

"The Fruit of the Spirit..." Galatians 5:22

The Fruit Basket

Love • Joy • Peace • Goodness • Kindness • Faith • Patience • Temperance • Gentleness

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Centennial Celebration of the Construction of St. Theodosius Cathedral



St. Theodosius of Chernigov
Commemorated on September 9

THE FRUIT BASKET

Edited and published monthly
by An Orthodox Christian

The goal of this publication is to provide a friendly, light, Orthodox Christian 'Zine (a mini-magazine) that contains a blend of "something to exercise our minds, something to make us laugh, and something to make us meditate on spiritual matters."

Articles or comments from our readers are welcome. We reserve the right to edit for suitability, clarity and space. Printing of items does not imply endorsement by the church or the priest or even the editor of this publication. Please call if you need more info.

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We get letters.....

Dear Margaret,

Enclosed are items you might be able to use in the *Fruit Basket*. I can't tell you how much I enjoy each copy. Thank you for all your hard work. I'm sure there are tons of people who appreciate it.

Yours in Christ,
Barbara Shepard

Thank you, Barbara, for your thoughtfulness in sending the items and for your encouraging words.

Our prayers are with you and Thomas (his name is on the Ambo prayer list.) *Blessings, Margaret*

A Meditation

We Christians have no veil over our faces; we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord, And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him. *II Cor. 2:18 TLB*

Lord, help me break through the facade and see myself more clearly. I want to reflect Your glory. Amen.

*Bless Your Heart Each New Day calendar
donated by Kathy Z.*

A PRAYER BY ST. AUGUSTINE

Lord, you know those who are sore stricken and heavy of heart. As their days, so let their strength be. Heal the sick, comfort the weary, succor the tempted, give peace to the dying and light at eventide.... Watch over us who are still in our dangerous voyage, and remember such as lie exposed to rough storms of trouble and temptations. Frail is our vessel, and the ocean is wide; but as in your mercy you have set our course, so steer the vessel of our life toward the everlasting shore of peace, and bring us at length to the quiet haven of our heart's desire, where you, O our God, are blessed, and live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

"ONE-LINER" PRAYERS

- Lord, show me my many sins, that I might know my unworthiness.
- Allow me to hold all things with open hands, especially the opinions of others.
- Lord, teach me to keep my mouth shut and not to slander my brother, for You are the only judge of mankind.

The Elevation of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord

The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 he had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. The ruler Licinius, although he had signed the Edict of Milan to oblige Constantine, still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict of toleration extend also to the Eastern part of the empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God's assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the

temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elder Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Cyriacus and afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem.

During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363) he accepted a martyr's death for Christ (see October 28). The holy empress Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after her death.

St Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. St Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on

(Exaltation Continued)

September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Phocas (602-610) the Persian emperor Khozroes II in a war against the Greeks defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem and captured both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years and only under the emperor Heraclius (610-641), who with the help of God defeated Khozroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Cross of the Lord returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-creating Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Heraclius in imperial crown and royal purple carried the Cross of Christ into the temple of the Resurrection. With the emperor went Patriarch Zacharios. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the emperor suddenly stopped and was not able to proceed farther. The holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an angel of the Lord was blocking his way. The emperor was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world from sin had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Heraclius donned plain garb, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, St Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true gathers together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast."

Kontakion - Tone 4

As You were voluntarily raised upon the cross for our sake,
Grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God;
Make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power,
Granting them victories over their adversaries, By bestowing on
them the Invincible trophy, Your weapon of Peace.

<http://oca.org/fs>

On Repentance FROM THE PHILOKALIA

Until a man is completely changed by repentance, he will be wise always to remember his sins with sorrow and to recall the eternal fire that they justly deserve.

EVAGRIOS THE SOLITARY I, ON PRAYER, SEC. 144

There is a sin that is always “unto death”: the sin for which we do not repent. For this sin even a saint’s prayers will not be heard.

