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JOHN

A COPTIC CHRISTIAN BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE
COVINA, CA



**Pope Tawadros II Celebrates with the Heads of Churches
and the Egyptian Bible Society, the 150th Anniversary of
the first Arabic Translation of the Holy Bible**

للكتاب المقدس



Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
New Year



**A CHRISTIAN COPTIC ORTHODOX
BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE
PUBLISHED BY**



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H.G. BISHOP SERAPION

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*Verse
of the Month*



"I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten"

(Joel 2:25).

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**SCHEDULE of MEETINGS and EVENTS
for the MONTH of NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2014**

SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
+ English Liturgy 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	+ Liturgy 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	+ Liturgy 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	+ Liturgy from 8-10 am
***	+ Thursday Morning + Senior Citizen Club 11:00 - 4:00 a.m.		+ Vespers; Bible Study 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
+ Arabic Liturgy 8:00 - 11:15 a.m.			+ Beginners' Deacons- Meeting 5: 00-6:00 p.m.
			+ Elementary Meeting 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Servants' Meeting 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. 2 nd & 4 th Sunday.	+ THURSDAY Family Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	+ Arabic Youth Meeting 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.	+ College Youth Meeting 7:00- 8:00 p.m.
			+Catechumens' meeting by Fr. Daniel 7-8 p.m.
TUESDAY English- Bible Study 7:30 pm			High School & J. High Meetings 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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Church Book Store: (562) 900 -2694 & (909) 730 - 9976

1. Christmas Liturgy (Merry Christmas)

On Tuesday, January 6, 2015, St. John Church celebrates the Nativity Feast. The Liturgy starts from 7:00 p.m. until midnight. The service will be followed by the Feast's agape meal in the church hall for all.

2. Feast of

St. John the Beloved disciple:

On Monday, January 12, St. John Church celebrates the Feast of the departure of her Intercessor, St. John the Evangelist. Vespers, Sunday 11, and the Liturgy on Monday from 8:00 a.m. May his blessings be with us.

3. Feast of Circumcision

On Wednesday, January 14. The church celebrates this Lord's Minor Feast. The liturgy is from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Note that circumcision was a symbol of our Christian baptism (see Col. 2:11 and compare with Gen. 17).

4. Feast of Epiphany:

On Monday, January 19, 2015, the Church celebrates the Feast of Epiphany, the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Paramoun (preparation) starts from Friday 16, to Sunday the 18th. The Feast's Liturgy will be on Sunday 18 evening, from 7:00 p.m. starting with vespers then the "Lakkan" followed with the Liturgy and an Agape meal.

5. Feast of Cana of Galilee's wedding:

On Wednesday, January 21, the church celebrates this Minor Lord's Feast, concurrent with the Feast of St. Demiana. The Liturgy is from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

6. Jonah's fast (February 2 – 4):

The three-day-fast of Nineveh starts from Monday, February 2, to Wednesday 4. There will be daily Liturgies from 12 noon until 3:00 p.m. The Feast of Jonah, Thursday, Feb. 5 and its Liturgy will be from 8-10 a.m. May the Lord accept our fasting and prayers.

7. Feast of

the Lord's Entry into the Temple:

On Sunday, Feb. 15, the church celebrates the Feast of Presentation, Christ's Entry into the Temple at age 40 days (Lk. 2:21-39).

8. H.H. Pope Tawad

+ On October 29, 2014 H.H. Pope Tawadros with a high rank Coptic Delegation visited Patriarch Kirill in Moscow (read details on page 5 & 6).

+ On his weekly meeting, Wednesday, December 3rd H.H. Pope Tawadros invited the Egyptian Bible Society and the Churches' leaders to St. Mark's Cathedral to celebrate the passing of 150 years on the first Arabic translation of the Holy Bible.

9. H.G. Bishop Serapion:

+ His Grace Bishop Serapion accompanied Pope Tawadros during his visit to the Russian Patriarch of Moscow and headed a joint bilateral committee with H. E. Metropolitan Hilarion of external relations in Moscow regarding spiritual living, pastoral care, education and social ministry between the Churches.

10. Feast of St. Anthony (Friday 30):

St. John church celebrates this feast by a trip to his monastery on Saturday, January 31, 2015. Reserve your place in the bus from the church book-store.

11. The Holy Lent:

On Monday, February 16, 2015, the church starts the Holy Lent, until Easter on Sunday, April 12, 2015.

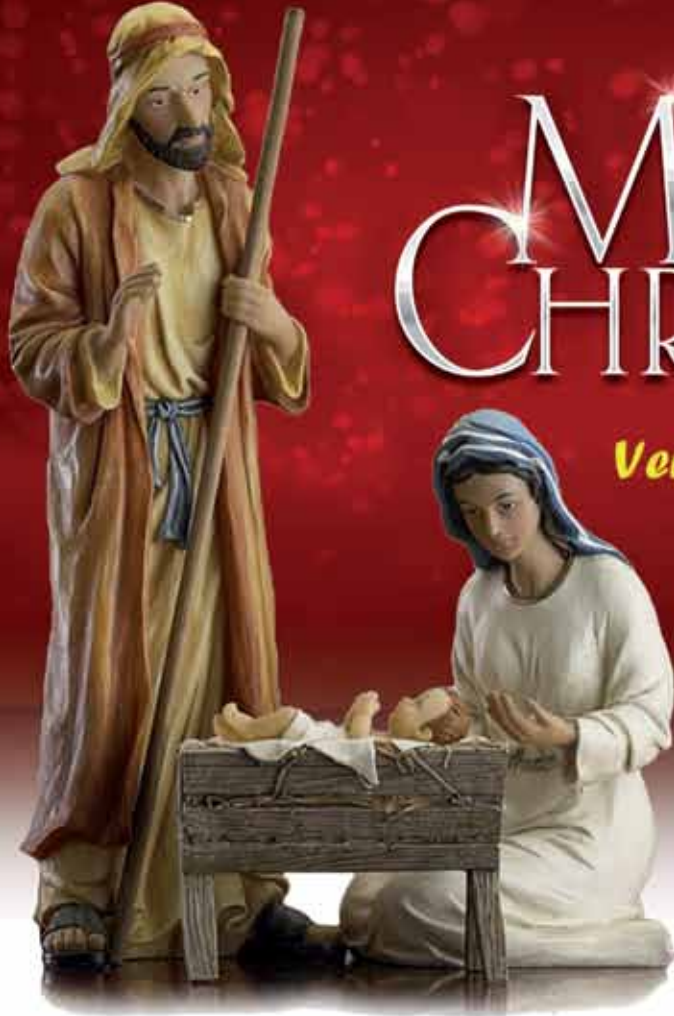
12. Martyrdom of the Apostle St. James:

On Feb. 17, the church celebrates the feast of St. James' martyrdom, the author of the Letter which bears his name. His letter is known as the Letter of Works composed of 5 chapters. Try to memorize by heart the last verse of each chapter; they are golden verses to live with.

