



**5 - 10 May, 2019**

**Faithfulness and Cleanliness**

**‘Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord’ 1 Cor 15:58**

**Cleanliness**

- † **A way of thanking the Lord for every gift He has bestowed on us and caring for all that He entrusted us with**

**We are appointed as stewards of God’s creation**

- † **In Genesis 1:26, God said, *‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth’***
- † **We are created in God’s image and likeness, this is the reason God values people so much, because we are made to reflect His majesty on earth. Adam was appointed as lord over the created order, as God’s agent**
- † ***‘Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it’ Gen 1:28a.* So, God placed humans as living symbols of Himself on earth to represent His reign**
- † **The earth, if left to itself, would not remain good as God had created it. God planned that people would need to manage and control it**
- † ***‘As for God, His way is perfect’ Psa 18:30.* God’s perfect plan is His appointment of humankind as managers and caretakers over His perfect creation**

**We have been created for God’s glory (Isa 43:7)**

- † **We have been made to reflect Him and reveal Him in all that we do, say and think**
- † **We are called to be the ambassadors of Christ on earth (2 Cor 5:20)**

**We are wonderfully made (Psa 139:14)**

- † **We have the breath of God’s life in us (Gen 2:7)**

- † We are His prized creation; when God created the earth and the universe, He declared that it was 'good' and after creating us, He declared the universe, with us in it, as 'very good' (*Gen 1:31*)

### The Parable of the Faithful Servant (*Mat 24:45-51*)

- † Jesus raises the question of who is the faithful servant and states that this servant is blessed by the Lord and is 'assuredly' rewarded
- † Brother Estephan Nehme used to repeat in his heart and publicly this expression: 'God sees me'
- † Thus, he put himself continuously in the presence of God and lived his life and did his work accordingly. He repeated his motto daily and trusted fully in the Lord, 'Who searches the minds and hearts' (*Rev 2:23*)
- † Brother Estephan Nehme's motto 'God sees me' was his shield of faith and his armor of God to stand firm against temptations (*Eph 6:16, 13*). Temptations that tried to trouble the purity of his thoughts when he practiced humble obedience to his superiors or that stood in the way of the clarity of his mind and his skillful productive work in the fields. He was the faithful servant to whom Jesus said at the end of Estephan's earthly life: 'Enter into the joy of your Lord' (*Mat 25:21*)
- † Let us do all things with Christ, through Christ and in Christ, while awaiting His second coming

### We are responsible to use well what God has given us, time, gifts and other resources....for all of us, it means doing our daily activities out of love for God for He is the Giver of all things

- † Let us view each other as each being 'the little one' in this saying by Jesus: '*And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward*' (*Mat 10:24*)
- † '*Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin*' *Jam 4:17*
- † As Christ's follower, I am asked to do all things decently and in order (*1 Cor 14:40*)

### Jesus wants us to make a difference around us

- † To be His disciples everywhere, in all that we do, to reflect Him in the little things that we do which at the same time go a long way
- † If each one of us is indeed 'the temple of the Holy Spirit' let us reveal it in all our actions and not only in words

- ✝ **Our life should reflect holiness because God, the creator of all things, Our Father, is Holy. ‘...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’ (1Pet 1:15-16)**
- ✝ **Let us then be the light that Christ talks about in Luk 8:16-18, ‘No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him’**

 refers to mandatory readings

### Verse to memorize

‘Let all things be done decently and in order’ 1 Corinthians 14:40

### References

1. [http://www.estephannehme.org/home.php?url=akhestephan\\_grp&lqid=0&depid=4&menu=4&grp=4](http://www.estephannehme.org/home.php?url=akhestephan_grp&lqid=0&depid=4&menu=4&grp=4), accessed on 5 May, 2019
2. *Life Application Study Bible KJV*(Tyndale House Publishers, Illinois , 2007), Kindle Edition
3. *NKJV, Know The Word Study Bible, Gain a greater understanding of the Bible book by book, verse by verse, or topic by topic* (copyright Thomas Nelson, 1982) Kindle Edition, 2016
4. *The Orthodox Study Bible: Ancient Christianity Speaks to Today's World* (For the Old Testament text copyright of St Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology, 2008 and for the New Testament text the NKJV, copyright Thomas Nelson, 1982), Kindle Edition, 2008

### During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord’s will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison

11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

**During this coming week, we will lift the Armenian Orthodox Church in prayer**

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| <p>الصلاة الربانية<br/> أبنا الذي في السموات<br/> ليتقدس اسمك<br/> ليأت ملكوتك<br/> ليتك مشيئتك<br/> كما في السماء<br/> كذلك على الأرض<br/> أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا<br/> واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا<br/> كما نحن نغفر<br/> لمن أخطأ وأساء إلينا<br/> ولا تدخلنا في التجارب<br/> لكن نجنا من الشرير<br/> أمين</p> | <p>قانون الايمان<br/> نؤمن بالله واحد<br/> أب ضابط الكل<br/> خالق السماء والأرض<br/> كل ما يرى وما لا يرى<br/> ويرب واحد يسوع المسيح<br/> ابن الله الوحيد<br/> المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور<br/> إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق<br/> مولود غير مخلوق<br/> مساو للأب في الجوهر<br/> الذي به كان كل شيء<br/> الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا<br/> نزل من السماء<br/> وتجسد بالروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء<br/> وصار إنساناً<br/> وصلىب عنا على عهد بيبلاطس البنطي<br/> وتألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب<br/> وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الأب<br/> وسياتي أيضاً بمجد عظيم<br/> ليدين الأحياء والأموات<br/> الذي لا فناء لملكه<br/> وبالروح القدس<br/> الرب المحيي<br/> المنبثق من الأب والإبن<br/> الذي هو مع الأب والإبن<br/> يُسجد له ويُمجّد<br/> الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل<br/> ويكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية<br/> ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا<br/> وننتظر قيامة الأموات والحياة في الدهر الآتي<br/> أمين</p> |
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