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PATERNAL COUNSELS VOL II

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WHAT IS THE WORK OF A PRUDENT GOVERNMENT

...I write you, Your Excellency..., looking not towards the high office and the vain and temporal glory and honor, but towards the good and benefit of our homeland, so that you can help the unfortunate nation which, like a ship in a stormy sea beaten by the wild waves, is in danger of drowning.

A good, prudent, pious and discerning Government is able to save the nation. But alone also it cannot, if the people do not cooperate, and help also, just as a captain of a ship is not able to save an endangered ship, if the sailors do not also help. But what will save the nation, the Government and the people, is God, who does and alters everything, who provides for all and for the benefit of each provides in a mankind loving way. God saves Greece, but when? When we all **return** to **Him**. Because we must confess the truth, that our many sins have taken us far from God. "While those who go **iar away** from God are lost" says the Holy Spirit through the great prophet David.

The first care of a prudent Government, then, in cooperation with the Sacred Synod, is to preach repentance to the Greek people and a return to God.

1) The respected Government should publish a strict law against foul blasphemy. The blasphemers should be punished to make an example and give fear.

2) During Sundays and great holidays the stores, cafes, factories, hair-dressing shops etc. should close, especially during the time of the Divine Liturgy, so that the Christians can go to Church, and

3) Lewd theaters and movie theaters should close. Card playing, beauty contests, lewd dress and the bareness of women should stop, the publishing and circulation of soul

corrupting magazines with photographs of lewd women and the other such types of evil, for which the wrath of God is coming upon those who do such things, should stop. And in this manner the grace of God and His blessing will come to our nation and we will see good days.

Many are your cares and concerns. Many are the responsibilities and obligations which you took upon yourself. You will face many difficulties, anomalies and oppositions, but take courage, be bravely set apart in the arena of the good struggle, for the love of the holy Faith of Christ and for the salvation of the most sweet homeland. And having the firm and invincible aid of God, which you should always call upon, you will be victorious over all the difficulties and you will guide, with your good colleagues, the remaining members of the government and the nation along the straight and saving path of the Lord.

(November 1955)

...People have unfortunately not only lost Christianity, but their humanity and like raging beasts the one falls against the other without pity,..."**And because the iniquity has increased the love of most will grow cold**".

THE IMPIETY OF PEOPLE HAS REACHED THE HIGH POINT

...The impiety, corruption, senselessness and lack of conscience of people, both lay-people and clergymen, men and women, rich and poor, generals and soldiers, the rulers and the ruled over has reached a high point and is speedily progressing in leaps and bounds till it reaches the greatest precipice. The infinite compassion of God, the immeasurable

mercy and unimaginable long-suffering, the intercessions of **His all** immaculate Mother and of all the Saints, and the little **virtue**, faith, hope and love of the few people, their prayers **and** petitions to the Lord for the salvation of the whole world, **the lack** of evil in the babes and infants (although even the majority of the babies from their birth receive from their evil **and** corrupted parents as an inheritance and partake of the wickedness, the evil and bad habits of their birthgivers) all the **above** things restrain the most just wrath and the most **righteous** anger of the merciful and infinitely compassionate **God**. But until when? Until the cup is filled, which as it **seems**, has been filled and has begun to pour out not completely, but little by little so that we can understand how **harsh** it is to sin and not repent, and so that fearing we might **cease** sinning and enraging God, who is our most loving-caring Father, the Provider, the Ruler, the Protector **and** Granter of all good things.

Unfortunately nothing, but nothing scares or intimidates us, we have become worse than the irrational **beasts** because they know their protector and master. Man, **however** not only does not know Him, but even blasphemes against Him. When animals happen to pass by a slippery place and slip or fall, they remember the fall and they won't **pass** by that area again, they might even prefer that someone kill them rather than that they pass by that place. And man **who** is more senseless/foolish than the animals, when he happens to fall in a certain area and becomes wounded, wounded in soul, he does not think of the fall, the harm, but **he** runs there with pleasure. Have mercy, have mercy O Lord upon such minds. But even if a father, mother, brother, spiritual father, teacher or priest or spiritual guide is found **who** advises him. Be careful, guard yourself, depart, don't go to that place, to that person, do not do that sin, it is dangerous,

it is a double death of body and soul, it is hell! Most people will not only not accept such counsel, but they even get mad, angry, and are hostile towards the doctor. For these reasons, the people of today's generation, aside from the other sins which they have, they also have pride, and being prideful they neither receive counsel, nor correction nor repentance. The teacher whether he is a priest and spiritual father must be careful to invent medicines and appropriate ways, to correct them. Neither should he be silent, nor should he censure them harshly and abruptly, because strict censures are bruises to prideful and impious ones, and if he abruptly censures them, he will lose them completely.

The teacher must become wise and very discerning, and because no one is wise in this world of himself, he must through fervent prayer ask God, the granter of true wisdom, to give him the gift of wisdom and prudence, like Solomon, to govern souls. Many times with the same medicine one person is healed and the other is harmed—the teacher and the priest must have the gift of discernment. Nevertheless a good, sweet, mild, humble manner benefits more...

To the scorners, the hostile, the impious, the lewd and rude people, he should not give the holy things. To the heretics after the first and second counsel let him give up....