Remember to renew your St. John Magazine subscription for the New Year 2015; and to give a generous donation to help in completing the church icons and paying its debts.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Verses, Sayings & Pictures



*** Jesus Christ is the reason for the season.**

*** Wise men still seek Him.**

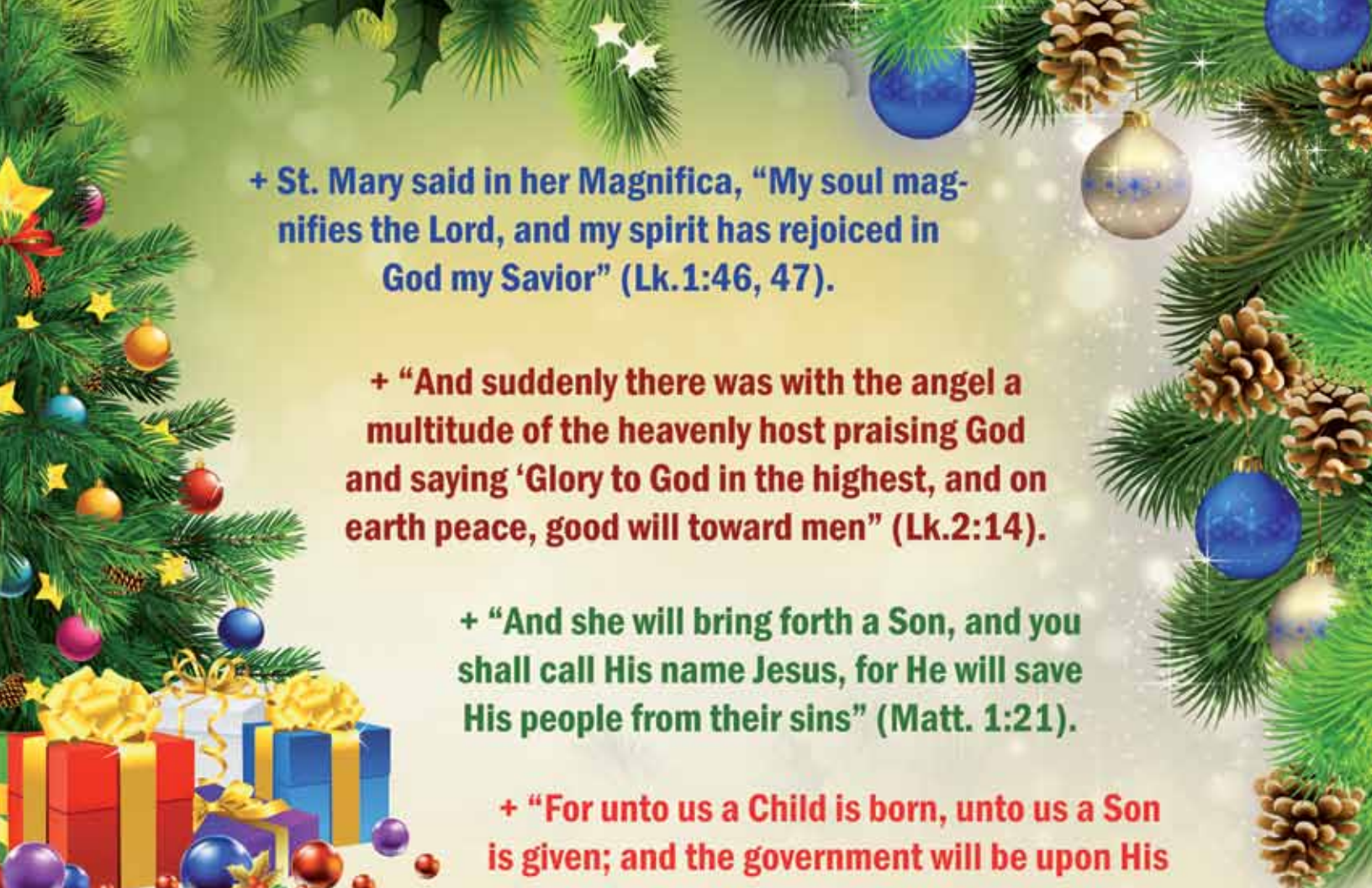
*** The Christmas is the greatest story ever told.**



+ “But you Bethlehem, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2 & Matt. 2:5).

+ “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isa. 7:14, Matt. 1:23)





+ St. Mary said in her Magnifica, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior” (Lk.1:46, 47).

+ “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Lk.2:14).

+ “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).

+ “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

+The angel said to the shepherds, “Behold, I bring to you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord” (Lk. 2: 10, 11).

+ “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons” (Gal. 4 :4).



Pope Tawadros II and Coptic Delegation Received by Patriarch Kirill in Moscow



October 29, 2014 His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, 118th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark, accompanied by a papal delegation, was received by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia at the Russian Patriarchate on 29 October 2014. The visit, that included a formal meeting of delegations, followed by lunch, marks 26 years since the most recent visit of the last Pope of Alexandria, His Holiness, the late Pope Shenouda III.

