

Saints Peter & Paul
Byzantine Catholic Church
107 South Fourth Street
Minersville, PA 17954

St. Mary's (Dormition of the Mother of God)
Byzantine Catholic Church
131 South Morris Street
Saint Clair, PA 17970

Saints Peter & Paul Rectory: (570) 544-2074

Website: www.sspeterandpaulminersville.com

Email: tvrgjn@outlook.com

Served by: Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga, Pastor

SS. Peter & Paul Cantor: Mr. Paul Konkus

St. Mary Cantor: Dr. Peter Yasenchak

CONFESSIONS: Sts. Peter & Paul: Saturday 2:45-3:30 PM

St. Mary's: Saturday 1:00 – 1:30 PM

SICK CALLS: As scheduled, or anytime in case of an emergency. If anyone is homebound or hospitalized, please call the rectory (544-2074)

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Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home

Minersville, PA 544-5111

Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

The Dormition

O most holy Mother of God, after heaven and earth were honored by your presence, how is it possible to accept that your departure has left men deprived of your protection? Let it never occur to us to think in this way. For just as you, when living in this world, never felt estranged from a heavenly life, even so, after your departure, you are not spiritually separated from the [earthly] existence of men. If, on the one hand, you were consecrated as the heavenly tabernacle of God, because you held the Son of the Most High within you, your womb being capable of carrying His weight; on the other hand, you have been called the spiritual earth, because you received His body within you. Thus it is right to think that, since you were intimately united with God during all of your earthly sojourn, you never abandoned those who continue to live in this world, when you left this world's life.

