

The Realities of the Spiritual World Sin and Evil

1. A lie is a delusion of the mind, while evil is a delusion of the will. The sign by which one is distinguished from the other is the judgement of God Himself ... that which he teaches a man: Truth is that which leads a man to will the good. But whatever contradicts this is entirely false, entirely evil. (St. Nicholas Cabasilas, Seven Sermons on the Life in Christ, 7)
2. Our world is guided by two principles and sources: God and the devil. All that is better in the world of men has its source in God, and all that is bad has the devil as its principle and source. In the final account, all good comes from God, and all evil from the devil. (St. Justin Popovich, Explanation of I John 3:11)
3. Food is not evil, but gluttony is. Childbearing is not evil, but fornication is. Money is not evil, but avarice is. Glory is not evil, but vain-glory is. Indeed, there is no evil in existing things, but only in their misuse. (St. Maximus the Confessor, Chapters on Love, 3.4)
4. God and the devil are found at opposite poles. No one can turn his face to God who has not first turned his back on sin. When a man turns his face to God, all of his paths lead to God. When a man turns his face away from God, all of his paths lead to perdition. When a man finally rejects God by word and in his heart, he is no longer fit to do anything that does not serve for his complete destruction, both of his soul and of his body. (St. Nicholas of Serbia, Thoughts on Good and Evil)

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



July 7, 2019

3rd Sunday of Matthew

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July 7, 2019

3rd Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of: Thomas the Righteous of Malea; Kyriaki the Great Martyr

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Ote katilthes (Hymn of the Day) Tone 2

When You descended to death, O Life immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your radiant Divinity, and when from the depths of darkness You raised the dead, all the power of Haven were crying out to You, O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to You.

I amnas su Iisu (St. Kyiaki) Tone 4

*Your own ewe-lamb cries to You loudly, O Jesus, and she says, * "For my Bridegroom do I long, and seeking You I now contend; * and I am crucified and buried with You in Your baptism. * I suffer for Your sake, that I may reign with You. * I die for You that I may also live in You. * Accept me as an unblemished sacrifice * as I offer myself to You with love." * At her entreaties and intercessions, * save our souls, O Merciful Lord.* (AgesInitiatives.com)

Tu Stavru su ton tipon (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which forever you guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone are the lover of mankind.

Kontakion Tone 2

Prostasia ton Hristianon

O protection of Christians that can not be put to shame, mediation to the Creator immovable. Do not over look, the pleading voices of those in sin, but be in time as a kind one to our help, who in faith cry out to You: Hasten to intercede and be quick to beseech. You who always protect, Theotokos, those who honor You.

Epistle Reading

Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5

BRETHREN, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:22-33

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Announcements

Today

✠ SUN, 7/7– 3rd Sunday of Matthew; 6 month Memorial for Nicolaos Kaldis

This Week.

✠ THU, 7/11– Parish Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

✠ FRI, 7/12– Byzantine Chant 1:30 p.m.

✠ SAT, 7/13– Great Vespers 4:30 p.m. *Please note change in time.*

✠ SUN, 7/14– Sunday of the Holy Fathers; Special Parish Assembly, 11:30 a.m., (registration 11:15 a.m.) to approve church roof repair

Pearls of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"Remember, never to fear the power of evil more than your trust in the power and love of God."

~Hermas, one of the Seventy

"Our wickedness shall not overpower the unspeakable goodness and mercy of God; our dullness shall not overpower God's wisdom, nor our infirmity God's omnipotence."

~St. John of Kronstadt

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.