(To a general in 1955)

REPENTANCE IS THE ONLY HOPE OF SALVATION

..I read the clippings and was greatly saddened, because I see and hear and understand that humanity is very hastily running along the wide path which leads to perdition. Our loving-caring Father who is in the heavens used and is using many things: wars, famines, plagues, earthquakes,

floods, misfortunes, dangers, disasters, difficulties etc. in **order** to restrain the evil, but people are senseless and are **becoming** harsher than Pharaoh, who at every wound **repented**, however not sincerely and truly, but momentarily **until the** disaster passed. But the people of the present, a **wicked** and perverse generation, are with each plague becoming worse, more evil in their habits, more impious, **more** lewd, more foul, and more wicked.

There remains only one hope of salvation, **repentance**, to restrain the evil and the most great wrath of the **Lord**. However signs and traces of repentance are nowhere to **be** found, consequently the great wrath which will make those inhabiting the earth to be few, will restrain the evil of men for a time. And when again it begins increasing and spreading **then** the end, the close of the present age will come, concerning precisely which day no man knows. May God who is infinite in mercies and compassion, by judgments and manners which He knows, save us and the whole human race. **Let** us be ready before the gate of mercy closes...

REMAIN FIRM IN THE ORTHODOX FAITH

...Among the many wounds and chastisements, which chastise the Greek nation, the new chosen people, a new chastisement is spiritual starvation (hunger) concerning which **the** prophet Amos prophesied. Through the prophets God himself spoke, who used them as instruments of His divine revelations. And I shall give, he said, a famine upon the earth, a famine not of bread and water, but a famine of hearing the word of God. The word of God is spiritual bread, through which the souls of the faithful are nourished, says the great Gregory the Theologian. Whatever material bread does for **the** body, the same thing spiritual bread does for the soul.

Without bread the body dies and without spiritual bread, the soul dies. The majority of today's teachers and preachers pervert the spiritual person.. "And from among you," the divine preacher the Apostle Paul said, shall arise men speaking perverse things." Into the word of God and it*s teaching, the majority, aside from a few exceptions, spill poison and poison the soul of the many faithful with their newer teachings which they introduce into the Church of God... Be careful of the leaven of today's Scribes and Pharisees. Do not be shaken, but remain firm in the Orthodox faith and the Sacred Traditions, so that you may receive as a reward the Kingdom of the Heavens, which may we all be granted.

THE ATHEISTS AND UNBELIEVERS ARE INSTRUMENTS OF THE WICKED SPIRIT

...However such impious people have a very specific mission, to abolish faith in Christ. And if you ask them why are they taking up with such zeal the struggle to annihilate the Christian faith, they respond that they aim to enlighten people. Concerning the "enlightenment" which they received from their unbelief, their life and lifestyle witnesses. They, being false and devious hypocrites, promising freedom and equality, deceive many and after placing them under their own authority, instead of freeing people they make them their slaves, and instead of equals, they make them miserable and thrice-wretched. The type of enlightenment they received is witnessed by the most unfortunate condition of their own homeland. The blood which flowed like rivers especially in the Orthodox Christian empire of Russia... (Publisher's note. This letter was written in 1928). witnesses. The all painful evils which millions of people suffer witness...Because their

teaching flatters the flesh, annihilates the spirit, quenches the **censuring** of the conscience and loosens the bit of the **passions** which tyrannize us, it deifies fleshly pleasure and **pushes** man to evil things, that is to the precipice of every foul **desire and** inhuman deed, for this reason it is imparted easily **and** multiplies, whereas it is healed and wiped out with difficulty.

These people who are perverse in mind accuse all the **Holy** Prophets, Apostles, Teachers, Martyrs, Confessors and **Preachers** of the faith. But whoever wishes to learn the truth, **let him** read the lives and the writings of the Saints and he **Will** understand that they were most pious people, impartial, **truth-loving**, adorned with every virtue and righteousness, and **having** the grace of the Holy Spirit richly in themselves, from **which** they were inspired and enlightened they did **God-pleasing** works, they did signs and miracles, they spoke **and** prophesied. Let them examine and let them observe both **the** life of the unbelievers and atheist communists and the rest **of** those who criticize sacred things and he will see that they **are lovers** of selves, greedy, haughty, prideful, blasphemers, **disobedient** to parents, ungrateful, senseless, without **compassion**, ruthless, slanderers, unrestrained, untamed, not **good** loving, traitors, insolent, big-headed, pleasure loving **rather than** God-loving, and in one world they are instruments **of the** wicked spirit, of the good hating and all evil Devil, **whom he** uses, just like the idolators and heretics of various **former** times, in order to fight the Church of Christ. But while **they** will be crushed, the Church being fought will again **triumph**, because "the gates of Hell shall not overcome her".

Such impious and all wicked destroyers flee from, **my** beloved, so that they do not destroy your soul "Their **larynx** is an open tomb" (Psalm 5, 10). "Their tongue is a **sharp** sword" (Psalm 56, 6). "The poison of the asp shall flow

from their lips" (Psalm 3,4). Close your ears when they speak the words of disbelief. Flee from their speech, as you flee from fire and the pollution of the plagues. "Son let not impious men deceive you", thus the Holy Spirit counsels you through the mouth of the wise Solomon. "Neither agree if they beseech you". "Do not travel on the road with them, stray your foot from their paths" (Proverbs 1: 10,11,15).

BE CAREFUL THAT YOU NOT BE DECEIVED

...Heaven and earth shall pass but the words of the Lord shall not pass. When the Son of God comes in glory upon the earth shall He find faith? And because the wickedness shall increase the love of the many shall grow cold. Then nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom ...and there shall be plagues and famines and earthquakes in places, and many false Christs and false prophets shall appear and shall deceive many, even from among the elect. And there shall be great affliction among the people, such as never occurred from the creation of the world and shall never be.