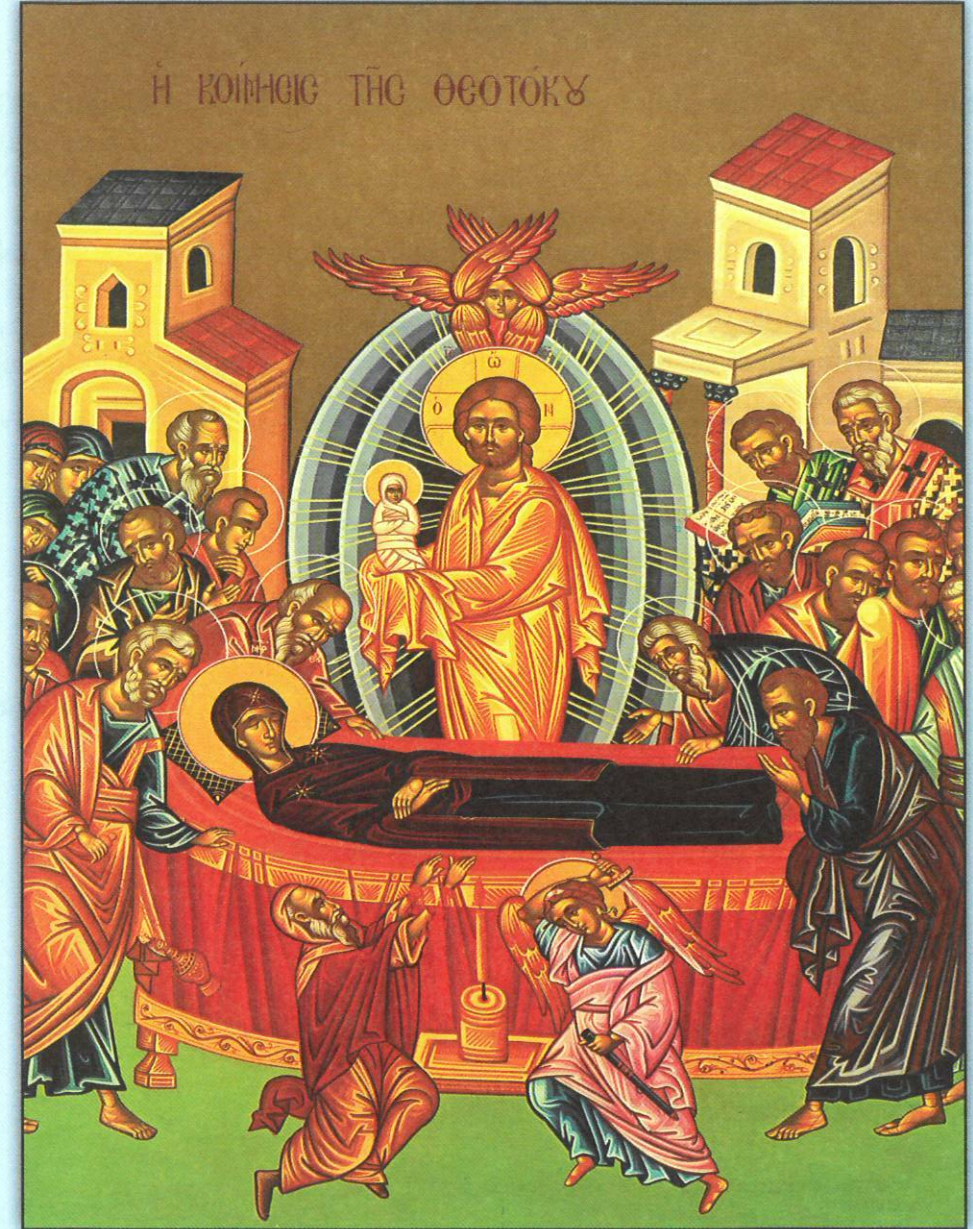
We however, accustomed to venerate you

faithfully, uselessly say: Why were we not considered worthy to have you stay with us in your bodily presence? Therefore we call thrice blessed those who delighted in the contemplation of your earthly existence, those who helped you, O Mother of life, as your companions in life. In any case, still desiring that you might dwell bodily in our midst, the eyes of our souls are compelled to look toward you daily.

Indeed, as you were a fellow citizen of our ancestors, even so you dwell with us spiritually, and your ample protection in our regard is like a sign that you are with us. We all hear your voice, and all our voices reach your ears. Through the protection you offer us, we are known by you. We, in our turn, recognize your ever-wonderful assistance. Nothing, not even death, can come between you and your servants.

St. Germanus of Constantinople

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos -- August 15th

**10th Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 1**

Welcome to the parish communities of SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Churches of Minersville and Saint Clair, Pennsylvania. We greet and welcome you to our Church. Our Church is a holy place. Our Church is where we get together in Jesus' Name. it is holy because we come here to worship, to be nourished in faith through Sacred Scripture and preaching, to open our hearts and minds to celebrate the mystery of salvation in Jesus Christ and to dedicate ourselves to a life of holiness and service to the Lord and others. The church building itself reflects this faith and calls us to enter into communion with God. We invite you to share our faith in Jesus Christ, to experience our worship and to live a life dedicated to the service of God and one another in Jesus' Name.

August 14 – August 20, 2022

All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p. m. + **Earl Kostura** req. by John, Helen & Julia Krue

Sunday

8:00 a.m. +**Edward & +Sophia Demkko & son, Edward** req. by Theresa Wagner
(at St. Mary)

10:00 a.m. **Health & Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
livestreamed

Monday **Dormition of the Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation**

9:00 a.m. **Health & Blessing of the Parishioners** (at St. Mary)

6:00 p.m. +**Helen Platko** req. by Anna Adey (at SS Peter & Paul)

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. +**Metro M. Cremo, Sr.** req. by Emil & Leona Seginak

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. +**Ceclia Belas** req. by Ron & Dolores Kramer

Friday

8:00 a.m. +**Jeanette Lohin** req. by Joanne & Ray Labenberg

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p.m. +**Julia & +Anthony Vasura** req. by The Family

Epistle Readers: 7/9 – Marie Wanchick; 7/10 – Beverly Kostishak; 7/16 – Dolores Kramer; 7/17 – Laura Mitchell; 7/20 – Marie Wanchick; 7/23 – Judy Kostura; 7/24 – Ellen Sinkovich; 7/30 – Dolores Kramer; 7/31 – Paulette Murphy; 8/6 – Ellen Sinkovich; 8/7 – Jannifer Keer; 8/13 – Beverly Kostishack; 8/14 – Anna Keer; 8/15 – Judy Kostura; 8/20 – Marie Wanchick; 8/21 – Gail Burgess; 8/27 – Paulette Murphy; 8/28 – Laura Mitchell; 8/29 – Marie Wanchick.. (If you cannot be present for any time, kindly contact another reader to cover for you).

Candle Offering: Mother of God – Peace in the World.

Monday, August 15 is a Holy Day of Obligation of the Dormition of the Theotokos. Traditionally, we bless flowers on this day. A table will be set up in front of the sacramental table (tetrapod) for this purpose.

To help prepare for this Holy Day an Akathist will be celebrated at SS Peter and Paul on Wednesday evening and a Moleben on Friday evening at St. Mary Church.

