

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

## **+ St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church in Hamilton +**

Sermon by His Grace Bishop Youssef on March 8 2010 in honor of Pope Kyrillos VI's Remembrance Day

### **Pope Kyrillos VI was a Man of God**

#### **1 Timothy 6:3-11**

<sup>3</sup> If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, <sup>4</sup> **he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words**, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, <sup>5</sup> useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of* gain. From such withdraw yourself.

<sup>6</sup> Now godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. <sup>8</sup> And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. <sup>9</sup> **But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.** <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. <sup>11</sup> **But you, O man of God, flee these things** and **pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness**

#### **1- Man of God must Flee from:**

- Love of money
- Youthful Lusts
- Ego (love of yourself)

#### **1 John 2:16**

<sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world—the **lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world.

#### **We see that Jesus in the wilderness was tempted with these three things:**

**1- Luke 4:3** *And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."* – **this is the lust of the flesh, to feed the wants of the flesh**

**2- Luke 4:5** *Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.* - **this is the lust of the eyes, to feed what the eye sees**

**3- Luke 4:9-11** <sup>9</sup> *Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup> For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,' <sup>11</sup> and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"* - **this is the pride of life, that if He fell, the people would see the angels carrying Jesus down such that not even a stone would hit his foot.**

### We also see that Eve was also battled with these 3 things as well:

- 1- **Genesis 3:4-5** <sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." – **This was PRIDE, telling her that she will become LIKE GOD.**
- 2- **Genesis 3:6** <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes...- **This was the lust of the eyes, that she saw that the tree was good for food and pleasant to the eyes**
- 3- **Genesis 3:6** ...she took of its fruit and ate – **Fulfilling the lust of the flesh and eating**

This is why in the life of monasticism is about (حياة ال رهبان):

- 1- A life of chastity or celibacy (abstaining from any lusts of the flesh)
- 2- Have no money (or very very little of it)
- 3- Live a life of obedience (and this is against the PRIDE)

### Luke 9:23-25

<sup>23</sup> Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.** <sup>24</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. <sup>25</sup> **For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?**

- "Let him deny himself" – against the ego

- "take up his cross daily" – against the pleasures

- "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost" – against love of money and worldly things

All people are fought with these 3 things.

When the bible mentions the word 'FLEE', there is a sense of danger. That's why when the Angels came to Lot when he was in Sodom, they told him to FLEE

### Genesis 19:17

<sup>17</sup> As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "**Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!**"

Another example of fleeing is Joseph. He fled from Potiphar's wife when she tried to seduce him.

### Genesis 39:9 & 11-12

9...How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

<sup>11</sup> But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, <sup>12</sup> that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, **and fled and ran outside**

### When we flee, where do we go?

When we are tempted, flee with God's name: "have mercy on me O God, for I am a sinner"

Spiritual discipline to practice, whenever tempted say: "Lord Help me, Lord have mercy, Lord Save me"

"Ya rab 2a3eny, ya Rab ir7amny, ya Rab Khalisny"

And this is what the tax collector said in the **Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican**

### Luke 18:13

<sup>13</sup> And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, **'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'**

Therefore we see that **'The Man of God'** is battled with these 3 things

## 2- The man of God must follow these 6 principles:

- Righteousness & Godliness
- Faith & Love
- Patience & Gentleness

### 1 Timothy 6:11

<sup>11</sup> *But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness*

#### Righteousness & Godliness

**Godliness:** the inner life you live with God, your own personal relationship with Him

**Righteousness:** the outward life with God, the good works you do such as helping the poor.

But both have to be together, I can't just have good works that show off myself, or that cover up bad things. The Pharisees had a lot righteous acts in front of the people, but they had no Godliness, no true inner relationship with God.

#### Faith & Love

We must start with the TRUE and CORRECT faith which is: **the true knowledge of God.**

We automatically start having more and more love in our hearts as we grow in our faith.

The love of God is revealed in the love of others.

#### 1 John 4:20

<sup>20</sup> *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?*

The one whose heart is full of love, he will do the works of righteousness as second nature without thinking.

Faith → (leads to) Godliness (having an inner and personal relationship with God)

Love → Works of righteousness

#### Patience & Gentleness

Righteousness, godliness, faith and love all require patience.

**Ex.** If we don't have patience when are serving and doing work, we don't end up finishing the good works we started. We must be patient till the end!

