



ΒΕΝ ΘΡΑΝ ὠΨΩΤ ΝΕΩ ΠΩΗΡΙ ΜΕΝ ΠΙΠΝΕΥΩΑ ἔΘΟΥΑΒΟΥΝΟΥ† ΝΟΥΩΤ ΔΩΗΝ

Lesson # 6

THE SECOND MYSTERY OF THE PAULINE

This Mystery comes after the Pauline readings and not during its reading as it was in the ancient Liturgy Books. (The ancient books are now kept in the Library (of the Syrian Monastery).“The priest prays the following prayer which is given with Biblical references below:“...O God of knowledge, and giver of wisdom, who brings to light the hidden things of darkness...”, just as Job said,

“He uncovers deep things out of darkness and brings the shadow of death to light” (Job 12:22), and Daniel says, “He reveals deep and secret things, He knows what is in the darkness and light dwells with Him” (Dan.2:22), “And gives the word to them that preach the gospel with great power” (Ps 67:11)“...Who, of Your Goodness, has called upon Paul to be a chosen vessel, who was for some time a persecutor...”, for it is written that he was “still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the way whether men or women he might bring them bound to Jerusalem” (Acts 9:1-2)

The Apostle says about himself,

“I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it” (Gal.1:13).

“...But he found favour with You, O Lord, that he should become Your chosen apostle and preacher of the Gospel, O Christ Our Lord...”, and the Lord was pleased with him and called Paul to His service, who said,

“But when I pleased God who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace to reveal His Son to me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles” (Gal.1:15-16). “With that you were pleased that he would be called Apostle and preacher to the Gospel of Your Kingdom, O Christ our Lord”, being called a servant of Jesus Christ, as he said, ***“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ called to be an Apostle separated to the gospel of God” (Rom.1:1).*** It is written in the Book of Acts, ***“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then having fasted and prayed and laid hands on them they sent them away”(Acts 13:23).*** “...Also now we ask You, O lover of mankind, to graciously grant us and all your people, pure minds and wisdom so that we may learn and understand how profitable Your Holy teachings, which are being read to us are...”. While the congregation listens to the Pauline epistle, the priest goes inside the sanctuary and prays deeply, pleading with God to bestow upon His people a mind that is not preoccupied with the world and its anxieties, for these preoccupations are like thorns which poison the Word of God. He also entreats the Lord to give them, as well as himself, a pure understanding, a clear mind, knowledge and wisdom, and to

reveal to them the deep spiritual meanings that are behind the words being read....And as Paul imitated You, O Prince of Peace, so help us to be like him in deed and faith...”.

St. Paul imitated the Lord Jesus as much as his human nature could bear. In imitating his humility St. Paul said,

“I know how to be abased” (Phil.4:12).

He claimed to be the least of all the apostles, unworthy of the term ‘apostle’. St. Paul travelled to many countries to preach the word of God, enduring many trials and was tortured many times because of his love for the Lord Jesus Christ **“Who is weak and I am not? Who is made to stumble and I do not burn with indignation?” (2Cor.11:29).** He also followed the Lord in sufferings, as seen in these accounts, which state, **“They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city supposing him to be dead” (Acts 14:19)...** **“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God, which was given to me for you to fulfil the word of God” (Col.1:24-25)**

The priest pleads with the Lord, on behalf of the people and himself, to be like the Apostle Paul in his deeds and faith, heeding the words of St. Paul when he said, **“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1Cor.11:1)...** **“Nevertheless, I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day” (2Tim.1:12).** “...That we may glorify Your Holy Name O Lord, and have pride in Your cross at all times...”. St. Paul the Apostle used to glorify the Lord at all times, and attributed all glory to Him, considering himself weak, as mere dust. He was always proud of the cross and its victory saying, **“But God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world” (Gal.6:14).** “...And unto You we give glory...”

