

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2006

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

14TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

MARTYRS SOPHIA, FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

7:00p.m. Compline

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

CONCEPTION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

6:00p.m. Vespers

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

Ss. JUVENALY AND PETER

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

A Special Coffee Hour

will be held on Sunday, September 24th, in honor of Protos-presbyter Daniel and Matushka Dunya Hubiak for their tireless and selfless efforts in helping to establish and sustain our Christ the Savior Orthodox Church and the presence of Orthodoxy in the Delmarva region.

Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, October 1st, following the Divine Liturgy. Those offering reports at the meeting are asked to have their reports in no later than Sunday, September 24th.

Second Annual Diocesan Assembly

is to be held with His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman on Wednesday, November 1, 2006, at St. Vladimir Church in Trenton, New Jersey. A lay delegate is needed to accompany the priest. If you are interested, please see Fr. John.



THE LEGEND OF THE TREE OF THE CROSS

The Tree of the Holy Cross and the site where it grew are sanctified in ecclesiastical sources. In legends and ancient tradition they are linked back to the biblical patriarch Abraham or earlier still to Seth, the son of Adam, planting a twig by his father's tomb.

The legend recounts that the three Angels who visited Abraham (Genesis 18) left him their staffs before proceeding to Sodom. After Lot sinned with his daughters at Sodom, he confessed to Abraham who instructed him to plant the staffs in the environs of Jerusalem and give them water from the Jordan River – their blossoming would signify that God accepted his penance.

Lot planted the staffs in the valley outside Jerusalem where the Monastery of the Cross stands today. His unceasing attempts to haul water from the Jordan were stymied by Satan for 40 years before he finally managed to water the staffs, and they immediately blossomed and grew into a triplet pine/cypress/cedar Tree. During King Solomon's reign, the Tree was felled for timber in the building of the Judaic Temple, however, the beams would fit nowhere and were cast aside as cursed – the very ones that would make Jesus Christ's Cross in later times.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE SCRIPTURES?

- 1) It is impossible to please God without ____?
 - a) good works
 - b) love
 - c) charity
 - d) faith
- 2) What is the fourth Commandment?
 - a) Thou shalt not make any graven image
 - b) Thou shalt not commit adultery
 - c) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy
 - d) Thou shalt have no other gods before Me
- 3) Why was Abraham counted righteous?
 - a) for his good works
 - b) he followed the law
 - c) for his faith
 - d) all of the above
- 4) It is ok to seek the guidance of a psychic.
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 5) For where your _____ is, there will your heart be also.
 - a) reward
 - b) riches
 - c) mind
 - d) treasure
- 6) Who asked Herod for the head of John the Baptist?
 - a) Herodias
 - b) the daughter of Herodias
 - c) Athaliah
 - d) Candace
- 7) There are 200 Psalms in the Bible?
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 8) The Cross was made of the following types of wood:
 - a) cedar, oak, cypress
 - b) cedar, cypress, pine
 - c) olive, cypress, pine
 - d) olive, oak, pine
- 9) According to the Gospels, Christ was transfigured in glory before Peter, James, and John on Mount _____.
 - a) Herman
 - b) Zion
 - c) Tabor
 - d) none of the above
- 10) What does Emmanuel mean?
 - a) Jesus
 - b) Savior
 - c) Man of God
 - d) God with us



FROM THE COUNSELS OF ELDER PHILOTHEOS OF PARA

The reason why we don't all become Saints is within us. Firstly, due to our bad intent. Secondly, due to our neglect and laziness. Thirdly, due to the lack or complete absence of love for God and the things of Heaven. Fourthly, due to our complete love of money, our devotion to material things, and our earthly-mindedness.

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True happiness is not the honors and pleasures of the body. True happiness is virtue. As many as fight to acquire virtue, to put into practice the commandments of God, these are truly happy.

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When the enemy tempts you with thoughts of faithlessness, with all your heart say, "I believe completely whatever the Church believes, whatever Christ says in the Holy Gospels, whatever the Holy Apostles and Holy Fathers said. I don't, however, believe you, devil, for you are a liar and a thief.

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If a man builds a house and leaves it without a roof, this house can't be used at all. In the same way, if a man acquires all the virtues but not love, the house remains roofless and is of no benefit at all.

For answers to these questions, please consult your Bible, or page 4 of this bulletin.

ON THE PARTICULAR DUTIES OF EVERY CHRISTIAN

Saint Tikhon, Wonderworker of Zadonsk

Godliness alone is needful in this life

Compare time with eternity, the present with what is to come, living people with the dead, and so your mind will be enlightened and you will know for yourself and acknowledge that they err greatly who lay up treasure for themselves but are not rich toward God (cf. Lk. 12:21). The dead have all left the world, and with the world, they have left everything. You too will leave it, even though you may have the whole world at your feet. Godliness alone will stay with us into the next age. Be godly to the end, then, and have godliness as your treasure.

What to think on at the beginning of work

Whatever task you may begin, consider whether it is in agreement with conscience and with the Law of God, and whether it is truly profitable to you. When it is in accordance with the Law of God, begin and labor. When it is opposed to it, turn away from it lest you fall into the snare of the enemy who always seeks to catch a man in his snare. Not everything that seems useful to you is in fact useful, but only that which is in agreement with healthy reason and the word of God.