Of all the prophecies of our Lord Jesus Christ and of the Prophets, Apostles and holy Fathers and Teachers, of both old and new, till the Missionary and Hieromartyr Kosmas Aitolos, some have been fulfilled, while others shall be fulfilled in their proper times. All the prophecies of the false Christs, false prophet millenarians and other heretics have been shown to be false and shall be proven so. Be careful that you not be deceived from the false prophets... When his disciples asked Him concerning the day of the end of the age, the Lord said: Concerning that day no one knows not even the angels in heaven..., and he added the following unwritten prophecy which is not written in the book of the Evangelists,

that the end of the ages shall occur when men become women and women men. The divine Chrysostom when asked, when the end shall be, responded: When modesty is missing from women. Both prophecies we see in this day being fulfilled. So the end is close, but let us not cower or fear, but let us arm ourselves with the weapons of faith, of light, and lifting up hands and eyes, mind and heart, towards our Father in the heavens, let us beseech Him with contrition and humility of heart, with tears and sighs to cover us, guard us and save us from the coming sufferings and afflictions, and that He take us as a loving-caring Father, into eternal rest, joy, rejoicing, gladness, blessedness, and happiness, into His heavenly Kingdom, so that we may hymn bless, and glorify Him, with the Angels and Saints, unto the infinite ages of ages. Amen.

AS MANY AS ARE OUR PASSIONS SO MANY ARE OUR LANGUAGES

...Just as God became angry and appointed the confusion of languages among those who were building the Tower of Babel out of pride, so something similar is happening to our unfortunate nation and to our Church. As many as we are each one has a different language. The one will not listen to the other. Furthermore as many as are our passions, so many are our languages. The one says one thing the other says the opposite. Everyone is speaking for their own interest, no one for the common benefit. For this reason, only sound, disturbance and confusion is occurring, and nothing good. An evil sign. A sign and most triumphant proof, that faith has vanished. There is no faith. There is no faith implemented with love. The true faith and Church have union and agreement. The name of the Church is not separation, but union and agreement, says divine Chrysostom.

And wherever there is perfect faith there is one heart and one soul, "While the multitude of believers...their "heart and soul were one". So what is our Church at this time? Tower building. What is our faith? Confusion of tongues...

**LET US STAND WELL, LET US
NOT BE SHAKEN**

...Her Ruler and founder, our Lord Jesus Christ fights and defends and helps those who struggle for the Church. Today more than at any other time the Church and the Orthodox faith are in danger from the impious and unbelievers, the masons and communists, from the false prophets and false Christs, the millenarians, the spiritualists, from wolf shepherds and devious workers of darkness and of delusion, of falsehood and of deception. Today what Saint Gregory the Theologian said is appropriate because in his days also the bride of Christ, the Church, was storm tossed and battled against. "The things of friends are unbelievable, the things of the Church unshepherded, he speaks of the good, while the evil is evident, the ship is in the night and a light tower nowhere". Today the things which the Prophets, Apostles and Saints prophesied are being fulfilled. But again the Ruler and founder of our faith, the victor over death and over Hades, He who is strong and mighty in battles, the King of glory, the King of kings and Lord of lords will be victorious and trample upon the enemies, just like the vessels of the potters. He will crush them and annihilate them. While we should stand well, stand piously in the fear of God and not be shaken but as grateful and faithful servants let us struggle, that we may be granted crowns of glory and co-reign with Christ unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**THE OFFERING OF THE SACRED
MONASTERIES WAS VERY GREAT**

...Reading the pages of your magazine "Monastic Chronicles" I greatly rejoiced and glorified God, who was pleased that in our wicked days people are interested and championing the rights of the Sacred Monasteries, which not a little aided in the preservation of the Orthodox faith, the language and freedom.

In the Sacred Monasteries, in the deserts and in the mountains of Egypt, of the Thebaid, of Palestine, of Sinai, of Nitria, of Latrus, of Galesium, of Olymbus, of Bithynia, of Athos, of Thrace, of Macedonia, of Greece the God-planted trees blossomed, the great Fathers, Pauls, Anthonys, Palamons, Pachomius', Macarius', Euthymius', Sawas, Gerasimus' Johns', Lazarus', Ioannicius' the Studites, Athanasius' etc., who shone as luminaries in words and deeds and miracles. And people hearing of their works, struggles, and their achievements glorified the Father in the heavens, and multitudes of men and women of every rank, age and condition, hastened to them, because their virtue drew them, like a magnet draws iron, and they made the deserts cities.

The Sacred Monasteries nurtured and nourished the great enlighteners of our Holy Church, Basils', Gregories', Chrysostoms' Athanasius', Epiphanius' Marks' etc., who previously being chiseled by ascetical struggles and battles, and purified in the desert and silence, through fasting, vigils and prayer, were granted heavenly gifts. They were placed upon the lamp stand, and as shining torches they imparted the light of faith and truth to the faithful and chased away the darkness of impiety, of disbelief and of delusion, as well as the grave and rabid wolves and heretics, from the flock of

Christ. By their godly preaching and their all-wise writings they adorned the habits of men.

But also during the dark years of slavery when the conquerors closed the schools and churches, the Monasteries, for the most part, preserved nationalism, the language and the religion. Unfortunately however since the days of the liberation of the Greek nation, the monasteries, instead of finding support because they served as citadels of Orthodoxy and vigilant preservers of the sacred artifacts, have experienced a great war and persecution. From whom? From those who knew how to reward benefaction with ingratitude, and to return gall for manna. Colossal estates were snatched away and squandered. Monastic churches were emptied, sacred artifacts, vessels and holy relics were taken and placed in public markets to be sold.