ST. MARK, THE ASCETIC, I, ON THOSE WHO THINK THAT THEY ARE MADE RIGHTEOUS BY WORKS, SEC. 41

He who repents rightly does not imagine that it is his own effort that cancels his former sins,; but through this effort he makes his peace with God.

ST. MARK, THE ASCETIC, I, ON THOSE WHO THINK THAT THEY ARE MADE RIGHTEOUS BY WORKS, SEC. 42

Those who deliberately refuse to repent sin continually; those who sin without meaning to not only repent with all their heart, but also do not often have cause to repent.

ILIAS THE PRESBYTER III, A GNOME ANTHOLOGY, SEC. 14

Tears of repentance are one thing, tears that flow because of divine compunction another. The first are like a river in spate that sweeps away all the bastions of sin; the second are to the soul like rain or snow to a field, making it yield a bountiful crop of spiritual knowledge.

NIKITAS STITHATOS

IV, ON THE PRACTICE OF THE VIRTUES: ONE HUNDRED TEXTS, SEC. 70

Examine yourself daily in the sight of God, and discover which of the passions is in your heart. Cast it out, and so escape his judgment.

ST. ISAIAH THE SOLITARY I, ON GUARDING THE INTELLECT, SEC. 21-22

- PHILOKALIA, The Eastern Christian Spiritual Texts, translation by G. E. H. Palmer, Philip Sherrard, and Bishop Kallistos Ware.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

Commemorated on September 8

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Sts Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Sts Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feasts at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

St Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St Anna wept bitterly

when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.



- <http://oca.org/fslives.asp>

SEEKING GOD'S KINGDOM

Theme: God's power and glory are impossible for us to understand (EX 33:12-23), yet we recognize that God is great and to be praised (Ps 96:1-9, 10-13). We marvel at Jesus' wisdom (Mt 22:15-22) and eagerly anticipate his return (1 Thess 1:1-10)

Opening Prayer: Proper 24

O God Almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us, we pray thee, to be grounded and settled in the truth, by the coming down of the Holy Spirit into our hearts. That which we know not, ...reveal; that which is wanting in us, ...fill up; that which we know, ...confirm, and keep us blameless in thy service; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Clement*

God is Found in the Darkness. *Clement of Alexandria:* As a result Moses, convinced that God will never be known to human wisdom, says, "Reveal yourself to me," and finds himself forced to enter "into the darkness" where the voice of God was present; in other words, into the unapproachable, imageless, intellectual concepts relating to ultimate reality. For God does not exist in darkness. He is not in space at all. He is beyond space and time and anything belonging to created beings. Similarly he is not found in any section. He contains nothing. He is contained by nothing. He is not subject to limit or division. *Stromateis 2.2.6*

God is incomprehensible by Eyes and by Mind. AUGUSTINE: Hence the answer made to Moses is true that no one can see the face of God and live, that is, no one living in this life can see him as he is. Many have seen, but they saw what his will chose not what his nature formed, and this is what John said, if he is rightly understood. "Dearly beloved, we are the sons of God, and it has not yet appeared what we shall be. We know that when he shall appear, we shall be like to him because we shall see him as he is"; not as men saw him when he willed under the appearance that he willed; not in his nature under which he lies hidden within himself even when he is seen, but as he is. This is what was asked of him by the one who spoke to him face to face, when he said to him, "Show me yourself," but no one can at any time experience the fullness of God through the eyes of the body any more than by the mind itself. Letter 147.8-9

From *Ancient Christian Devotional* edited by Oden, Thos. C.

WAYS TO PRAY TOWARD FORGIVENESS

Be Honest— This is perhaps the first rule of prayer. Express what you truly feel, holding nothing back. You may blurt out words full of pain or hate, frustration or disappointment. Sob your prayer. Yell your need.

Surrender—Offer everything to God—your pain, hope, enemies, loved ones, life. Without surrender, barriers remain, and you'll be unable to receive fully what God's grace so deeply wants to give.

