

# NEWSPAPER «ORTHODOX FAITH» — IMPORTANT TOOL OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN EVANGELISM

Nothing has changed in two thousand years about evangelism. It is still our duty as Orthodox Christians to spread the word of Gospel. We try our best to do this through our newspaper and we need your support!

When the Lord sent His disciples to evangelize, the gospel says: «And He called the twelve to [Himself], and began to send them out two by two» (MARK 6:7). Here the Lord set up a great rule of evangelistic work. During the course of history, Christian evangelism never stops. It started with its golden era during the apostolic period, which ended around year 105 AD. In the subsequent two centuries of Christian history, the evangelism spread out through three major factors: the «Apologetics» which are writings that defend the Christian faith, evangelism work, and mainly by martyrdom. As Tertullian said during this time 'the blood of martyrs are the seeds of faith.' One martyr, like St. George, during the course of his torturing attracted thousands of people to Christianity, because there is no witnessing better than showing suffering for a religion and facing death without fear. On the other hand, because evangelism was still a clear objective of every Christian, even martyrs while they are in the midst of their trials and torturing, they never failed to evangelize by words, merciful actions towards all including those who persecuted them, and by miracles.

After martyrdom ceased, monasticism was the great net that attracted many souls to the Christian faith. It showed people who banned every pleasure of secular life to enjoy a heavenly spirituality that human being has everlasting thirst for it. In the lives of hermits, monk, and nuns, people saw the work of the eternal kingdom of God. It was evangelism using the most powerful method of evangelism, the spiritual module of life, which some people called it 'passive evangelism.'

Western world nowadays is not the same fifty years ago. So many evil

thoughts have invaded people's life. Any comparison of the crime rate or divorce rate will show the huge difference between the two times. The new thoughts and philosophies influenced people greatly to the extent that some of these thoughts were out of questions 50 years ago, now they are part of daily life for many people.

sires and immediate gratification of bodily desires deprived sex from every human value and put it in a position that even made some animals live in a higher ethical standard than what some people live. It calls for sexual freedom out of marriage, pre-marital sexual activities, and the spread out of single people living together without

what they hear in the news of growing crimes in areas that used to be crime-free zones, as elementary schools.

It is impossible to have absolute freedom. If man left to do whatever he likes without a law and conscience, the result is devastating. You have to have traffic laws otherwise it would be impossible to drive. Similarly, there are so many areas in life, it can't move smoothly without limits to freedom and have a balance between society and individuals.

Materialism, sexual freedom, and absence of ethical values and God from everyday life lead to emptiness in people's life. People lack true love, care, support, ethical guidance, spiritual food, and closeness to lead a balanced life. But, with selfishness, careless, immorality, and life void of God people put their foot on a way that lead to unhappiness, and restless life.

In vain people try to quench their internal need by immersion in more sexual freedom or purchasing more comfortable means of life or spending more time watching entertainment. The story of the Samaritan woman depicts the consequences of immoral life. Listen to what the Lord said to her: «Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again» (John 4: 13).

Sin has the seed of spiritual death in it. Remember the story of Adam and Eve. When they ate the fruit of the forbidden tree, they felt naked. The order of death started working in them and deprived them from every inner peace and joy they had before. The seed of death ran in their bodies, souls and spirit to degrade them.

Man has no rest away from God. We were created to have rest in him, as Saint Augustine explained. So, although you see people laugh and try to enjoy every minute, but deep inside there is death fills their life with emptiness that keep them unsatisfied, restless, and unfulfilled for the rest of their life.

By supporting our newspaper «Orthodox Faith», you support Orthodox Christian evangelism and help us to spread the word of Gospel.

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The relativism eliminates the ethical standard from the mind of many. Based on the tents of relativism, there is no right or wrong. But, rather every situation is different based on the circumstances. Eventually, this lead to wipe out the standards that guide people for thousands of years and gave the society the stability it needs to function properly.

The Sexual Revolution that promotes fulfillments of sensational de-

marriage or ethical commitment between each other.

There are some organizations that fight with teeth and nail to replace God and Bible with relativism and individual freedom. God disappeared from our School then from colleges that lead to confusion in the school system that the nation with all billions of dollars we spend in education, the schools are so corrupted with crime, drugs, and lack of achievements. People are shocked of

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We would like to thank all donors who have sent us their donations. We ask you to keep sending donations to support our newspaper. Although because of insufficient volume of donations we have decided to accept commercial advertising in our newspaper «Orthodox Faith». We will do our best to evaluate advertising materials so they won't contradict the spirit of Orthodox publication. We hope that clergy and parishioners will respect our decision.

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