ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΙΚΑ ΣΑΛΠΙΣΜΑΤΑ

Ο ὕμνος τῆς ἀγάπης

Ἐνα ἀπὸ τα πιο θαυμαστά κείμενα τῆς Καινῆς Διαθήκης. Ἐίναι ένας ὑπέροχος ὕμνος τοῦ Ἀποστόλου Παύλου γιὰ τὴν ἀγάπη. Ἐίναι ένα ἀριστοτελὲς ποίημα. Περιέχει καταταληκτικές ἀλήθειες, ποὺ φοτιζοῦν καὶ ἐξυψώνουν τὴ ἴζῃ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Μόνο ένας ἀνθρώπος φοτισμένος ἀπὸ τὸ ἄγιο Πνεύμα, μποροῦσε νὰ γράψῃ έναν ύμνο που περιέχει τέτοιες ἐξαίσες καὶ σημαντικεῖς γιὰ τὴ ἴζῃ μας ἀλήθειες. Ἕμεις ἐδῶ θὰ υπογραμμίσουμε μόνο μερικές. Ἡ ἀγάπη εἶναι θεῖο δῶρο τοῦ Θεοῦ πρὸς τὸν ἄνθρωπο. Ἡ ἀγάπη δὲ ξεπέφτει συμφέρον, δὲ σκέπτεται κακὸ γιὰ θυμώνει, δὲ ζητεῖ τὸ δικό του χάριμα. Ἡ ἀγάπη ἔχει μέσα του τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ, εἶναι χαρακτηριστικὰ ἑκατοτοκιά. Ἡ ἀγάπη δὲ ζηλεύει, ὁ ἄνθρωπος ποὺ ἔχει μέσα του τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ πρὸς τὸν ἄνθρωπο. Ὁ Θεός φωτίζει καὶ ἐξυψώνει τὸν ἄνθρωπον, οὐκ οὐκ ἔσται πάντοτε. Τὸ ἄγιο Πνεῦμα, ἡ ἐνεργεία τοῦ Θεοῦ, εἶναι θεῖο δῶρο τοῦ Θεοῦ πρὸς τὸν ἄνθρωπο. Μόνο ἕνας ἄνθρωπος μποροῦσε νὰ ζήσει ταῦτα, οὕτως οὐδὲν τὸ περιέχει τέτοιες ἐξαίσες καὶ κατηθοτραγικὲς ἀλήθειες. Εἶναι ἑκατοτοκιά.

SPIRITUAL FOOD

When a man walks in the fear of God he knows no fear, even if he were to be surrounded by wicked men. He has the fear of God within him and wears the invincible armour of faith. This makes him strong and able to take on anything, even things which seem difficult or impossible to most people. Such a man is like a giant surrounded by monkeys, or a roaring lion among dogs and foxes. He goes forward trusting in the Lord and the constancy of his will to strike and paralyse his foes. He wields the blazing club of the Word in wisdom.

When we lay bare the hidden meaning of the history, scripture is seen to teach that the birth which distresses the tyrant is the beginning of the virtuous life. I am speaking of the kind of birth in which free will serves as the midwife, delivering the child amid great pain. For no one causes grief to his antagonist unless he exhibits in himself those marks which give proof of his victory over the other.

Repentance is the renewal of baptism. Repentance is a contract with God for a second life. A penitent is a buyer of humility. This makes him strong. Repentance is constant distrust of bodily comfort. Repentance is self-condemning reflection, and carefree self-care. Repentance is purification of conscience. Repentance is the voluntary endurance of all afflictions. A penitent is the inflictor of his own punishments.

**Fasting / Νηστεία**

Νηστεία Ἀγίων Ἀποστόλων 15-29 Ἰουνίου (Ψάρι καταλύεται)

Apostles fast from 15-29 June (fish allowed)
Perfection of our faith.

Before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith, run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

Therefore, since we are also surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

The reading is from Paul’s letter to the Hebrews.

BRETHREN, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - though the world was not worthy of them - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these, though well attested by their deaths, though they suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment, were not sufficient to be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

The Lord said to his disciples, “Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.” Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”