

ASCETICALLY SPEAKING (A Journey through Suffering Orthodoxy led by  
Christ's  
Saints, Martyrs and other true Followers)

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TRUE CHRISTIANS WILL BE **HATED**

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

*And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*

*...Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner*

*of evil against you, falsely for My sake.* (St. Matthew 10:22 and 5:11)

CHURCH NUMBERS DO NOT MATTER

St. Athanasius the Great

Even if Christians faithful to tradition are reduced to a handful, they are the ones who are the *true* (emphasis supplied) Church of Jesus Christ.

THE 'MARKETPLACE' DOES NOT RULE

St. Gregory the Theologian (of Nazianzus)

Thus, as briefly as possible I have set forth for you our love of wisdom, which is dogmatical and not dialectical, in the manner of the fishermen and not of Aristotle, spiritually and not cleverly woven, according to the Church and *not* (emphasis supplied) the marketplace.

STRUGGLE

Archbishop Averky of Jordanville

Without the Cross, without struggle, there can be no salvation! This is what true Christianity teaches.

MARTYRDOM

St. Lawrence, Archdeacon of Rome

When slow, consuming heat had seared the flesh of Lawrence for a space, He calmly from his gridron made this terse proposal to the judge:  
'Pray turn my body, on one side already broiled sufficiently, and see how well your Vulcan's fire has wrought its cruel punishment.'  
The prefect bade him to be turned. Then Lawrence spoke: 'I am well baked, and whether better cooked or raw, make trial by a taste of me'.  
He said these words in jest; then rising shining eyes to heaven and sighing deeply, thus he *prayed* (emphasis supplied) with pity for unholy Rome.

## FAITH

St. Vincent of Lerins stated that faith was that:

which is believed always, that which is believed by everyone, and that which is believed throughout the whole world.

St. Basil the Great

We do not have one faith in Seleucia, another in Constantinople, another in Zelis, another in Lampsake, and a different one in Rome. The faith that is professed today is not different from the one that came before; it is the *one and same faith* (emphasis supplied).

## WHAT ARE WORKS OF FAITH?

St. Seraphim of Sarov

*Faith without works is dead* (James 2:26), and the works of faith are: love, peace, longsuffering, mercy, humility, rest from all works (as God Himself rested from His works), bearing the Cross, and life in the Spirit. Only such faith can be considered true. True faith *cannot* (emphasis supplied) be without works; one who truly believes will unfailingly have works as well.