Ask for grace to want to forgive before asking for the grace to forgive. You may need days, weeks, even months or years.

Ask God to help you see factors you've missed, ignored or misunderstood. Mentally picture the person standing with you in Christ's presence. Without words, look at who that person truly is, willing to see your foe differently than you have. Christ's presence may open your heart to see your antagonist's needs, shedding light on that person's actions. You may also see something you've denied in yourself.

Affirm God's power to transform the situation. In the history of faith, transformation and resurrection are very real. They happen continually. God hasn't changed, nor has human condition.

Look for results. Expect that something will happen because of your prayer.

Let go of what can't be changed. This brings relief. Give thanks to God for positive results that have happened.

submitted by Barbara Shepard.

WORD SEARCH FOR SEPTEMBER

P R O T O M A R T Y R T H E K L A W J
 G X N S E S O M T E H P O R P Y L O H
 R L C X H N S R Z F L N Y G R Q C J F
 E M W K H C G T C R Q L R N H M E M W
 A C N K T V H L S W D E M D H N N R L
 T R W C G R R A K I B P C H G K T K Z
 M C R H Z T W B R M M R M T F B E T P
 A L R J L K B M E I R E T N X K N L R
 R N K S M T N T V R T Q O F M T N K O
 T E F B R Y P B R J Y Y H N L N I Z P
 Y H L Q L E H U B B A R D S Q U A S H
 R C B U S H P C A T H E D R A L L Z E
 E U S L C N T P N K C F F C Q S S D T
 U K T E N A H I E V J F F V N M T C Z
 P E R A M R N R A P N T M I E L T C A
 H P A H Z R D J H F D N G P C M H N C
 E A T C Q V M N U M J E O T A U E H H
 M R S I H K W T N M B H R R R A O O A
 I G L M G W M C K N P Q T C R M D J R
 A T O L R W K B M R T Y H O H W O T I
 M P O E N C N U V L R N D Y V Y S S A
 D J H G W T T T X S E O B W N K I E H
 N H C N X U N M O W E F P L Z T U S W
 N L S A A B C P Y H P Y N X P F S O K
 G N F H Y K H E T K J F P P X B N P K
 W J D C H I A N T J H Q G J R R W E X
 M Q B R A R E D J G B D K W C Z Q R T
 L T G A M V R V N D W D G L B J Y N K
 S S O R C E H T F O N O I T A V E L E
 N A T I V I T Y O F T H E O T O K O S
 R I G H T E O U S E L I Z A B E T H T

God speaks to us in many ways

While driving home after visiting the doctor, different scenarios played themselves out in his mind. He was getting more and more upset. Then he noticed a sticker on the back of the van ahead of him. On approaching closer he could read the word, "PRAY."

Of course--Pray! God is in control! Stop stewing! —*Anonymous*

WORD SEARCH LIST FOR SEPTEMBER

Archangel Michael	Lucan Jump
Autumn begins	Martyr Sophia
Centennial St Theodosius	Nativity of Theotokos
Cathedral	Prophet Zachariah
Charity	Protomartyr Thekla
Church New Year	Red Peppers
Elevation of the Cross	Repose St John
Faith	Righteous Elizabeth
Grape Kuchen	School starts
Greatmartyr Euphemia	September
Holy Prophet Moses	St simeon
Hope	Ven Theodora
Hubbard Squash	

BIBLE BRAIN WORKOUT FOR SEPTEMBER

481. Who declared that a man's death-day is better than his birthday?
482. Where does the Bible describe a goat fighting with a ram?
483. Where is a foolish man's parable compared to a lame man's legs?
484. Where do we read of a woman who is said to have had hair like purple?
485. When did a soldier win his wife as the reward for taking a city?
486. Where does the Bible mention a cuckoo?
487. Where is cold said to be refreshing in harvesttime?
488. What curious command was laid upon the Israelites in regard to cooking a young goat?
489. Who invited all his brothers to a feast, at which he arranged that one of them should be murdered?
490. What woman just before her wedding asked her father for present?