During the meeting at the Patriarchate, His Holiness Pope Tawadros spoke of the great heritage of spirituality and monastic tradition within the Russian Orthodox Church and commented on its contemporary role and influence, suggesting that: “Collaboration between our Churches will be of great

value to our people, both in Egypt and Russia, and a symbol of proactive unity to the whole world.” The two heads of Churches discussed various matters including contemporary social life, pastoral care, education and issues of morality, while also touching on the current events affecting both Egypt and Russia. During the meeting, a joint bilateral committee was established to be headed by His Grace Bishop Serapion of Los Angeles and His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for External Church Relations in Moscow. They will present a proposed plan to Pope Tawadros and Patriarch Kirill regarding conversation and collaboration on spiritual living, pastoral care, education and social ministry between the Churches.

Outside the Patriarchate in Moscow, Bishop Angelos said:

“This has been a very positive meeting with a spirit that desires collaboration and a deepening of relationships. We have seen the heads of these two ancient and significant Churches side by side and speaking with almost identical words of hope, unity and collaboration. This is only the beginning of what I am sure will prove to be an even deeper, stronger, and more effective relationship between our Churches. We pray that this spirit be conveyed to our faithful and that it may be replicated in all of our ecumenical and inter-Church relationships.”

During the meeting with His Holiness, the Foreign Minister said: “This is a historic visit because, with respect to all history and previous visits, it is the first visit of the Coptic Orthodox Pope to what is now the Russian Federation, and we welcome you, while at the same time recognizing the great role of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt and the Middle East region.” Throughout the duration of his stay Pope Tawadros visited a number of significant Russian Orthodox churches and monasteries, while also undertaking various official and pastoral engagements with the Coptic faithful.

Accompanying His Holiness is a delegation comprising Metropolitan Bishop of Damietta and Their Graces: Bishop Raphael, General Secretary of the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church and Bishop Serapion of Los Angeles, Bishop Kyrillos of Milan, Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom and Papal secretary Fr. Angelos Ishak and official spokesman of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Fr. Boules Haleem.

HOW TO BUILD A LASTING AND SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE (8)

than nourishing their bodies. They also teach their children to have the fear of God in their hearts. It is important for every couple to keep the ***Lord Jesus Christ always as the third person in their home***. The presence of the Lord in our homes blesses the family, keeps the unity of its members, gives them His peace which surpasses all understanding, and guards their hearts and minds.

12- Religious spouses ***seek the guidance of the priests or their father of confession when they have any serious problem or any challenge in their marital life***. They accept their advice and guidance. They do not seek the advice of anybody else (like relatives or friends), who may not keep their secrets or may give them foolish or misleading advice. They know that the priests seek their welfare, and at least they will pray for them.

13- Religious spouses ***have no financial disputes***, as they do not put their trust on money and they respect the limitations of their budget. The husband and wife make their financial plans together. ***They have joint bank account***, and none of them is wasteful. They happily give their tithes and consider the commandment of giving tithes is holy and it is a blessing for their lives. They consider themselves as stewards on God's resources.

14- Religious couples work hard to ***change his/her negative behaviors and differences*** that may cause discomfort to the other. Each spouse must encourage the other to change and each one allows his partner to help him/her to see the blind spots in their relations in order to change. This needs love, humility, and patience. Love will cover a multitude of sins (1 Pet. 4:8). The couple tries to share their activities, especially the activities that cement them together. This makes them come nearer to each other, and their relationship grows stronger day after day.

15- The ***children of religious spouses, will not suffer as their parents are good Christian models***, and they work together to raise them up as saints to the church. They consider that their children are gifts from God, and that they will give account of them on the judgment day. ***They watch their children*** carefully and give them quality time, love and understanding, considering the time of parenting to be more important than their own amusements. ***They are of one accord in the instructions they give their children***, and transfer to them the fear of God. This will help them be able to say to the Lord: “Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me” (Isa. 8:18, Heb. 2:13). The children, who have religious parents, enjoy a peaceful home, and they will please their parents, and give delight for their souls (Prov. 29:17).

Finally, religious spouses create a lasting and successful marriage, as they live sincerely according to God's will and under His guidance.

(To be continued)

What Shall I Do To Inherit Eternal Life?

by H.H. Pope Tawadrous



The Lord was asked this question by the young rich man who was beloved and respected, the Lord “looking at him, loved him” (Mark 10:21).

He was also religious and a leader in the Jewish community. He was also polite approaching the Lord kneeling gently and meekly. Most importantly he was seeking the kingdom of heaven diligently, longing to keep all the commandments.

The issue here is about money which of course is a gift from God however, it could be a deadly trap that the devil can use, either by its abundance or its scarcity, to enslave people. Money is mentioned in the Bible 2000 times!

The most popular time is when the Lord said “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other, you cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24).

Many people may struggle with the same problem in their spiritual life; they wish to only keep part of the commandments or part of the Bible.

The Lord says “No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old and no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled and the wineskins will be ruined (Luke 5:36-38)

We note that the young rich man was actually worshipping the inner idol, “the love of money which is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Tim 6:10).

Theoretically speaking he knew the commandments however he did not keep them or live by them. He ought to have had a heavenly treasure not an earthly one, thinking that being rich is an indicator on how much God is pleased with Him. He was not following the good Shepherd and simply was worried about his future. Through this worry he broke the first commandment “you shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3).

We look then at the answer given to this question by the Lord “one thing you lack; Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will

have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow me. But he was sad at this word and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” (Mk 10:21).

1- GO is the first thing the Lord said:

Go in the way of repentance and change your way of life. Repentance = Change (Mitania) as God said to the Angel of the church of Ephesus “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works” (Rev 2:5).

2- Sell whatever you have:

Give away everything that binds you to the world; money, possessions, thoughts, so that you can live freely. Do not make you heart connected to the world. Do not make mammon your master but rather make it your servant.

Fasting helps us to cut all the chains that binds us to the world as St Paul says “And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition” (1Tim 6:8).

3- Give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven:

We should live throughout our life always giving as the more we give the happier we will be “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). And you will have treasure in heaven.

We see here the amazing relationship between the poor and Heaven as St John Chrysostom says, “The poor are the guardians of the kingdom of heaven”. Thus this is the reason why the church tells us during lent “Blessed are the merciful who give to the poor”. So then try to be a giving person not only during fasting. If you are giving for the sake of the Lord, even if it is little, be sure it is great to God as the Lord does not look at quantities but to the heart.

“Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given; for they all put in out of their abundance, but, she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.” (Mark 12:43, 44).

4- Follow Me:

Follow the commandments as the Bible is not just many small commandments but rather a way of life

which we need to live. One day “as Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office, and He said to him “Follow me”. So he arose and followed Him. So we see that it is evident if this tax collector did not obey and follow the Lord when He called him, he would have stayed as a tax collector for the remainder of his life and he would not have become the great apostle St Matthew.

5-Take up the cross and follow Me:

This is the life of striving that we should live as the Lord carried the cross for you and for everyone. We then ought to also carry the cross of spiritual striving, particularly against every sin and weakness, trying to progress every day as God’s grace allows as St Paul says “And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things” (1 Cor. 9:25).

You should therefore then follow these five steps and God will help you as He said, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Mat 19:26).





Between Christ's first Coming & His second Coming

While we celebrate Christmas, the first coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and remember the song of the angels "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!" (Lk. 2:14); we find the world threatened with horrible nuclear and chemical wars and rumors of wars, Islam, apostasy and terrorism. People are terrified of famines, pestilences, earthquakes, inflation and economic and moral failure. We can see the end signs, which the Lord Jesus told us about in Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 17 and 21, are happening before our eyes. They tell us that the Gospel is the true word of God and the world is drawing near and fast to its end. All these circumstances lead us to think and compare between the first coming of Christ and His second coming and come up with some benefits.

1. In His incarnation and first coming, Christ came to the world quietly at night, poor and weak that nobody recognized Him. He was born in a manger because "there was no room for them in the inn" (Lk. 2:7). But in **His second coming**, He will come on the clouds of heaven at the right hand of power, surrounded with millions of His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, thunder and lightning and the sign of Son of Man (the cross) will appear in heaven (Matt. 24:30, 31; 26:64; Dan. 7:13, 14; Rev. 1:7).

2. In the first coming, no one saw the baby Jesus except a few people like the shepherds and the Magi, while in **the second coming** all people without exception from the beginning of creation, the living and the dead will see Him, as it is written, "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, and they also who

pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him (Rev. 1:7; for more detail read Revelation 6:12-17).

3. About Christ's first coming, 330 prophecies were fulfilled literally and accurately; and so also all the huge number of prophecies about His **second coming** that count about 1845 verses and prophecies, will be fulfilled literally and accurately. In the scene of Christ's ascension to heaven the two angels declared, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

4. Christ's first coming was accompanied with extraordinary signs in the sky like the appearance of a strange star moving close to earth shining day and night, the appearance of an angel proclaiming the good tidings to the shepherds, then coming suddenly a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!" (Luke 2:9-14). And also, was accompanied with the strange coming of the Kings from the far East, the Magi, to worship the Divine Child and presenting Him three symbolic gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh, bearing prophecies about the Messiah, being a King, Priest, Prophet and Redeemer (Matt. 2:11; see also Psalm 72).

Likewise, the second coming of Christ will be accompanied with extraordinary signs from heaven, "The sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth





will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matt. 24:29). Also, “The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thess. 4:16, 17 & see also 1 Cor. 15:51-55).

5. In Christ’s first coming, “The Kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His anointed, saying let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us” (Psa. 2:2). Herod, Pontius Pilate, and Caiaphas plotted to kill Jesus Christ, but “He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision, He shall speak to them in His wrath...” (Psa. 2:4, 5; Acts 4:27).

But in Christ’s second coming, we read in Revelation 6:12-17, “I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come and who is able to stand?’”

6. In Christ’s first coming, He was born poor in a manger, He sanctified poverty and loved the poor and destitute and considered who gives to them food or drink or cloth or visit the sick or the imprisoned, as if he/she has done that to Him personally. (Matt. 25:35, 36). Jesus lived all His life on earth very poor, He said, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” (Matt. 8:20). He died poor and no tomb that He was buried in

a borrowed tomb, of Joseph of Arimathea (Jn. 19:38). That is why St. Paul wrote, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9).

Yet in His second coming, Christ will come as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:16), “Therefore, God (the Father) also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:5-11).

7. The Lord Jesus Christ in His first coming, came as a lamb meek, humble and lowly in heart, “Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross...” (Phil. 2:5-11). “He was despised and rejected by men. A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed” (Isa. 53:3-10). He forgave His crucifiers’ crimes, “For had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Cor. 2:8).

Yet, in Christ’s second coming, He will come as a roaring lion, a just JUDGE who will judge the living and the dead. He will reward the believers and condemn those who rejected Him to eternal death in hell

Finally, the church when congratulates the faithful for the joyous Christmas, the first coming of Christ; she should draw their attention to Christ’s glorious second coming, which is the blessed harvest of His first coming and without it, the first coming would be meaningless. But by His victorious second coming, He will take us to live with Him forever and ever in His glorious Kingdom of the eternal feasts (Isa. 33:20).



How to build a lasting and successful marriage (8)

by Fr. Gawargious Kolta



19- LIVING AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART:

We must not ignore that people have different spiritual levels and different Christian knowledge which greatly affect their daily life and their relation with each other. **In successful marriages**, the couples do not ignore that the deeper the relation with the Lord and the church is the more spiritual disciple exists. They know that the spiritual participation in church services and meetings help them to grow spiritually, avoid disputes, solve all their challenges peacefully, and give them a clear picture of Christian marriage. They have a family altar in their home, where the husbands lead his family in prayers and Bible studies. They have to be able to say to the Lord in that day: **"But as for me and my house, we serve the Lord"** (Josh. 24:15).

Jim and Elizabeth George wrote in their book: **"A Couple After God's Own Heart"** that a Christian couple who is seeking to place God first in their marriage, work hard to experience spiritual growth together. **They must set a certain amount of time each day to spend in praying and Bible study together**, and this will make a difference in their marriage. That time should be like going out together on a date. They will find out that these minutes which they spend with the Lord will turn out to be the best minutes of their day. They will remember the verse of the Psalmist: **"Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together"** (Ps. 34:3). Surely the Lord will richly bless them. This must be a promise, a vow or a pledge in their family from the first day of their marriage.

