

Philoptochos Spiritual Reflection May 1, 2020

Christ is Risen!

During the entire year of 2020, we the faithful Orthodox Christians commemorate the repose of St. Nektarios the WonderWorker, who fell asleep in the Lord 100 years ago! Thus, this reflection consists of a short teaching that our beloved Saint included in his extensive writings. In it, St. Nektarios reminds us that it is a privilege to both love...and worship...God.

“The Lord has taught us, therefore, two forms of worship: The first is the worship of praise, doxology and thanksgiving, offered through Him to God the Father in our private prayers and devotions, but especially in our common Eucharistic assemblies as practiced by the Church. The second is worship through good works and the sharing of our possessions with others, which, through their offering, can serve as acts indicative of our relations with God and our neighbor. We therefore are worshipping in spirit and truth whenever we are offering, through steadfast faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, praises, doxological blessing and thanksgivings to God the Father, as well as benefactions to our neighbor. In other words, the worship of God in spirit and truth is based upon the principle commandment of all of the commandments, namely, our love for God and neighbor. Consequently, only then do we worship God in spirit and truth whenever we love our Lord Jesus Christ and our neighbor, not merely with words, but by confessing this reality with actions as well. Otherwise, every effort on our part, every other struggle, will be in vain; it will be like trying to build upon sand, and thus allowing the winds and the rivers at the time of a storm to carry away the labors of our efforts and to leave us completely barren.”

Offered by Fr. Paul Tsahakis (St. Nektarios/St Dionysios Hospital, Aegina)