And while enemies and foreigners respected the Sacred Monasteries, our own and especially those governing at times, set their minds to destroy and annihilate them. It follows that this persecution would bring about not only a material but also an ethical falling. On the other hand, if the monasteries were extended protection and patronage by both the political and ecclesiastical rulers, they would have attained the greatest and highest peak and would not be in such a downfall! Because lately the selling off of the monastic estates has made many monasteries useless...It is necessary that we all move and take an interest, and there is every necessity for those monastics who exist to live coenobitically in a Godly way, as spiritual brethren associated with the bond of spiritual love, respecting and submitting to their abbots. The abbots should love the monks as their spiritual children, to govern them in God and to be vigilant over their souls, with all working for the virtues, and treasuring treasures not upon earth but in the heavens. Likewise all should work with their

own hands, like the apostles Paul, so that people don't find cause to accuse the monasteries of being dwelling places of lazy and lethargic people, but seeing the virtue of the monastics and their good works to glorify the Father in the heavens. If in this way the monastics live, there is hope that the monasteries will return to their ancient eminence, to their destination.

(4-11-37)

Letters and academics without ethics, piety and virtue are useless, rather they are harmful. When though they go along with piety, ethics, and virtue then they produce very good fruits.

A CHRISTIAN IS IN A CONSTANT BATTLE

The Christian, finding himself in this temporal life, is in a constant battle with the invisible enemy, who in every way crafts and waits by us to wound and deaden us. For this reason we must be careful, wise, diligent, vigilant, so that the enemy does not wound, imprison and deaden us. And precisely for this reason our Lord Jesus Christ, knowing the traps of the enemy said to His disciples "be vigilant and pray so that you not fall into temptation". The chief of the Apostles Peter, who was wounded by the enemy, and from all that he suffered, he learned, and he says, "Be vigilant, be wakeful, for our enemy devil walks about like a roaring lion searching for whom to swallow". While the Apostle Paul says: "walk as children of the light not as foolish people, but as wise people, redeeming the time for the days are wicked..., and do not become foolish, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

So, my beloved, because you were not careful, the enemy waited and watched, he found you sleeping the sleep of negligence, despondency and carelessness and he wounded you. In battle many who are wounded tie their wounds and continue the battle. All these people are worthy of more rewards than those who were not wounded. Get up, shake off the sleep of negligence and tie up your wounds with prayer and repentance, and continue the spiritual battle against the invisible enemy, seeking the alliance of God also and you will win. And be careful, henceforth. The precious time which God gave us to work for the salvation of our soul let us not spend in losing it. The movies, the dances, all night long parties, smoking, lies, jokes, lewd words and the rest of such squanderings are a loss of the precious time and of the soul. Spend this precious time in prayers, in studying the divine Scriptures, in glorifications, in hymns and spiritual odes, and in other God-pleasing works.

Be strengthened with the grace of God, be brave and be victorious over your enemies through the weapons of faith and wholehearted love for God and for your neighbor, which casts fear away and never falls....

BE CAREFUL TO HAVE TRUE FAITH

...If fleshly fathers have the obligation to care for the physical progress and happiness of their fleshly children, we spiritual fathers have even more obligation. Because, just as the soul is higher than the body, thus the spiritual relationship and love is incomparably higher and exceeds the physical relationship. As your spiritual father I advise you to attempt, with every sacrifice and strength, to always be near the Lord. The good-hating enemy and exceedingly crafty devil works day and night to pull man far from God through negligence,

carelessness, pride, man pleasing, envy, accusations, jealousy, criticism, slanders, falsehood, improper foul and blasphemous thoughts, gluttony, passions of the flesh and pleasures, impiety, disbelief, greed, attachment to earthly things, and many other and innumerable wickednesses and evil, from which whoever believes in God, loves Him and does His commandments, is delivered. Because the sacred psalmist says. "Those who trust in the Lord resemble the holy mountain and are not at all shaken by the attacks of Belial". Whoever prays ceaselessly, and has humility the enemy does not approach, and whoever has pure, clean, fervent love in abundance is together with God and God is together with him. Be careful to have true and firm faith, inner and real humility, ceaseless prayer and wholehearted love, so that you may always be with God and God may be with you, Whose grace and mercy be with all. Amen.

INNOVATIONS ARE THE WORK OF THE HERETICS

...The Orthodox Church places under anathemas and excommunications the innovationists and reformers of the Apostolic and patristic traditions. Your friend falsely says that in the 9th and 10th century the Orthodox Church made reforms. Let his tongue cease from evil and his lips from speaking guile. The innovations are the work of the Catholics and the Protestants. The Eastern Orthodox Church does not have a habit of making innovations, but rather follows the teachings of the Apostles, the Teachers, the Holy Fathers and the seven Ecumenical Holy Synods, whose teachings the wise among the Latins and Protestants ought to also follow....so that they might be delivered from the penances, the anathemas and excommunications of the holy Ecumenical Synods and of the Holy Fathers. We are obligated to pray for

them so that God may return them from delusion to the straight path and so that we may all become one flock with the Ruler and founder of our true Orthodox faith as Leader, our Lord Jesus Christ and Savior the Deliverer and Liberator of our souls and bodies.

THE HOLY FATHERS WERE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

....So whoever does not accept that the Holy Fathers were led by the Holy Spirit, is an evil believer and heretic. The Holy Fathers, who handed down to us the correct faith, handed down to us also the teachings about icons, the Cross, incense etc. They had the Holy Spirit, they were not like us, the people of today's wicked generation. The 7th Ecumenical Synod gathered solely to support the correct train of thought concerning the relative not worshipful veneration of the holy icons, and anathematized the foul believing iconoclasts. The Christians don't make idols like the ancient idolators, nor do they venerate them. They don't worship icons, nor the pieces of wood and the colors, nor do they say that the icons, or those depicted in the icons are God, the All Holy Virgin Mary etc. When they venerate the sacred icons they venerate them relatively not worshipfully. They transport their mind from the icon to God and the Saints. While God gives His grace to the icons, and through the icons miracles are performed, by God, the All Holy Virgin Mary, and the Saints...

For man to be saved it does not suffice for him to merely attribute relative veneration to the sacred icons, he must also have correct faith, love for God and neighbor, humility and meekness, piety and continence, fasting, vigilance, prayer etc. virtues. He ought to do these and not leave those. While the most necessary and greatest virtue is

love, without which all the virtues are useless. Whosoever does not love our Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema (1 Cor. 16:22).

Truly the whole of humanity is in a great chaos. They **are** walking along precipices and pits. Humanity is walking in darkness and without a compass. Where I wonder will it end up? There where all the sinners and transgressors of God's commandments ended up from all ages...The present generation is wicked and to the wicked the Lord sends analogous punishments for their repentance.

NOT THE PLACE, BUT THE MANNER SAVES MAN

You write, my child, that you are distressed in the world and by its vanity, delusion and impiety, sin and noise. So that I can lighten your affliction a bit I advise you to do the following:

First, think that God is everywhere present, and since He is everywhere, he also is in the wilderness and in the world, in the sea and on land, He is everywhere. And He is not far from each one of us, as the Apostle Paul told the Athenians. So since my child, God is near you, leave the old world, let it do whatever it wants, you will not give account for the world. At the 2nd Coming each one will give account concerning his own self.

Second, say about those who make noise and disturb you from morning till night: They do their job and I let me do my job. They shout, sing, dance and bless Satan, with lewd songs, dances and foul words. I must hymn, bless and glorify God, pray and ask Him to save me, to take me with Him into paradise, as He took the thief, the prodigal, the adulteress, the publican. Is it not, my child, a great shame to us, for them to

have greater eagerness than us in working for Satan day and night, for him to damn them, and us to be negligent and cold and working for God with indolence?

So I advise you, have patience and don't abandon ceaseless noetic prayer, don't allow God to depart from near you. Joseph was in Egypt, in the place of sin, and he did not sin because he recalled God, he had Him near him. Adam was in paradise, where sin did not exist, but because he forgot God, he disobeyed Him and listened to the devil, and he lost paradise. So it is not the place, but the manner which saves man, the divine Chrysostom used to say.

GOD'S WILL MUST BE DONE AND NOT THE DEVIL'S

Because I saw that it was necessary for me to answer you, I write you the following. Tell the couple about which you wrote, where the husband does not want children whereas the wife wants them, that God's will must be done and not the devil's. God allowed marriage for the birth of children and blessed it. Whereas the man-killing devil, when he is not able to murder, puts brother against brother and advises men to murder. He advises the parents to murder their children inside the womb. The husband who does not want children, who does not listen to God, but prefers to hear the devil and takes his wife and pays the doctors to do abortions, becomes a murderer, not of foreign people, but of his own children.

The wife when she remains pregnant must not listen to her husband and have an abortion and become a murderess, but if her husband forces her, she should protest, she should go to the priest, or to the Metropolitan and seek help, and if her husband insists she should divorce him.

There are two solutions for this matter. The one is that if they do not want children, not to have relations anymore, but to practice chastity and keep continence. This is done by condescension and by economy so that they not become murderers. If they do not like this solution, but prefer to listen to the devil and to murder their children they should prefer to separate. If they have faith in God even if they obtain 20 or 50 children God, Who gives and nourishes the birds of the sky, will provide for them! If the husband does not have faith then he will not be able to provide for his own self and he will be condemned to eternal hell...Let them be very careful and let them listen and do what I tell them so that they will have God's blessing and inherit the eternal kingdom of the Lord. If again they don't listen they will receive a curse from God and will inherit with the devil eternal hell. I pray God enlightens them to accept my counsel, because obedience is life, while disobedience is death...

THE OBEDIENT PERSON IS AN IMITATOR OF CHRIST

...I am not able, my beloved child, to describe the joy which I experienced, when I read the letter, that you were obedient to my paternal counsel, and made fervent supplications to the Lord for those who are show enmity towards you, and that you began to feel fervency of sincere love both for those who love you and for those who hate you. These, my beloved child, are fruits of obedience and of love. He who has and does obedience, says the great and wise teacher the venerable Ephraim, is an imitator of Christ, who obeyed his heavenly Father unto death, the death of the Cross. And he who has wholehearted love for God and for all people, always remains with God, and God with him....

If, my child, you were to give me three million golden coins you would make both me and yourself miserable. For what shall it benefit a man if he gains the whole world and his soul is harmed? With obedience and love you made both yourself and me happy. Yourself, because through them you gained God, and myself because I feel it a great honor and joy, to have a spiritual child of mine close to God. Be careful however to preserve till the end of this temporal life love for God and neighbor, so that you can remain with God and God with you...

THE CAUSE IS PRIDE AND WEAK FAITH

To your question. What cause does the demon find that he has rights over your soul, since you sincerely repented? The cause is pride and weak faith. The holiest and most righteous man in his time Job, when God deprived him of his children, his belongings, his health, did not murmur, but glorified God., and you the sinner complain that, since you repented and sincerely confessed, the demon has rights upon your soul? And you won't be convinced by the counsels of the prudent and wise who tell you that God allows you to be bothered, to suffer, for reasons of chastisement and benefit of soul, but you categorically deny their counsels and don't accept them, for this reason you see a great obstacle in your spiritual journey.

The Apostle Paul did not boast that he healed the sick, raised the paralytics, resurrected the dead, chased out demons from people, but he boasted in his many illnesses. All the saints in this temporal life had afflictions, distresses, illnesses, persecutions, troubles, but they did not complain, because they hoped and believed, that with these temporal afflictions they would gain eternal life, the kingdom of the heavens.

So henceforth rejoice in afflictions. Prefer the narrow and grievous path which leads to the kingdom of the heavens, and do not desire the wide and spacious one, which leads to perdition. Have patience, faith, courage, love and hope. He who forbears until the end shall be saved, and "in your patience you shall gain your soul"...

CONCERNING PRIDE AND HUMILITY

The sins into which you fall have pride as a root, source and cause. Ask God fervently, with faith, piety and contrition of heart to give you humility. Just as all the sins are born of pride, thus from humility are born all the virtues. To the humble God gives grace, while to the prideful He is opposed. In the humble God makes His dwelling place, He dwells in their hearts and their souls and directs and guides them in virtues, in the prideful Satan dwells and guides them towards every evil. Guard yourselves, my beloved children, from the devil and his wicked crafts. Hate him in all sin, love God in every virtue, so that you may live worthy of the calling in which you were called to live, because whoever becomes prideful like the Pharisee, God humbles. Whereas those who confess and feel themselves to be sinners, God elevates like the publican. So we let us humble ourselves like the Publican, and say with our heart and with signs, if possible with tears also, God have pity on us sinners, And God shall elevate us, He will lift us up to the heavens, He will make us His children and inheritors of His heavenly Kingdom, which may be all be granted. Amen.

LET US CONSIDER THE MUCH SUFFERING JOB

...Let us consider the much suffering Job also, who for twelve years lay upon the dunghill and forbore without

murmuring. Let us also listen to the divinely preaching Apostle Paul, who commands us: What shall separate us from the love of Christ? Affliction or distress or persecution or starvation, or nakedness or danger or death?...I am crucified along with Christ so that I may live in God. So that we may live and enjoy eternal life and the kingdom of the heavens we must here in this temporal life be co-crucified, forbear afflictions, distresses etc. How saddened I am for my own self who does not have afflictions, and this because I don't have patience and bravery. The Lord gives me small afflictions, but I don't forbear them either with magnanimity. I as a weak person get frustrated, but is it possible for us to be saved in any other way, since the Lord says. Through many afflictions we must enter into life? Through many-not a few. In this manner all the Saints, Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Monastic Saints and the righteous enter into eternal life...

...So since the trials, the afflictions, the deprivations of our belongings, the invisible and visible enemies cannot cause harm to our immortal soul, you should not be afraid and give up, rather you should stand bravely, believing that all the Saints also in this world suffered, only in their body not in their souls. And the Lord said: "In the world you shall have afflictions, but take courage, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33), and our affliction shall be altered into joy.

So having these things in mind the Saints rejoiced in their afflictions. And precisely for this reason also the Apostle James commands: "consider it to be a great joy, my brethren when you fall into various temptations, and cast your hope upon the Lord and upon the future goods. Truly fortunate is not the wealthy person nor him who always has health and has the goods of this temporal world, furthermore such ones are unfortunate. Fortunate is he who has afflictions in this world, illnesses temptations, deprivations, poverty, but who

has patience. Witnesses of this are Job, the poor Lazarus and all the Saints...Now say, "O envious and wicked devil, nothing shall separate me from Christ!" God is watching the battle and when you win He will crown you. So don't get discouraged...Hasten to commune on the Transfiguration and again on the feast day of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary. How did you leave such a strong and necessary weapon from your hands? So just as the enemy fights you should also fight him. The Lord has given us quite a few weapons to fight him with. A weapon against the devil is the cross, prayer, faith, patience, bravery, magnanimity, but the greatest weapon is divine communion, taken worthily, because it unites us with God. When God is with us no one can be against us...

ONE SOUL IS WORTH MORE THAN THE WHOLE WORLD

...If God wills and I come, and I am able to grab away even one soul from sin, to bring it into repentance, from delusion to truth, from wickedness to virtue, from darkness to light, from the devil to Christ, this shall be the greatest fund drive for me and my Monastery, because one soul is worth more than the whole world...In one moment the truly great sacrament of Repentance and Confession makes the sinner righteous according to the witness of the second preacher of repentance Saint John Chrysostom. "As soon as the sinner confesses his sins and you make the subsequent safety, God declares him righteous"...

The Jehovah's Witnesses, communists, evangelists, papists, masons, spiritualists and others with many different names and various ways being enemies, finding the sheep without good and true shepherds, enter in like wild wolves grabbing and scattering the sheep. The Church has need of

many workers, because many are the opponents. It has need of workers who are not lukewarm, self loving and flesh loving, but of true workers with faith and zeal, with self denial and wholehearted love for God and neighbor. Such as these do we wish and long to prepare even if few, but we have need of strengthening from both God and from men, as many as are able and wish to help...

(From a letter to an Archbishop abroad).

THE JUDGEMENTS OF GOD ARE AN ABYSS

...Concerning the miracles which occur at the Virgin Mary at Lourdes and Francis of Assisi, know that miracles follow faith. The heretics whether Westerners, Protestants, or Ottomans, when they ask with faith for physical healings, receive indiscriminately, for He who receives their request said: "Ask and it shall be given, seek and ye shall find..." The all Good God, who wants all to be saved and to come to the realization, grants their request, so that through this He might draw them to the correct and true faith. If however they do not approach and die in heresy, in delusion, during the 2nd Coming He shall separate them from His kingdom. And then they shall tell Him: Lord did we not prophesy in your name, do powers, miracles! He shall tell them: Depart from me ye workers of iniquity. With these things do not occupy yourself because they are mysteries and judgments of God which are an abyss and incomprehensible. You should be occupied with learning in a practical manner humility and love, and when you obtain them, and do not have a spirit of laziness, authority loving and vain talking you will be saved, you will go to Paradise, to the kingdom of the heavens, which may we all achieve. Amen.

ASK THAT THE LORD GRANT YOU HUMILITY AND PATIENCE

Do not fear, child, the battle of the enemy, which is dreadful, because the Cross and the Passion of the Lord humbled him and abolished his power. Christ gave us authority to step upon snakes and scorpions and upon all the power of the enemy. Always seek the aid of the Lord and His alliance because He said, "Without Me you can do nothing". Ask that He give you humility and patience, because while humility loosens the traps of the enemy, patience, together with bravery, causes man to attain the incorruptible crown and unending life. He who humbles himself shall be elevated, and he who forbears shall be saved....

My child, do not desire anything in this world as much as the love of God. All the other things both wealth and glory and positions and pleasures and a good and happy life, and everything else is ephemeral, a shadow and dreams. None of these things follow after death. The love however of God follows even after death, while the all Good God, for those who love Him, has prepared those goods, "which eye has not seen and of which ear has not heard and has not ascended upon the heart of man", which may we all achieve.

CALL UPON THE HELP OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

....As many times as the enemy attacks you either through passion or through sadness or despondency or despair, immediately grab the weapon of prayer, and you shall see how much it disappears and not even a trace of it remains. When you are fought against by the enemy call upon the help of the most holy Theotokos, the guardian Angel of your soul

and all the Angels and Saints, and along with this, firstly, announce it to your spiritual father, or ask the prayers and counsels of the other brothers, because a brother helped by a brother is like a strong and fortified city. In these things forcefulness, striving and bravery is necessary...

May the All Good God and Father of us all bless us and grant us the portion of the saved. May all our striving and all our concern be this, how to be saved. We are merchants. Each day let us consider the gain which we obtained. Let us consider the heavenly treasure, which even if we obtain once we will never fear losing but will rejoice unto the ages together with God, the Angels and the Saints. May Your mercy o Lord come upon us as we have hoped in you...Strive in every way to lead others also unto the light of truth.

The humble and unworthy servant of God,
your spiritual brother
Philotheos Zervakos Priestmonk
June 16,1912

-Wars occur on account of the sins of men...Let us not have our hopes upon weapons and bravery, but in God, because God says **"Without Me you shall not be able to do anything"**.

CONCERNING CENSURE

As regards censure the God-bearing Maximos the Confessor says in one of his homilies. The Father (i.e. God) judges no one, He has given all judgment to the Son. While the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ commands: Do not judge, so that you not be judged..., and His divinely preaching disciple Paul, the mouth of Christ, says: Do not prior to the time judge any man until the day comes, during which the

judge of all, the most righteous, the only one who has authority to judge all, shall judge and give unto each one according to his works.

Foolish people having grasped from the Son of God the right to judge, having left their own sins, judge and censure one another. The heavens are amazed at this and the earth trembles, while people do not understand, nor feel the great sin which they are committing!

We have the right to call Herod iniquitous and lawless, not lawful and righteous. To call Judas not a disciple, but a betrayer. Arius we should not call a saint, but a heretic, a raging wolf, and each heretic we should call unjust and unlawful. We should speak the truth whether one is good or evil, and as the Church, and God has them, thus should we also have them. But simultaneously let us say God shall judge them, we do not have the right to judge them, because we also are sinners and do not know unto the end what shall happen to us. Judas was a disciple, an Apostle, the thief who was crucified together with Christ was a murderer. In one moment the Apostle on the one hand became a betrayer, while the thief repenting, entered first into paradise. Be careful, be careful, be careful!

So neither I, nor you, nor anyone else has the right to judge kings, hierarchs, clergymen, lay people, young, old, men, women. If they go astray we should censure them, not with curses, with anger or agitation, but with meekness, love and a gentle manner, let us show them the correct, the righteous, the good, and let us pray that God gives them enlightenment and repentance. This is not censuring, but it is advice, counsel, it is interest and love to benefit them. However when we break out in anger, wrath, agitation, swearing, curses, anathemas, wickedness, we reveal their sins to others as well who do not know them, we broadcast them,

we publicize them with passion and wickedness, then not only is it censuring but it also is lack of love and resentment. A good thing is not good if it is not done in a good way... A good manner many times makes the evil person good, whereas an evil manner makes the good person evil too.

Since you ask my opinion I advise you as a spiritual father, that silence is preferable and more beneficial, silence with people and inner noetic speech -prayer, with God. Flee untimely discussions, be silent and be saved. (It was sent to a Monk. Publishers note).

CONCERNING THE CALENDAR

...Now if you don't feel comfortable with the calendar, follow the old...However don't let the enemy deceive you that you will be saved since now you are an old calendarist. Christ, when He sent His disciples into the world told them: Preach the gospel to all the world, and he who believes and is baptized will be saved. He did not say preach the old calendar and he who believes and is baptized will be saved in it.

The Lord commanded us to love our enemies and to pray for those who trouble, hate and treat us unjustly. The old calendarists are divided and one portion hates, criticizes and curses the other as heretical. They scorn the words of the Lord, who says that we should have love for one another, that we should love our enemies. And after so much hate, criticisms, anathemas, they self-title themselves as genuine Orthodox! But since the one portion considers the other as heretical, which portion is the genuine Orthodox one? Since they don't have love, none of them is Orthodox, and since they do not keep the commandment of love nor shall they be saved, because whoever does not have love no matter how

many virtues he has, even if he has prophetic gifts, apostolic gifts, and even martyrdom, without love does not save us. One cause which the paternal calendar does not return is the divisions and the lack of love in the old calendarists. If they repent, make up, and become peaceful with one another, and pray in humility and contrition of heart both for themselves and for the new calendarists, God shall hear their prayer and the old calendar shall return. ...May the most merciful God who does not want the death of sinners grant repentance and return and not allow us to be lost but save us according to His great and rich mercy.

Completely improper and against the Apostolic and Patristic traditions is the immodest dress of women. Most women have completely lost their minds. They cast away modesty and became naked to attract men. They enter fearlessly even into the sacred Churches not in order to pray, but in order to defile and scandalize those who are going to church.

IF YOU WERE CAREFUL YOU WOULD NOT HAVE SINNED

I was saddened on account of your fall into the mortal sins of fornication and adultery, but I also rejoiced that you arose from the fall. May the sufferings become lessons to you, and be careful so you don't sin henceforth. Behold you have become healthy through repentance, sin no more so that you do not die in sin and become condemned eternally. Glorify God who gave you time for repentance and be careful, be careful, because our opponent the devil like a roaring lion is walking about seeking whom to devour. If you were careful

you would not have sinned. But since you were not careful and did not think, that God , who is everywhere present was in front of you, the devil and the woman deceived you, and you were obedient to him and scorned your creator and benefactor, God. You disobeyed His commandment which said, you shall not commit adultery, and whoever corrupts the temple of God, God corrupts him. Joseph the all-good urged to sin by his foul master's wife did not obey her flatteries. How shall I do the wicked thing before the Lord, he said, and he preferred jail, and death rather than sin. And in this manner he was saved from sin and God glorified him both upon earth and in the heavens he shall be glorified eternally.

Do not despair however, but have courage, because God is compassionate and greatly merciful. Just as He accepted the prodigal son, David, Manasse, the adulterer, the thief, He will also accept you. Did sneaky Satan wound you by deception, through the woman? You also wound him through sincere repentance and prayer. The prodigal son repented, and again received the grace of adoption. David repented and received the grace of prophecy. The thief repented, and first entered into paradise. And many adulteresses, fornicators, publicans, thieves, were not only saved through repentance but even became saintly. And you if you wish, through repentance, not only will you receive forgiveness of your sins, but you shall also become holy and enter into paradise....

GOD IS EVERYWHERE PRESENT

In order for you to be delivered from the passion of the flesh which fights and overcomes you, the only means to be delivered of it is to think well and correctly...If you were thinking well and were pondering correctly and believed, that

God is everywhere present and sees you, that He is the God of **all**, who looks upon the earth and makes it tremble, who touches the mountains and they smoke, that God is He who **shall** sent the fornicators, the adulterers, the thieves, the unjust into the outer fire to be tortured eternally, you would not sin. However many times both in this temporal life he chastises **them** with illnesses with earthquakes, with floods, with wars, floods and with many other punishments.

My beloved if you were thinking of these things you would not have sinned...David fearing that he would again fall into sin, put very well in his mind, that the Lord was before him. I have seen the Lord, that He is before me, so that I would not be shaken, and in this manner he was saved. Thus you should also truly repent, and place very well in your mind that God is always before you, and you will not sin. Remember also your end and that after death there is no repentance, and you will not sin, but will be saved.

IT IS NOT ALLOWED FOR YOU TO BE COWARDLY

...In order for you to be delivered of the passion of masturbation you need a firm decision and bravery on the one hand, and hate and anger on the other hand against the devil, who urges us and pushes us into sin, which causes us a double death, physical and in soul. So arm yourself with the weapons of prayer, of faith, of bravery and of love, and beat up the enemy. Be careful however, because if you show cowardliness and negligence and lethargy he will wound you and deaden you. If you attack him however with faith and seek the alliance of God he will become afraid and will disappear. Say with courage and faith the psalm verse. "May God arise and let his enemies be scattered and may those who hate Him flee from His face." .. If Christ sees us brave He

helps us, but if He sees us cowardly He abandons us. Have courage, my beloved, be manly, be strong and overcome your enemies with the strength of our Crucified Saviour Jesus Christ. Ponder very well the holy martyrs and the Monastic Saints, how they overcame the enemy? Not by sleeping, but by being vigilant, wakeful and by forcing themselves. Also ponder the rewards which they received, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the glory upon the earth and in the heavens. It is not allowed for you who are young, to be cowardly and unmanly because you are a Christian, a disciple and follower of Christ.

Also ponder the words of the Divinely preaching Apostle Paul. "Do not be deceived for neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers nor masturbators....shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 5:9-12). and of the Theologian John. "to the cowardly and faithless...their portion is in the lake burning with fire and lava, which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8).

I believe and hope, that if you listen to my counsel and use the weapons which I am writing to you against the enemies and against sin, you shall be victorious. Make a good beginning and God will help you. I am sending you my blessing as a small and slight weapon. ...Resist the devil and he shall flee from you.

DO NOT BE AT ALL NEGLIGENT