

THE TRUTH OF THE RESURRECTION

St. Athanasius the Great

Both from the confession of the evil spirits and from the daily witness of His works, it is manifest, then, and let none presume to doubt it, that the Saviour has raised His own body, and that He is very Son of God, having His being from God as from a Father, Whose Word and Wisdom and Whose Power He is. He it is Who in these latter days assumed a body for the salvation of us all, and taught the world concerning the Father. He it is Who has destroyed death and freely graced us all with incorruption through the promise of the resurrection, having raised His own body as its first-fruits, and displayed it by the sign of the cross as the monument to His victory over death and corruption.

THE ICONPAINTER - A UNIQUE STATUS

Fr. Pavel Florensky

Rather, they are holders of an unique Church office. For in the consciousness of the Church, they hold this special office in the sacred hierarchy, in the true theocracy, of the Church, and, as members of the Church, they are recognised in their function as iconpainters. They occupy a place midway between those who serve at the altar and the ordinary layman. They live a prescribed life, almost semi-monastic, under the direct supervision of the Metropolitan, the local bishop, and the specially designated wardens of iconpainters. The Church honours Her iconpainters by giving them this unique status.... the Church recognises the necessity to scrutinise attentively not only the work of Her iconpainters but their very lives.

PROTECTING THE TRUE FAITH THROUGH THE FATHERS

Protopresbyter Michael Pomazansky

For guidance in questions of faith, for the correct understanding of Sacred Scripture, and in order to distinguish the authentic Tradition of the Church from false teachings, we appeal to the works of the holy Fathers of the Church, acknowledging that the *unanimous agreement* of all of the Fathers and teachers of the Church in teaching of the faith is an undoubted sign of truth.

UNSEEN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

St. Nicodemus

... the warriors who take part in this unseen warfare are all who are Christians; and their commander is our Lord Jesus Christ, surrounded and accompanied by His marshals and

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generals, that is, by all the hierarchies of angels and saints. The arena, the field of battle, the site where the fight actually takes place is *our own heart and all our inner man*. The time of battle is *our whole life* (emphases supplied).

THE VIRGIN MARY HAD NO OTHER CHILDREN

Constantine Callinicos

And the so-called brothers and sisters of Jesus are Joseph's children by a previous marriage. This is mentioned by many of the Church Fathers. For this reason, as we have recorded by John, Jesus delivers His mother into John's care, something He certainly would not have done had Mary had any *other* (emphasis supplied) children. And the very term 'first-born', according to St. Basil, 'does not have reference to any children preceding or following; a child is called first-born because it is he who first opens his mother's womb'. Therefore, later-born children are not an issue here.

MY GREATEST ENEMY (AND YOURS) and READ THE HOLY SCRIPTURES FOR SPIRITUAL SUBSTANCE

Unseen Warfare (as edited by St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain and revised by St. Theophan the Recluse)

Love, as much as you can, silently to stand with Mary at the feet of Christ our Lord and listen to what He has to say to your soul. Beware, lest your enemies, the greatest of whom is *you yourself* (emphasis supplied), hinder this holy standing before the Lord.... When you read the Holy Scriptures, do not have in mind to read page after page, but ponder over each word; when some words make you go deep into yourself, or stir you to contrition, or fill your heart with spiritual joy and love, pause on them. It means that God draws near to you; receive Him humbly with open heart, as He Himself wishes you to partake of Him. If for the sake of this you fail to complete the spiritual exercise (i.e. reading) allotted to you, do not worry. For the purpose of this as of all spiritual exercises is to become worthy to partake of the Lord, and when this is granted, there is no point in worrying about means. In the same way, when you reflect on some divine subject, especially some instance of the passion of Christ our Lord, pause at the part, which touches your heart, and keep your attention longer on it, to prolong this holy feeling.

ABOUT ANY PROPHET

The Didache (The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles)

Any prophet that teaches the truth, yet does not live up to his teaching, is a false prophet.