Seek God's blessing before eating and drinking

When you wish to eat or drink, call on the Name of the Lord, and ask a blessing of Him for your food and drink, saying, "Lord bless." And think here that you will taste and enjoy the good things of your Lord. For everything that is God's is good, as was said above, *The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof* (Ps. 23:1). Whoever has possession for himself from theft and injustice has a curse, and not the blessing of God. For this reason he should not call upon the Name of God here. Likewise, also, they that wish to become drunk ought not to call on the Name of God, for drunkenness is forbidden by God.

By no means offend anyone

Be extremely careful not to offend anyone in word or deed, for it is a grave sin. When someone is offended, God, Who loves the man, is also offended, for there can be no offending man without offending God. Whoever sins against man, also sins against God. This is a serious matter, as you can see for yourself. And when you offend your neighbor, straightway humble yourself before him and beg forgiveness of him with humility, lest you fall under God's just condemnation.



How to stand in church

While standing in church attend diligently to the reading and singing. This gives birth to compunction, true prayer, heartfelt singing and thanksgiving. Avoid, then, standing bodily in church while wandering outside the church in mind, and standing bodily before God while wandering about in spirit in worldly affairs, lest that saying be applied to you, *These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me* (Mt. 15:8). While standing bodily in church, then, stand with heart and spirit as you stand before God. When you look upon the icons of the saints, call to mind that He Who created them also created you, and that His purpose was the same for them as it is for you, that is, to save both them and you. They are glorified, and before you lies the same glory, only imitate their lives and you shall be saved.



THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE EVIL ONE OVER THE RELEASE OF THE SOULS OF ADAM

From Homily XI – Saint Makarios the Great (4th century)

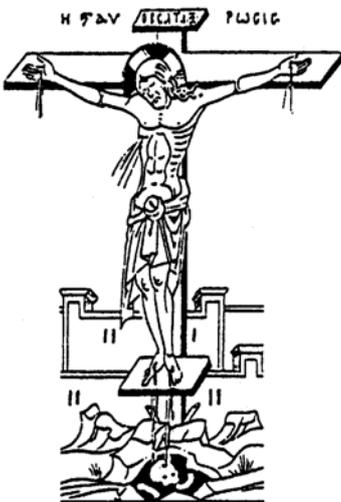
The wonderful Cross is to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness. But what says the Apostle? "But we preach Jesus Christ, and Him crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness, but to us who are being saved the wisdom and power of God."

O the great miracle, in the dead body is found life! Here is found redemption; here is found light. Here the Lord comes to death, and discourses with him, and commands him to bring the souls out of hell and death, and to give them back to Him.

Behold then, death, troubled at these things, goes in to his ministers, and gathers together all his powers; and the prince of wickedness produces the bond-deeds, and says, "See, these men obeyed my words; see how men worshipped us."

But God, who is a just judge, displays His justice here also and says to the devil, "Adam obeyed you, and you took possession of him and his descendents as all of humanity obeyed you. But what is My body doing here? It is without sin. The body of the first Adam was under your power, and you have a right to have held it, but to Me all bear witness that I never sinned. I owe you nothing, and all bear witness that I am the Son of God. Above the heavens came a voice and bore witness upon the earth, *This is My Beloved Son; hear Him.* John witnessed, *Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world;* and the Scriptures say again, *Who did no sin, neither was guile found in Him;* and *the prince of this world comes and has nothing in Me.* And you yourself, O Satan, bear witness to Me, saying, *I know Thee, who Thou art, the Son of God;* and again, *What have we to do with Thee, Thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art Thou come to torment us before the time?* There are three that bear witness to Me – He that is above the heavens sends forth a voice; they that are on earth; and you yourself. Therefore I have now purchased the body of the first Adam and released him and his descendents from your power. Having paid their debts with My crucifixion and descent into hell, I command you, O hell and darkness and death, bring out the imprisoned souls of Adam!"

Thus the evil powers, stricken with terror, gave back the imprisoned souls of Adam.



THE BLOOD OF CHRIST AND THE SKULL OF ADAM

The mount of Calvary or Golgotha means in Hebrew the "place of the Skull." Some biblical scholars have erroneously attested that it was called this name because the rock formations there resembled a skull. Yet, the actual reason for the name comes from an ancient Jewish tradition that the skull of Adam was brought on the Ark by Noah, and then buried under Calvary.

At the moment of Christ's death, the earth quaked and the rock was split in two, thus allowing the atoning Blood of Christ to literally flow over the bones of Adam. This is why in Orthodox iconographical depictions of the Crucifixion, we see a skull and crossbones at the base of the Cross.

Answer to Scriptural Questions

1. d, Hebrews 11:6
2. c, Exodus 20:8-11
3. c, Romans 4:1-3
4. b, Deuteronomy 18:10-14
5. d, Matthew 6:21
6. b, Mark 6:21-25
7. b, 150
8. b, Isaiah 60:13
9. d, Although early church tradition holds that the place of the Transfiguration was Mt. Tabor, none of the Gospel accounts mention it by name.
10. d, Matthew 1:23