They added that the couple must discover how to experience the excitement and intimacy that God always intended. **Spending enough time with God makes the couple handle decisions with grace instead of conflict**. They will communicate with understanding and without fear. In all their marital life they will function as a successful team. They will trust God's leading even when the forward seems hidden. **Abiding under the shadow of God**, and walking under His wings will protect them from all enemies, and they will trample under their feet all stannic deeds (Lk. 10:19).

Lee & Leslie Parrot wrote in their book **"Your Time-Starved Marriage"** that religious spouses make the Sabbath (Sunday) a retreat for their souls, remembering the Lord's commandment: **"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy"**. It is not only a day to go to church for worship, but also a retreat for our soul, renewing our spirits and remem-

bering our creator. We must keep Sunday holy and have rest-rest in God.

Fr. Charles Joanides said in his book **"Attending to your Marriages"** that Christian couples whose marriage was based on a holy choice and their lives continued **to be dependent upon God's commandments, guidance, and love; God who is present in their lives had a positive impact** on every individual, couple and family's well-being. He added that many of the marital challenges that couples encounter today are the result of the absence of God from their lives. They must invite God to be in their lives, applying His words: **"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me"** (Rev. 3:20).

Kenneth Ulmer wrote in his book: **"Spirituality Fit to Run the Race"** that if a godly couple walks in the fear of the Lord, a divine impact is established. **The godly husband and wife are both protected and directed by their fear of God**. Fear of God is the beginning of godliness. St. Paul said: **"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"** (Phil. 2:12), and King David said: **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"** (Ps. 111:10). God knows that we are all sheep prone to wander from Him. All His sheep have gone astray and tried to seek their own way, but **God has planted His fear in us** to the extent that when we feel like walking away, or going our own way, we will be pulled back and challenged to live a godly life.

He added that **a godly life** is one in which the believer **loves** the Lord so much, **revers** Him so much, and **desires** to please Him so much that he actually is **afraid to do something contrary to God**. He is afraid to break the heart of God. He is afraid to sin. He is afraid to cheat. He is afraid to misuse others. He lives with this fear because God loved him enough to have planted this seed of fear within him.

Rev. Constantine Nasr wrote in his book: **"Mastering the Art of Marriage"** that successful marriage is built on costly stones and strong foundations. The costly stones are love, faith, trust and forgiveness. **Faith is the most important foundation cornerstone**. Having faith in God trains us to have faith in our partners. Having faith in God is more than believing that He exists. It means that we trust God to be, and do all that He says. Our relationship with God as a couple is important. He added that **the more your faith in God as a couple grows, the stronger your faith in each other be-**

comes. Your faith in your partner and in your marriage can heal rough spots that may arise in your relationship. There is a relationship between faith and marriage. When you lose your faith, your marriage will begin to decline. The couple must pray constantly, asking God to strengthen their faith in Him and in each other.

We will mention **the most important facts that will occur, when Christian couples are religious**, live with Christian morals and are spiritually fervent:

1- When the two spouses are religious, and enjoy the love of God, they **willingly practice all the church spiritual regulations together with joy**. They willingly do not enjoy worldly lusts and none of them will be a stumbling block for the other. They give preferences to God's commandment when they face challenges of people.

2- When the two spouses are religious and God-loving, they **communicate well and meet in every dispute**, because the Lord is in their midst. If any problem happens, they instantly reconcile because they do not ignore the tricks of Satan, who always tries to take away peace from our homes. They will never go to sleep before reconciling together, in order not to have wrath in their hearts, because they have the fear of God.

3- Religious spouses **are not selfish**; each one loves the other as himself/herself. They live with Christ centered existence, applying His golden call: **"Love your neighbor as yourself"** (Mat. 19:19). Each one tries to consider the needs of the other as his/her needs. It is easy to **practice this golden rule with God's help**, because all things with God are possible. Because they are **not self-centered**, they know that practicing this golden rule protects their marital satisfaction. All their decisions are **Christ-centered**, and this has significant impact on their intimacy, trust, understanding and love,

4- Religious spouses easily **forgive and forget** the mistakes of their partners. They remember that **no one is perfect** or non-fallible. No one of them brings to remembrance the list of all the other's past mistakes. Thus, there will be no coolness in their relations at any time, but they will always have perfect communication. They remember the Lord's advice: **"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you"** (Mat. 6:14). They learn the value of forgiveness from Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Asking for forgiveness and accepting the other's request for forgiveness can cure the damage of the mistakes he/she commits towards the other. They remember the golden biblical verse; **"Do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil"** (Eph. 4:26, 27). Each spouse helps the other to live in righteousness, so that they both together will be in Paradise.

5- Religious spouses try to **practice humbleness in their relations** in order to be Christ's children as He told us: **"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls"** (Mat.

11:29). They see the world through the eyes of Christ who lives inside them; and they do not consider humbleness as weakness or humiliation. They consider our Lord an example of humbleness, that for our sake He made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of man (Phil. 2:7). Thus, all the challenges and problems of marital life will be solved peacefully.

6- Religious spouses **always practice patience and self-control** towards each other's annoying habits and behaviors. They try not to slip into self-defeating actions. They get benefit from Christ's patience when they commit mistakes. They know that patience is **one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit** (5:25), who is dwelling inside them. They also remember what St. Paul said that **"love suffers long"** (1Cor. 13:4). So both spouses also try to practice Christian love, which bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endure all things.

7- Religious couples **have Christian virtues and spiritual morals**, such as humbleness, meekness, flexibility, quietness, and the **spirit of sacrifice**. They always treat each other with compassion and affection, not only when they are happy, but also when they have conflict, not only when they are healthy and young, but also in weakness, sickness, and old age sufferings. They consider that their **spouse is a gift from God** and they help each other, without murmuring or showing any sign of discomfort. They know the needs of the other spouse and they desire and hasten to please him/her.

8- Religious spouses **enjoy sharing all spiritual activities**, such as praying, fasting, reading the Bible, going to the church and taking Holy Communion together. They feel that they are one soul and one body, and they help each other to grow spiritually. They try to walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord (Lk. 1:6). They work together to prepare themselves to be together eternally in Paradise, considering this is their main goal.