#### Luke 8:15

<sup>15</sup> *But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, **keep it and bear fruit with patience***

#### Hebrews 10:36

<sup>36</sup> *For you have need of **endurance**, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise*

**Endurance:** A state or quality of lasting or duration; lastingness; continuance. [1913 Webster Dictionary].

According to the definition of this word, we must have patience in order to endure.

In our spiritual life we also must have patience!

#### James 1:4

<sup>4</sup> *But let **patience have its perfect work**, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing*

In Righteousness & Godliness I must be patient

When I'm patient in my spiritual life and my spiritual struggles, I start becoming transformed into the likeness of Christ, the 1<sup>st</sup> thing to show is the **Gentleness.**

### **Matthew 5:5**

<sup>5</sup> *Blessed are the meek,  
For they shall inherit the earth.*

**Meek:** Mild of temper; not easily provoked or irritated; patient under injuries; not vain, or haughty, or resentful; forbearing; submissive; gentle. [1913 Webster Dictionary] = **GENTLENESS**  
When someone is gentle with others, you hear that he is loved and respected by all people.

## **3- The man of God must 'fight the good fight'**

### **1 Timothy 6:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.* <sup>13</sup> *I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,*

We must fight the good fight that is founded upon the correct faith!

To flee we must fight and struggle against the sin.

#### **What is the good fight?**

- To struggle against sin to the point of death instead of committing the sin.
- Worshipping God according to His commandments.

Ex. A player who plays any kind of game, must play with the rules in order to win.

We have to fight the good fight according to the law that we abide by.

### **John 4:24**

<sup>24</sup> *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

#### **What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth?**

It means that we must commit ourselves to the spiritual and Godly ways of living

And we must live by the spirit.

### **Galatians 5:25**

<sup>25</sup> *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

When we fight the good fight we are clinging on to the eternal life. Some people think that denying going to heaven is humility. THIS IS WRONG! I must have hope in the destination I'm going to: HEAVEN! And this hope will make me enthusiastic about fighting the good fight!

Ex. A student has hope in passing, therefore he studies hard!

### **Hebrews 2:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> *For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,* <sup>3</sup> *how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him*

Ex:

A man is taking his car to go on a certain trip; there are two types of extremes in the way he may think

1-When asked "Will you get to where you need to go?" he says "NO"

2-Says "YES I will reach no matter what road I go on"

**This cannot work because in the 1<sup>st</sup> case, we must have HOPE that we will get to our destination.**

**And in the 2<sup>nd</sup> case, this won't work because not every road leads to the same destination!**

**Our Coptic Orthodox Church teaches us that we should hold on to the promise of heaven!!!**

## **Matthew 11:28**

<sup>28</sup> *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

We are all called to heaven; the eternal fire is for Satan and his soldiers. HEAVEN IS FOR US!

Confess the good confession on the day of your baptism. CONFESS CHRIST! And present this confession in front of the priest and the congregation.

## **4- The Man of God must hold to the commandments**

### **1 Timothy 6:14**

<sup>14</sup> *that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,*

The man of God must hold to the commandments without spot or blame. A lot of people live two lives: God & World. This means that they don't follow God fully or completely.

**Example:** A man can live a Godly life with church and be very devout to the church but then when comes his wedding he does it like the world Dancing all night and drinking alcohol with all the guests.

We cannot love the world and God at the same time.

### **Luke 16:13**

<sup>13</sup> *"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other*

**Biblical Example:** Lot's wife, she fled and followed out of Sodom but she looked back because her heart was divided.

We must follow the commandments till our Lord's coming; this can mean 1 of 2 things

- 1- Death
- 2- The second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

We take from Jesus the strength of God on the cross; with His death we take life. We must hold on till the end! With the power of the cross we are given the eternal life from our Lord Jesus Christ, to Him be the glory, the honor and the dominion forever, AMEN!

Summary Points:

### **1- Man of God must Flee from:**

- Love of money
- Youthful Lusts
- Ego (love of yourself)

### **2- The man of God must follow these 6 principles:**

- Righteousness & Godliness
- Faith & Love
- Patience & Gentleness

### **3- The man of God must 'fight the good fight'**

### **4- The Man of God must hold to the commandments**

***+ Glory be to God forever +***