Answers on page 19

How did you score? 6 or more correct—A+; 5 correct—A Superior; 3+ correct—B+ Pretty good; 2 correct—C Fair; Less than 2 correct— an opportunity to make reading the Bible daily a wonderful habit!

HOW TO LOSE WEIGHT

I just discovered this important info. I don't know WHY I didn't figure this out sooner!!! It's the shampoo I use in the shower! When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and (duh!) printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning: "FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY."

No WONDER I HAVE BEEN GAINING WEIGHT!!! Well!

I have gotten rid of that shampoo and I am going to start using Dawn dish soap instead. It's label reads, "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE."

Problem solved! If I don't answer the phone..I'll be in the shower!

Submitted by Lavinia C.

TELL-TALE SIGNS OF GETTING OLDER

- You know all the answers but nobody is asking the questions.
- You finally reach the top of the ladder and find its leaning on the wrong wall.
- You're startled the first time you are addressed as old-timer.
- You join a health club and then don't go.
- BUT on the plus side...
- You have a new-found freedom to say "no" when asked to make another commitment you just do not want to do.
- You don't worry much about what others might think.
- You have earned the right to be eccentric.
- People do not expect you to attend out-of-town weddings!

• *submitted by Lydia M.*

MATCHING

Match Jesus' statement to the person, group, or occasion.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. "Do you love me?" | A. The Apostles in a storm. |
| 2. "Woe to you!" | B. Peter |
| 3. "Be silent!" | C. Pharisees |
| 4. "Where is your faith?" | D. Satan |
| 5. "Away with you!" | E. Unclean spirit |

CRYPTOGRAM CHALLENGE FOR SEPTEMBER

The following message is written in code using regular letters. Your task is to figure out which real letters the code letters stand

TX BO VWOZ, QOTZC OKTA, USRD WRD

VR CTKO CRRE CTXVN GZVR BRGP

SWTAEPOZ; WRD JGSW JRPO NWIAA BRGP

WOIKOZAB XIVWOP CTKO VWO WRAB NHTPTV

VR VWOJ VWIV INU WTJ?

To make this more of a challenge cover up or have somebody cross out some or even all of the Cheat Chart!!!

CHEAT CHART--IT GIVES YOU SOME OF THE LETTERS.

<u>REAL LETTERS</u>	<u>e i h o m n s t y</u>
CODE LETTERS	O T W R J Z N V B

Tougher Challenge for the Whiz Kids!

DGT NQ FIWE BVV BLLQBT MQDGTQ EJQ

OIHXFQYE WQBE GD RJTUWE; EJBE QCQTK

GYO FBK TQRQUCQ EJQ EJUYXW HGYQ UY

JUW MGHK, BRRGTHUYX EG EJBE JQ JBEJ

HGYQ, NJQEJQT UE MQ XGGH GT MBH.

E=t Q=e G=o More on page 19

From *Jumbo Bible Word Games* donated by Barbara Shepard.

LIPSTICK IN SCHOOL

According to a news report, a certain private school in Washington was recently faced with a unique problem. A number of 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick, they would press their lips on the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints. Every night the maintenance man would remove them, and the next day the girls would put them back. Finally the principal decided that something had to be done.



She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night (you can just imagine all the yawns from the little princesses).

To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, she asked the maintenance man to show the girls how much effort was required. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it.

Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror. There are teachers. . . . and then there are educators.

submitted by Kathy B.

CREATIVE CHURCH SIGNS

*Submitted
by
June K*



HUSBAND'S AND WIFE'S DIARIES...

Wife's Diary

Tonight, I thought Bob was acting weird. We had made plans to meet at a nice restaurant for dinner. I was shopping with my friends all day long; and I was a little late for our "date."