9- Religious spouses **have good relations with their relatives and friends**. On the other hand, they keep the privacy of their homes and their private life. They respect their parents and their in-laws, and visit them regularly together, and look after their needs, especially when they get sick or old. Although they have their private life, yet they share certain occasions with them.

10- Religious spouses **are faithful to each other** till the end of their life, and none of them cheats on the other, or has any affairs with others. There is **no infidelity** in the life of religious couples, because they have the love and the fear of God in their hearts. They always remember that marriage is honorable and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge (Heb. 13:4).

11- Religious spouses **have a family altar, and the husbands lead the whole family** in daily prayers and Bible study. They consider that nourishing their souls is more important

To be followed Page 7

Refusing to Bow to the gods of

GREED

By Jon D. Hakim



OLD TESTAMENT: The great rivals to Yahweh are Baal, Ashtoreth, and Molech.

NEW TESTAMENT: The great rivals to God are money, possessions, and greed.

One of the most consistent themes of the Bible is the rejection of idolatry. In the Old Testament, the idols that the Israeli people were in danger of falling into were the pagan Gods that surrounded them – gods with names like Baal, Ashtoreth, and Moloch. The Israelis are consistently warned to stay away from such gods, and many of the most important episodes of the Old Testament revolve on their rivalry for the attention and devotion of the Israelites.

But in the New Testament, foreign gods are almost never mentioned. Instead, the great rivals for Yahweh's attention are the things of the world – money, possessions, power and wealth. Yet the wording used for such things is the same language of idolatry that is used for foreign gods!

“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 both God and money.” – Matt. 6:24

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will

be also.” - Matthew 6:21

“And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said, ‘You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’ Dishearted by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” - Mark 10:21-22

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’” - Hebrews 13:5
“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.” - 1 Timothy 6:9-10

“Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.” - Luke 6:24

And here we are, 2000 years later, living in a world even more blinded by money, possessions, and greed.

Advertisers are trying to make us insecure, make us believe that our lives aren't good enough and won't be good enough until we buy more things.

Technology is designed to be obsolete, replaced by new products which cost hundreds of dollars. Clothes go out of fashion by the next season. Consumer goods are designed to break down before the next holiday rolls around. We're told that the #1 way to show how much we love someone is to spend money. We behave like the #1 factor in choosing a job is the pay. Polls show that the #1 factor in electing a president is the economy. Our economic system is built around the idea that people will act self-interested with greed at all times.

When you think about it, this is a sickness.

In America many of us are moving towards depression, anxiety disorders, addictions, etc. rather than working less and living simpler so that we can have less stress and spend more time loving each other. Internationally we drive the poor into desperation instead of prioritizing the lives and health of the workers who make the possessions we buy. We destroy the world's environment rather than consuming fewer products.

We live in a world that is addicted to the altar of greed, and we are coming up on the greatest festival of consumerism. Christmas. Christmas is supposed to be about Jesus' incarnation, but in most places it has a lot more to do with Santa Claus and shopping and money and possessions. Instead of bowing down to the God of consumerism this year, I have some ideas for something different. What would Christmas look like if we didn't focus on possessions anymore?

1. Instead of buying more possessions, gift your family and friends with dance lessons, skating classes, meaningful books, days out or other fun experiences. Make a creative video for them that shows your love for them. Other creative presents could include promised chores on their behalf, self-composed poems, songs, a meaningful trip together, etc.

2. Make Christmas about relationships. Give your time to your loved ones. Plot out how holiday time can be quality time, rather than trying to have the biggest events with the fanciest foods and going into stress-management mode. Remember that love

is at the center of Christianity, and figure out how you can love each other more.

3. Don't fall prey to the latest fads. We have way more money, technology, and possessions than we did in the 1950s and 1960s, yet are less happy now than we were then. People with the newest technological fad do not have better lives as a result.

The latest toy gets boring just as fast as the old ones. Resist the temptation to fall prey to advertising or the need to measure up to everyone else.

4. Give to the poor. Give money, but it is far more important to give time and relationship. Spend quality time with people who aren't in your economic bracket.

5. Spend time with God.

I believe that, on average, modern Christmas does more to drive people away from relationship with God than it brings people to Him. That's so sad because Christmas should be a reminder of the enormous step God took to come into deeper relationship with us. Do what you can to help yourself and the people you love come closer to God this Christmas – and to get material possessions out of the way.

For more resources and a lot more ideas on the subject, you can take a look at the "Advent Conspiracy" at <http://www.adventconspiracy.org/> Kings 16:31, Jeremiah 32:35, etc.

2 Matthew 6:19-34, Mark 10:17-31, Luke 6:24, 12:33, 16:19-31, 1 Timothy 6:3-19, 2 Timothy 3:2, Hebrews 13:5, James 5:1-6, etc.



How to Balance between

Having Mary's Heart in Martha World?



By Fr. Augustinos Hanna



We read about these two blessed sisters in the last five verses of chapter 10 in St. Luke's gospel (Lk.10:38-42).

The Lord Jesus Christ loved so much this family of Martha and her sister Mary and their brother Lazarus (Jn. 11:5). He used to find His rest in their warm home. In this occasion they welcomed Him in their house for a dinner; Mary left everything and sat at Jesus feet and heard His word. She was also the one who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair (Jn.11:2). But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

The charming home in Bethany had suddenly become a place of strain. The atmosphere was tense, and there seemed to have a first-class quarrel. When fifteen people were waiting for that meal (at least Jesus and His twelve disciples) and many tasks demanded attention in the kitchen, "Mary sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His word." Martha's patience suddenly failed, and looking into the Lord's face she said, "Lord do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen the good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Mary represents the life of meditation, prayer, devotion and worship; while Martha depicts work and service. Both are needed and both are necessary. We cannot compare between them and favor one over the other. But in this specific situation, it seemed as if the Lord praised Mary. In fact He defended Mary as not a careless person. In the same time He did not say that Martha was wrong, but just that she was distracted with much serving food and left Him and that He does not care much about the physical or luxurious food which He called once, "the food that perishes" but rather about "the food which endures to everlasting life which the Son of Man gives" (Jn.6:27).

