him, having created him in His image and likeness." He granted him his wondrous and mysterious physical body. He offered him the gift of reason and articulate speech. He generously poured upon him the wealth of His divine love. And as the crowning gift of all these, He offers him the highest honor: He makes him a temple of the living God and promises to dwell within him. For this reason, the Apostle emphasizes to Christians that, as temples of the living

God, they cannot commune with darkness, associate with unbelievers, or agree with the spirit of idols.

The desecration of human existence

It is well known that any temple dedicated to God can be desecrated. This has happened many times throughout history, when churches of the Christian faith fell into the hands of unbelievers and suffered desecration and worldly changes, aiming to distort their character and erase their history. A similar desecration and distortion can befall human existence, as a temple of the living God, in many ways. Here, we will focus our thoughts on two.

The first is sin. Saint Philotheos Kokkinos notes that “sin is an event that internally shakes man up. It divides him, shakes the foundations of his being, and it overwhelms him. It desolates the soul, separates him from God, drives away good thoughts, and delivers him to the savagery of demons.” Ultimately, such is the impact of sin on the worsening distortion of man, that it becomes “self-punishment, self-condemnation, and self-destruction; a self-imprisonment of man in his loneliness and dead-end, in his illness and weakness, a self-delivery to death, which he chooses instead of life.”

The destruction through unbelief

The next destructive force is unbelief. Man was created to coexist with God. Unbelief is an unnatural condition in the relationship between God and man – a choice, of course, of free will, certainly, but one that confines man within the suffocating and utopian boundaries of earthly reality, which ultimately function as a prison, a continuous torment. Unbelief, however, does not concern only those who choose to live far from the Church, but also Christians who approach faith in an egotistical and hypocritical manner. As a contemporary hierarch points out: “The plea ‘increase our faith’ and the apostolic exhortation ‘Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall’ express precisely

this – the great possibility that the believer may become an unbeliever! This is because within every believer lurks the danger of arrogance and self-sufficiency. Every believer who considers faith as a personal privilege and not as divine revelation is at any moment in danger of becoming a Pharisee, of turning into a fanatical individual who despises anyone who does not share his views, who rejects or even hates those who do not believe.”

The prospect of incorruptibility

Both sin and unbelief are works of the devil who does everything to dissolve within us the presence of God. As Fyodor Dostoevsky once said: “Man is a field of a tremendous battle. Upon him, God and the devil clash. Both claim him. God, to transform him into His temple – and Satan, to make him a temple of idols; God, to elevate him into a dwelling place of the Superessential Trinity – and Satan, to turn him into a residence of Bacchus and Aphrodite; God, to clothe him in the garment of incorruptibility – and Satan, to tarnish the beauty of his soul.”

It is up to us to struggle against the works of the devil, following the exhortation of the Apostle Paul: “Let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1) Amen!

Archimandrite E. Oik.

WALL CALENDAR AND POCKET ALMANAC 2026

The WALL CALENDAR includes the daily liturgical calendar and timely theological messages. Its frame is adorned with a four-color ornate image of the Virgin Mary.

The POCKET ALMANAC (a pocket-sized calendar) contains: A concise and alphabetical listing of feast days, a weekly planner, notebook, and useful information. It is dedicated to the 90 Years of Service of the Apostolic Ministry in Catechesis, Youth Mission, and Culture.

October 5, 2025: 2nd Sunday of Luke

Saint Charitina the Martyr (+ 304), Saint Methodia the Righteous of Kimolos (+ 1908).

Pl. 4th Tone – Eothinon: 6 – Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1
– Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

NEXT SUNDAY: October 12, 4th Sunday of Luke
Epistle: Titus 3:8-15 – Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

MISSIONARY SEMINAR (In Greek) ORGANIZED BY THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL MISSION

The Missionary Seminar will resume, and its annual program of lectures will aim, as much as possible, to address theological and contemporary spiritual, catechetical, and other needs and challenges of our time in the vineyard of Mission.

THE PURPOSE of the seminar is to create a “reservoir” of well-trained people who wish to serve in the vital field of Missionary work.

During the academic year 2025–2026, fifteen (15) online sessions will be held, each lasting two hours, Saturday evenings at 6:00 PM.

The seminar classes will begin on Saturday, October 18, 2025. A certificate of participation will be awarded.

Requirements: Applicants must submit: (a) Proof of studies (at least a High School Diploma), and (b) two recent photographs.

For more information, you may contact:

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