Conversation wasn't flowing, so I thought he was upset at the fact that I was a bit late; but he made no comment on it.

So I suggested that we go somewhere quiet so we could talk. He agreed, but he didn't say much. I asked him what was wrong;

He said, 'Nothing.' I asked him if it was my fault that he was upset.

He said he wasn't upset, that it had nothing to do with me, and not to worry about it.

On the way home, I told him that I loved him. He smiled slightly, and kept driving. I can't explain his behavior. I don't know why he didn't say, 'I love you, too.' When we got home, I felt as if I had lost him completely, as if he wanted nothing to do with me anymore. He just sat there quietly, and watched TV. He continued to seem distant and absent. Finally, with silence all around us, I decided to go to bed. About 15 minutes later, he came to bed.

But I still felt that he was distracted, and his thoughts were somewhere else. He fell asleep - I cried. I don't know what to do. I'm almost sure that his thoughts are with someone else.

My life is a disaster.

Husband's Diary:

Boat wouldn't start, can't figure it out.



Submitted by Augie

The Problem is not how they got in there but
How do you get them out!



*Submitted by
Augie*

Answers to Bible Brain Workout

481. Eccles. 7:1

486. Lev. 11:16

482. Dan. 8:5-7

487. Prov. 25:13

483. Prov. 26:7

488. Ex. 23:19

484. Song of Solomon 7:5

489. 2 Sam. 13:23-33

485. Judg. 1:12-13

490. Judg. 1:13-15

H=d

J=h

WHO'S YOUR DADDY?

A seminary professor and his wife, vacationing in Gatlinburg, TN., were eating breakfast at a little restaurant when they noticed a distinguished looking, white-haired man moving from table to table, visiting with the guests. The man came over to their table. 'Where are you folks from?' he asked in a friendly voice. 'What do you do for a living?' 'I teach at a seminary,' the professor replied. 'Oh, so you teach preachers how to preach, do you? Well, I've got a really great story for you.' And with that, the gentleman pulled up a chair and sat down at the table with the couple.

'Not far from that mountain, there was a boy born to an unwed mother. He had a hard time growing up, because every place he went, he was always asked the same question, 'Hey boy, Who's your daddy?' He would hide at recess and lunchtime from the other students. 'When he was about 12 years old, a new preacher came to his church. One day, the new preacher said the benediction so fast that the boy had to walk out with the crowd. When he got to the door, the new preacher, not knowing anything about him, put his hand on his shoulder and asked him, 'Son, who's your daddy?' The whole church got deathly quiet. He could feel every eye in the church looking at him. 'This new preacher, though, sensed the situation around him and using discernment that only the Holy Spirit could give, said the following . . . 'Wait a minute! I know who you are! I see the family resemblance now, You are a child of God.' He patted the boy on his shoulder and said, 'Boy, you've got a great inheritance. Go and claim it.' With that, the boy smiled for the first time in a long time and walked out the door a changed person. He was never the same again. Whenever anybody asked him, 'Who's your Daddy?' he'd just tell them, 'I'm a Child of God.'

The distinguished gentleman got up from the table and said 'Isn't that a great story?' As the man turned to leave, he said, 'You know, if that new preacher hadn't told me that I was one of God's children, I probably never would have amounted to anything!'

The seminary professor and his wife were stunned. He asked the waitress who that man was -- The waitress grinned and said, 'That's Ben Hooper. He's governor of Tennessee !'

SOME ONE IN YOUR LIFE TODAY NEEDS A REMINDER THAT THEY'RE ONE OF GOD'S CHILDREN!

submitted by Augie

THE FRUIT BASKET

18893 Howe Road
Strongsville, OH 44136

Sunshine Greetings from

St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral



CALENDAR for September 2011

- 1 Church New Year**
- 8 Nativity of Theotokos**
- 9 Relics of St. Theodosius**
- 10-11 St. Theodosius Centennial**
- 14 Exaltation of the precious
and life-giving Cross**