



73rd Year

October 26, 2025

Pamphlet #43 (3778)

THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (2 Timothy 2:1-10)

Strugglers and athletes of Christ

Timothy, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hardworking farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Today's Epistle reading comes from the Apostle Paul's second letter to his disciple Timothy. The two epistles to Timothy, along with the one to Titus, are known as the "Pastoral Epistles," through which the Chief Apostle addresses the Pastors of the Church, offering them counsel and support in managing their pastoral work. He is doing the same thing in today's narration, in which Paul urges Timothy to always be strengthened by the grace of Jesus Christ, to preach the truth of the Gospel to well-intentioned people, and not to hesitate to

suffer hardship for the love of Christ. To accomplish all this, however, he advises Timothy to always keep the resurrected Jesus Christ in his mind and thought, that is, to pray to Him, asking for enlightenment, strength, and divine help.

The value of prayer to Jesus

The essence of Paul's words concerns the power and value of prayer to Jesus. We cannot achieve anything in life or in our works, if our thoughts are not directed toward Him. According to the late hieromonk Aimilianos of Simonopetra, "A person who does not know how to pray is, in reality, an exhausted person. There is no chance of success in his life." This is because the great endeavor of prayer constitutes the oxygen of spiritual life, the vital force of the soul.

However, our prayer to God presupposes faith in Him and certainty of His presence in our lives. As the aforementioned hieromonk stated, "Prayer is a turning toward a person. Therefore, for prayer to exist, the person must exist. And for me to say that I am praying, the presence of that person must be active for me. I am able to adopt His presence and His existence. Christ – the indwelling One, the One present everywhere – becomes present in my life through my participation in worship.

Humility as the foundation of prayer

Our prayer also presupposes humility, the awareness of our unworthiness and inadequacy before God, whom we call upon to fill our gaps and complete our imperfections in spiritual life and in our spiritual work. In this regard, the experience of the Saints of our Church, such as here, Saint Ignatius Brianchaninov, notes: "The foundation of prayer is very deep humility. Prayer is nothing other than the crying and mourning of a humble train of thought. When humility is absent, the practice of prayer is threatened by self-delusion and demonic deception."

The goal of prayer: becoming Christ-like

The Apostle Paul insists on the commemoration of the name of Christ, because he knows from experience its power, and the drive it gives to those who invoke it with faith and humility. He knows that

this name can transform the world and make what is impossible for human strength possible through the will of God. As the blessed hieromonk Lev Gillet observed, "In the name of Jesus are gathered and active all the mysteries of our salvation." When we repeat this name, the reality of Jesus can penetrate within us, fill us, saturate us in such a way that the Word becomes "flesh within us." The name of Jesus enters the soul like a drop of oil silently spreading across a piece of cloth. The name of Jesus contains the whole world, just as a ray of sunlight holds the colors of the rainbow. The invocation of the name of Jesus upon all beings allows for transformation – for the "Christification" of the universe, the discovery of true meaning.

Let us strive to be partakers of this great spiritual gift, so that the grace of God may illuminate our lives and we ourselves may serve as radiant examples of prayer for all people. Amen!

Archimandrite E. Oik.

From the publications of the Apostolic Ministry:

ΘΕΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ ΣΕ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ: ΟΨΕΙΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΩ ΖΩΗΣ

(GOD AND MAN IN COMMUNION: ASPECTS OF LIFE IN CHRIST)

1st Edition, in Greek, Size 14x24 cm, 264 pages
by Charalambos G. Sotiropoulos

ΤΟ ΤΑΞΙΔΙ ΤΟΥ ΨΗΦΙΔΩΤΟΥ ΣΤΟΥΣ ΤΟΠΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΣ ΧΡΟΝΟΥΣ

(THE JOURNEY OF THE MOSAIC THROUGH PLACES AND TIMES)

*The Christian wall mosaics found throughout the world
and the churches that preserve them*

1st Edition, in Greek, Size 24x28 cm, 720 pages
by Christopher D. Sofroniou

A monumental work, a unique panorama of the art of mosaics, as it is materialized and preserved in Christian monuments worldwide. The collector's volume is prefaced by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

October 26, 2025: 6th Sunday of Luke

Saint Demetrios the Great Martyr and Myrrh-streamer († 306);
Remembrance of the earthquake event (740).

3rd Tone – Eothinon: 9 – Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10
– Gospel: Luke 8:27-39

NEXT SUNDAY: November 2, 5th Sunday of Luke
Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 – Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

CATECHIST TRAINING SEMINAR

The Apostolic Ministry, wishing to contribute to the better training of those who assist in the catechetical and parish work of our Church, continues the online operation of the Catechist Training Seminar.

For more information, you may contact:

- The Office of Catechesis and Youth of the Apostolic Ministry (Tel: +30 210 727 2347-348, Monday – Friday 8am-2pm)
- Email: katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/apostoliki.diakonia>
- Website: www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr → Section: *Ποιοι είμαστε → Τομέας Κατηχήσεως καί Ὁρθοδόξου Μαρτυρίας.*

Follow the Program of the Radio Station of the Church of Greece:

www.ecclesia.gr

VOICE OF THE LORD, a weekly pamphlet of Orthodox faith and life of the "Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece". Iasiou 1, 115 21 Athens. Publisher – Director: Metropolitan of Phanariou, Agathangelos. Editorial office, tel. 210.7272.331. Processing, tel. 210.7272.388. Through the holy churches, it is distributed free of charge. From the Printing Office of the Apostolic Ministry.

The *VOICE OF THE LORD* worldwide via the Internet:

www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr
