



ST. NEKTARIOS ORTHODOX MISSION WAXAHACHIE, TX

“Seek God daily. But seek Him in your heart, not outside it. And when you find Him, stand with fear and trembling, like the Cherubim and the Seraphim, for your heart has become a throne of God. But in order to find God, become humble as dust before the Lord, for the Lord abhors the proud, whereas He visits those that are humble in heart. Wherefore He says: ‘To whom will I look, but to him that is meek and humble in heart?’” St. Nektarios of Aegina

June, 2012 NEWSLETTER

Where the Voice of Those Who Feast is Unceasing

I was recently reading Thomas Merton’s biography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, and was struck by the following paragraph:

There is happiness only where there is coordination with the Truth, the Reality, the Act that underlies and directs all things to their essential and accidental perfections: and that is the will of God. **There is only one happiness: to please Him.** Only one sorrow, to be displeasing to Him, to refuse Him something, to turn away from Him, even in the slightest thing, even in thought, in a half-willed movement of appetite: in these things, and these alone, is sorrow, in so far as they imply separation, or the beginning, the possibility of separation from Him Who is our life and all our joy.

What makes a person happy? What other question in life is there than this one strange and intangible question? I wake up in the morning and think about what I want. I consider how I will spend my day, measuring out my time trying to fill up this desire for happiness. But the trouble comes when I begin

JUNE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Wednesday 6/20 ~ 6:30 Vespers and common meal at the Homiaks

Sunday 6/24 ~ Divine Liturgy at St. Seraphim Cathedral (Dallas) / 6:00 common meal at the Tadlocks

Thursday 6/28 ~ 6:30 Vespers for Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul and common meal at the Homiaks

Friday 6/29 ~ Divine Liturgy for Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul at St. Seraphim Cathedral (Dallas)

Sunday 7/1 ~ 10:00 First Divine Liturgy in Waxahachie ~ location TBD

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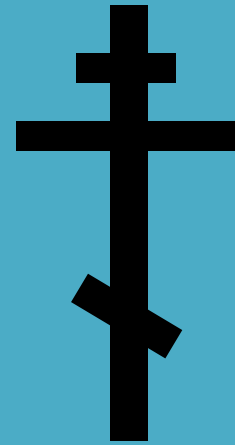
with *myself* and *my* desires. The trouble begins the moment I put the starting point of this task on what *I* believe will make me happy. St. Nektarios reminds us, "Seek God daily. But seek Him in your heart, not outside it." It is the heart that is often so divided from our minds and it is in our minds where desires and regrets and fears hold us hostage in unhappiness. In some sense, it is when we are caught within our very minds that we are actually outside ourselves.

Fr. Merton states explicitly that, "There is only one happiness: to please [God]." Nothing apart from doing what pleases God is capable of bringing us happiness. How do we know this? Because the moment our plans are interrupted or something unexpected happens, we are thrown into internal turmoil (sometimes called stress) and we descend even further into self-centeredness and unhappiness. We lash out at the people we claim to love and question God's benevolence and presence in our lives. We become more consumed with our unhappiness which breeds even further darkness.

So, what pleases God? As Christ himself tells us, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22: 37-39) It pleases God to begin with the "other," to begin with the Father and with our neighbor. To make our starting point with the other person and to moment by moment, hour by hour, and day by day love and love again that other person. This is happiness. There is no disappointment in loving another. There is no unhappiness in seeking good for the other.

As I write this, I am being interrupted time and again being asked to help or to fix or to look. I am being asked to get outside of myself and my happiness, my plans, my schedule. I am being asked by Christ to love. I often fail to hear that it is Christ asking me to help, to fix, to look. I often fail to hear that it is Christ speaking to me in all this mess of a world. I often fail to be gentle and kind. "But there is forgiveness with thee," writes the psalmist. God works in our weakness. And he calls from our hearts to love and love again.

Fr. David



ST. NEKTARIOS
ORTHODOX MISSION
Orthodox Church in America



Who We Are...St. Nektarios Orthodox Mission is a new mission station of the Orthodox Church in America in Waxahachie, Texas. We are currently seeking out a regular location to hold weekly services with the intention of purchasing property and building a proper temple to call home and to minister to the local community. For information, please contact Fr. David Bozeman at 816-509-6411 or at frdbozeman@gmail.com. You can also receive updates through our website www.stnektariosdfw.org and through social media at <http://www.facebook.com/SaintNektariosMission> . Christ is in our midst!