THE MYSTERY OF THE CATHOLIC EPISTLES

The priest says the Mystery of the catholic Epistle inaudibly saying, “O Lord God who has revealed unto us through Your Holy Apostles the mystery of the glory of Your son Jesus Christ...”. St. Paul asked the Ephesians to pray for him, asking, “That utterance may be given to me that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel” (Eph.6:19). The word ‘catholic’ is a Greek word which means ‘universal’. The seven epistles following St. Paul’s epistles are called the catholic Epistles, commencing with the Epistle of St. James. They were called the ‘universal’ epistles because they were written to all the nations and not to a particular person or a certain group of people, as were the Pauline Epistles. The Gospel of Christ, as taught by the Apostles, is the doctrine of heaven. If we follow it, it will lead us to a happy eternal life. “ ...And has given unto them according to the power of the infinite gift of Your Grace, that they should proclaim among all nations the glad news of the unsearchable riches of Your mercy...”. The Lord chose His disciples so that they may preach to the nations about the riches of the Kingdom of Heaven, and of the salvation of Christ, through His death on the Cross and His Glorious Resurrection. St. Paul says,

“To me who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all people see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ” (Eph.3:8-9). “...We ask You Our Lord make us worthy to have a share and an inheritance with them. Graciously grant us to always walk in their footsteps and to imitate their struggle and to have fellowship with them, in the sweat they had for godliness sake...”. Here the priest asks for himself and for his people that the Lord makes them worthy to inherit the eternal life with Christ, together with the saintly Apostles. The Lord had written their names in His Heavenly Kingdom and prepared a place for them to be with Him, keeping His promise that, ***“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me and where I am there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour” (John 12:26).*** Before gaining such an inheritance with the Apostles we must follow in their footsteps, contemplate on their lives and imitate their faith, deeds, struggles, and sacrifices, which were all done in the Name of Jesus Christ. The apostles were martyred and shed their blood for His Name, enduring much persecution and torture in the course of preaching Christ. “...Watch over Your holy Church, O Lord, which You founded through them...”.

The church is the group of believers, ***“Having been built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord” (Eph.2:20-21).***

The Apostle Paul who is one of the founders of the Church speaks to the believers saying, “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, ***you are God’s building...For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1Cor.3:9-11).*** “...And bless the lambs of Your flock...”. The believers are the flock of the Good Shepherd, our beloved Lord Jesus Christ, who sacrificed Himself for His sheep,

“So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, will give You thanks forever, we will show forth Your praise to all generations” (Ps.79:13). “...And may this vine which You have planted, grow and be fruitful...”. The Church is the vine and the Lord Jesus Christ is the vinedresser Who cares for the vine so that it may grow and increase in its fruitfulness, as seen in the Psalm, ***“Return, we beseech You, O God of hosts, look down from heaven and see and visit this vine and the vineyard which Your right hand has planted” (Ps.80:14-15)*** “...Through Jesus Christ our Lord...”

الكاثوليكون

- كلمة يونانية معناها "جامعة" وتطلق على الرسائل السبع التي تعقب رسائل بولس الرسول وهي (يعقوب ويهوذا والاثنتان لبطرس والثلاثة ليوحنا) وتسمى جامعة لأنها لم تكتب لفئة معينة كرسائل بولس الرسول إنما كتبت للأمم والشعوب.
- لا تُعمل دورة للكاثوليكون ولا يخرج الكاهن من الهيكل إشارة إلى وعد الرب لتلاميذه أن لا يبرحوا اورشليم بل ينتظروا موعد الأب.

Παραη πε : ...

my name is :

Πεκηη ου ?

how are you?

Πιλαο:

Αλληλοια. Χε φμενι
νὸνρωμι εμεδὸνὼνησ νακ
εβολ Π̄ο̄ς: ονοσ πωσπ
ντε δνμενι εμεερωαι νακ.
Πιθηρια νιπρωσφορα
ωποου εροκ. Αλληλοια.

People:

Alleluia. The thought of man shall confess to You O Lord, and the remainder of thought shall keep a feast to You. The sacrifices and the offerings receive them to Yourself. Alleluia.

:الشعب

هلليلويا. إن فكر الإنسان يعترف لك يا رب، وبقيّة الفكر تعيد لك. الذبائح والقرايين اقبلها إليك. هلليلويا.

Said on all fasting days including the weekends of the Lent.

Not said on the weekdays on Lent but instead, Alleluia ei-e-ee is said.