

ASCETICALLY SPEAKING, pp. 53-54

53

ST. CONSTANTINE THE GREAT WAS TO '**CONQUER BY THIS**'

Eusebius

He [Constantine] said that about noon, when the day was already beginning to decline, he saw with his own eyes the trophy of a cross of light in the heavens, above the sun, and bearing the inscription CONQUER BY THIS. At this sight he himself was struck with amazement, and his whole army also, which followed him on this expedition, and *witnessed* (emphasis supplied) the miracle.

CHRIST APPEARED TO ST. CONSTANTINE

Eusebius

..., then in his sleep the Christ of God appeared to him with the same sign which he had seen in the heavens, and commanded him to make a likeness of that sign which he had seen in the heavens, and to use it as a safeguard in all engagements with his enemies.

BELIEF IN CHRIST IS NOT ENOUGH; WE MUST ALSO LIVE AND ACT ON EARTH AS HE DID!

St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of America

Without faith in Jesus Christ no one can return to God and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

2) No one, even though he believes in Jesus Christ, can be called a disciple of Jesus Christ or live with Him in Heaven, unless he acts and lives as Jesus Christ acted and lived on earth.

3) No one can follow Jesus Christ without the help of the Holy Spirit.

4) Whoever wishes to receive the Holy Spirit must use the means given by God for that purpose.

EXPLANATION OF THE SICKNESS OF SPIRITUAL DECEPTION (DELUSION)

St. Seraphim of Sarov

...spiritual delusion, imagining oneself to be near to God and to the realm of the divine and supernatural... they are seers of divine visions, or at least of dreams inspired by grace. In every event of their lives, they see special intentional directions from God or their guardian angel... imagining that they are God's elect... often try to foretell the future. The Holy Fathers armed themselves against nothing so fiercely as against this *sickness* (emphasis supplied).

54

UNANIMITY OF THE FATHERS AND TEACHERS ON A SPIRITUAL ISSUE IS CONCLUSIVE

Fr. Michael Pomazansky

For guidance in questions of the 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 the Fathers and teachers of the Church in teaching of the Faith is an undoubted sign of truth.

NO FATHER EVER TAUGHT THAT TO BE A 'CANONICAL' ORTHODOX ONE MUST BE IN COMMUNION WITH THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE: THIS IS COMPLETELY UNTRUE!

Bishop Ephraim of Boston (on behalf of the Fathers)

... Constantinople... has in recent times begun to teach that one cannot be a canonical Orthodox Christian if he is not in communion with the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Since *not one* (emphasis supplied) holy canon or Saint of the Church has ever taught such a doctrine, the pronouncement of this teaching by the mentors of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is evidence of how far their own 'Orthodoxy' has departed from the 'spirit' and 'truth' of Christ. In view of the fact that their disdain of the holy canons is totally unabashed, their advancement of this doctrine is certainly most incongruous.

EVERY COMMANDMENT IS ABOUT LOVE

St. Gregory the Great

Why does He speak of love as if it were a special commandment? It is because every commandment is about love, and they all add up to one commandment because whatever is commanded is founded on love *alone*. The branch which is our good works has no sap unless it remains attached to the *root* of love (emphases supplied).

LOVE ALL

St. Maximus the Confessor

We must love every person with all our hearts, place our trust in God and serve only Him with all our strength. For, while He protects us, all our friends will remain favorable, while our enemies will be powerless. When He departs from us, then will our friends turn from us and our enemies secure ascendancy over us. Friends of Christ genuinely love all, though they themselves are not beloved at all.