The Holy Spirit made this balance when He placed Luke's story of Mary and Martha between two famous passages: the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) and Christ's teaching on the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-4). The Good Samaritan parable deals with our relationship with people; the Lord's Prayer deals with our relationship with God. One teaches us how to serve and the other how to pray. One breaks down the wall that divides cultures. The other breaks down the wall that divides God and humanity.

Perhaps that is why this tiny section of Scripture we first looked at is so important. In Luke's

story of two women and one Savior we find the fulcrum, the pivot point of our spiritual teeter-totter-the secret of balancing the practical with the spiritual, and duties with devotion. Without a fulcrum, these stories are two separate wooden planks. Both are important. Both are true. But when we place the fundamental truths of service and prayer on the pivot point of practicality – when we get down to the company’s-here-and-what- do- I do, application, the fun really begins!

Jesus Christ is our Supreme Example

Jesus was the most balanced individual the world has ever known. In fact, that is part of why He came-to show us how to manage the tricky balance between work and worship, between what we do and what we are.

He gave us a picture of what our teeter-totter should look like in Luke 10:25-28- just before Christ’s parable of the Good Samaritan.

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” an expert in the law asked after cornering Jesus one day (10:25). What can I do to ensure “safe passage” to heaven?

A good question to ask; but Jesus looked into the legal expert’s heart and saw he was more interested in debates than in answers, more concerned about theory than practice. So Jesus turned the question around and let the “expert” give his opinion.

“What is written in the law?” Jesus asked. How do you read it?” I can almost hear the lawyer’s voice deepen as he assumed the proper posture for quoting Scripture: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and love your neighbor as yourself;” (Luke 10:27). I can see Jesus smile and nod as He said, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

You see, loving the Lord your God and your neighbor as yourself was and is the very thing God has always wanted us to do-it is a perfect

picture of the perfectly balanced life. These two verses sum up all of the Old Testament and the New Testament combined. God wants us to love Him. Really love Him. And He wants us to love each other. Really love each other. That is how we can know we belong to Him-if we have love one for another (Jn.13:35), and “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death” (1John 3:14).

Love for God. Love for others, worship and service, these are the two ends of our teeter-totter. Though love for God comes first, the two can’t be separated. One flows from the other-and back again. That’s what it means to live a balanced life, a Christ- like life.

The hero of the story Jesus told was not Moses or Joshua. He was not a Jew at all- not a real one anyway. He was one of those despised half-freed Samaritans who lived up north and were called dogs by the Jews! Jesus did not only glorified the Samaritan by calling him “good,” but He also made an unflattering comparison between that man’s generosity and the hypocrisy of the Jews who would walk by the bleeding, broken man on their way to Jerusalem and church.

You may see yourself “a Mary” since you go to church and recite your prayers and that is all that matters. No, not at all, but you have to follow Christ’s method, to do this and don’t neglect that (Matt. 23:23). You have to be a “Martha” also and a “good Samaritan” in order to please God’s heart. Both are required to be a true and a perfect Christian. We should reconcile both, “Mary and Martha” together and mingle both together. We have to be “the wise virgin with the owner and investor of the talents (Matthew 25:1-30).

The best way to balance between the heart of Mary and world of Martha is to worship God while you serve, and to serve God while you pray.

This is what our blessed father H.H. Pope Shenouda III called once, to be “Mario-Martha!”



10 ADVICES ON How to read the Bible

1. Take what you read personally that is directed to you not to a certain groups.
2. Believe in every word you read to be true.
3. Through your reading find God's promises and underline them and remember them. They will strengthen you and give you peace whenever you have hard times.
4. While reading be humble, afraid and heed what you are reading.
5. Ask God to help you understand what you are reading.
6. Interact with the Bible and say amen to what you are reading or yes my Lord I'll do so.
7. While reading, confess your faith, thanks and sins.
8. Memorize verses, commandments, promises whatever you can because if they reside within you they will eventually purify you from within and stop you from doing anything wrong.
9. Go over what you have read. This way the word of God will stay longer with you and not forgotten.
10. Tell your wife, children, friends and whoever can listen what you have learned and read in the Bible because this is the commandment of God that you do not keep it to yourself only.

10 Places

(DEUTERONOMY 6:6)

For the Bible in your daily life

1. *"And these words which I command you today*

- (1) Shall be in your heart;
- (2) You shall teach them diligently to your children
- (3) Talk of them when you sit in your house,
- (4) When you walk by the way,
- (5) When you lie down,
- (6) And when you rise up.
- (7) You shall bind them as a sign on your hand,
- (8) They shall be as frontlets between your eyes.
- (9) Write them on your house doorposts,
- (10) And on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6: 6-9)

Verses to memorize by heart

1. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4 & Luke 4:4; Deut. 8:3).
2. "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him" (John 14:21).
3. "Jesus said, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him" (John 14:23).
4. "Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart" (Jeremiah 15:16).
5. "My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways" (Proverbs 23:26).
6. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6).

Jonah, Moses and Paul were

Ready to

Sacrifice their lives



There are three suggestions have been made to explain Jonah's disobedience to God:

(1) He was a bigoted Jew who refused to have any dealings with a Gentile city.

(2) He was a coward, and feared the brutality of the people to whom he was commissioned to preach.

(3) He was a very brave man, who loved his nation more than he loved his own life. It has been said that he feared the warlike intentions of the Ninevites, and realized that the only safeguard for Israel was the annihilation of this evil and vicious people.

1. Jonah's Brave Disobedience!

No true conception of this story can be possible unless first we appreciate the consequences of such a rash act. The law of God stated that if the watchman refused warn the people of approaching danger, their blood would be required at his hand. When Jonah deliberately turned his back upon the appointed task and fled from the presence of the lord, he realized he was fleeing into eternal condemnation. Under law he was sacrificing his soul. And this vital fact seems to answer the claims of whether a man's exclusiveness would rise to such heights of self-sacrifice; and in the second place, it required a great deal more courage to run into the eternal shadows than it did to face the persecution of a Ninevite mob.

2. Jonah's Belated Decision

It has been ascertained by archaeologists that the Ninevites of Jonah's day were actively engaged in warlike preparations against Israel. Jonah apparently knew this, and feared the outcome of their aggression. If the judgment of God obliterated the city, the threatened invasion would not take place, and Israel would be saved. If the people repented of their sin, God would spare them, and at some future date Israel would have to endure their tyranny and brutality. Jonah was perfectly correct, for within fifty years of his refusal to preach to these people, they plundered Israel and caused untold destruction.

The prophet Jonah was not alone in his love for Israel. Moses had offered to have his name removed from

God's book if only the people could be spared (Exodus 32:32).

Even St. Paul wished that he could become a castaway for Israel's sake when he said, "I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites...." (Romans 9:1-5).

3. Jonah's Bold Declaration

The supernatural signs attending the preaching of Jonah were astonishing, and called for some explanation. His solitary sermon was followed by unparalleled scenes of repentance, and it became obvious that something strange had taken place. The Ninevites worshipped Dagon, the fish-god, and here in their midst was one who had apparently been delivered from the fish-grave. His message demanded urgent consideration. They therefore repented in sackcloth and ashes. And the preacher, who should have been the proudest man in the world, was instantly filled with dismay. Becoming angry, he prayed, "O Lord, was not this my saying when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish, for I knew that you are a gracious God, and merciful...and of great kindness...."

4. Jonah's Bewildering Despair

"Therefore now, O Lord, take, I beseech you my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live." Then, hoping that some tragedy might befall the city, he went out to sit on the outskirts of the place "till he might see what would become of the city." The subsequent story is so well known that it only remains to say that, although Jonah, Moses, and Paul, were willing to sacrifice themselves on behalf of Israel, the Lord graciously spared His willing servants.

There was another who was also willing to make the supreme sacrifice, and God permitted Him to do so. "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Rom.8:32).

How much Old Testament is in the New

BY Fr. Augustinos Hanna



***The phrase “New Testament”, (in Greek) is borrowed from Jeremiah 31:31, “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a *new covenant* with the house of Israel...”**

***Major titles given to Jesus are taken from Hebrew Scriptures:** Messiah, Son of Man, Son of God, Son of David, Savior, Lord, Emmanuel, Prophet, Lamb of God, Word of God, Wisdom of God, I Am, the first and the last, the Savior, etc.

*** Explicit parallels are made between Jesus and major figures of the Old Testament:** Abraham, Mechizedek, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, and Jonah....

*** Scripture for Jesus and for New Testament authors** is Torah, Prophets, Writings (mainly Psalms), and they are imbued with the spirit and theology of these Scriptures.

*** The twelve apostles are to be seen in continuity with the twelve tribes of Israel and the Church as the New Israel.**

*** Jewish feasts and festivals play a significant role in Jesus’ ministry and in the life of the disciples:** Passover, Pentecost, Booth, Dedication, Sabbath.

*** Jesus and the disciples go regularly to synagogues and to the Temple for prayer and reflection on Scripture, teaching and preaching.**

*** There are 330 PROPHECIES about Christ alone in the O.T., and 25 types in OBJECTS (like the Ark, Jacob’s ladder, the wrestling angel, the lion of Judah, the Burning bush, the Passover Lamb, the stricken Rock, the Brazen serpent; and 34 types in EVENTS.**

CONDOLENCES

“I am the resurrection and life”



1962 - 2014

Gene Nazmi Hanna

A beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, brother and a great friend to all who knew him. St. John Church prays for the repose of his precious soul in the Paradise of joy with the Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord comfort his wife Martha, and his children Silvia and her husband Matthew Gile, Sophia & Sarah Hanna, and his parents Nazmi and Cecil Hanna, and his brothers

Robert, Raymond and Richard Hanna.

-Gene, you will be in our hearts forever. May you be in peace in the arms of the Lord.

- *Uncle Morris, Lefky, Renee, Georges, Christian, Dorek, Marian, Ray and N-tau.*

-*Magdy and Suzan Hanna and family* pray for the repose of Gene Nazmi Hanna and consolation to the family.

St. John Church extends her condolences to Mary, Rimoun, Ronya for the departure of Mr. Emil Hanna Mary’s husband, and father of the others, and brother of Flora, wife of Jack Boyadjian, Aida, wife of Kamal Barsoum, and Fawzy, Edward Hanna and father of Ronya, Rimoun Hanna. May the Lord repose his soul and comfort the family.

Weddings, Baptisms & Graduation Congratulations



St. John church Congratulates

Amira & Demian Eskander

On their marriage. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless their life together and grant them a blessed, happy and fruitful future and a Christian home built on the "Rock of Ages".



St. John church Congratulates

Professor

Dr. Sherif Emil Goubran

for being promoted to full rank PROFESSOR! This is a big milestone that you have most honorably earned and are now being recognized with congratulatory responses from the chair of surgery at Stanford, to the surgeon in chief in Boston, and colleagues from around the globe. We are so proud of your hard work, integrity and humility throughout all your years as Pediatric Surgeon and we pray that God may continue to be glorified in all that you do! We too say congratulations and in Gabrielle's own words

"Congratulations Professor Papa". -Love, Gabrielle and Marie

To our dear son Professor Sherif Emil! You have worked hard and persevered every step along the way, and God has blessed you with this most fitting title of Professor. We are so proud of all your accomplishments and we are certain that Mama Fawzia is celebrating up in heaven for you! May God continue to reward you in all that you do.

-Love, Dr. Galal Goubran, Emmanuel and Afaf Demian.

St. John Church in Covina, California congratulates

Professor Dr. Sherif Emil Goubran

On his great achievement and prays that God may grant him more success in his spiritual and worldly life.



St. John church Congratulates

Michael Iskander and Myrna

on the baptism of their baby boy

George (Tawadros)

May God bless his life and grant him growth in the grace, wisdom and stature.



Congratulations to

Ezzat Ebrahim and Caroline

on the baptism of their daughter

Caroline Helen

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless her life and grant her health, strength, grace and long life.