Dormition of St. Mary Church News:

Monday, August 15, a Holy Day of Obligation, is also the patronal title of our parish. It is through the patronage of the Holy Theotokos that our parish has existed to this day. To commemorate this happy event, we will have a brunch following the Divine Liturgy on Monday morning. All are invited to attend. Please fill out the reservation form at the bottom, to give us an idea of the amount to prepare for. Yes, this is helpful.

Yes, I plan to attend the Brunch on Monday, August 15

Name _____

Number Attending _____

Did You Know That ...

...we should love our spouses when they least deserve it because that is when they really need it?

...you should not marry the person you think you can live with; marry only the individual you think you can't live without?

...marriage is the union of two people one of whom never remembers birthdays and the other who never forgets them?

...love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same promising direction?

...one of the best hearing aids a man can have is an attentive wife?

...a woman works ten years to change a man's habits and then complains he is not the man she married?

...marriage is not only spiritual communion; it is also the practical remembering to take out the trash?

...marriage in the Church is being Christ to each other?

...we can only get off to a good start in life when Christ is at the starting line and at the finishing one as well?

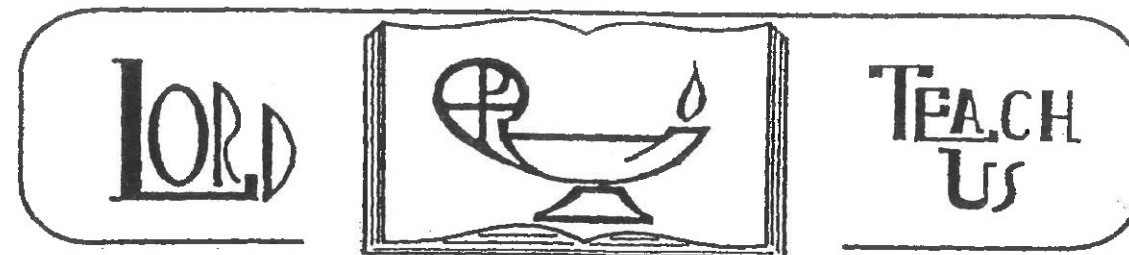
...all that we do in our lives should be motivated by fulfilling Christ's will?

..."I love you" is the expression we all need to hear more often?

...one important responsibility of each spouse in marriage is to help the other become what God has intended them to be?

...spouses should be, after Christ, each other's best friend?

...marriage is not only for this short life time, but a fulfilling union for all eternity?



Temptation

Blessed be the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proven, he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him. No one experiencing temptation should say, "I am being tempted by God" for God is not subject to temptation to evil and he himself tempts no one. Rather, each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire conceives and brings forth sin, and when it reaches maturity, it gives birth to death James 1: 12 – 15.

...and lead us not into temptation... Matthew 6: 13; Luke 11: 4.

Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works. Forty years I loathed that generation and I said, They are a people of erring heart, and they know not my ways. Therefore, I swore in my anger; they shall not enter into my rest" Psalms 95: 8 – 11.

There is cause for rejoicing here. You may for a time have to suffer the distress of many temptations, but this is so that your faith, which is more precious than the passing splendor of fire-tried gold, may by its genuineness lead to praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ appears 1 Peter 1: 6.

No test has been sent to you that does not come to all men. Besides, God keeps his promise. He will not let you be tempted beyond your strength. Along with the test he will give you a way out of it so that you may be able to endure it 1 Corinthians 10: 13.

My brothers, account it pure joy when you are involved in every sort of trial. Realize that when your faith is tested this makes for endurance. Let endurance come to its perfection so that you may be fully mature and lacking in nothing James 1: 2 - 4.

Life – Style Danger!

“My point is that you should live in accord with the spirit and you will not yield to the cravings of the flesh. The flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh; the two are directly opposed. That is why you do not do what your will intends...It is obvious what proceeds from the flesh: lewd conduct, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, bickering, jealousy, outbursts of rage, selfish rivalries, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I have warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” Galatians 5: 16 – 21.

There is great danger for some who profess to be followers of the Lord. It is the danger of being deceived into thinking that we will not be held accountable for a continued life-style of sin. The revelation of God to us says, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God” 1 Corinthians 6: 9, 10.

The sinful acts of the flesh is a reference to a lifestyle, not mere isolated instances or acts of sin. If believers “fall” into such acts and sincerely repent, God will forgive and restore His fellowship to them. “...if we acknowledge our sins, he who is just can be trusted to forgive our sin and cleanse us from every wrong” 1 John 1: 9. But a continued lifestyle identified with this behavior reveals an absence of God’s presence, a soul who is lost, destined to spend eternity in the lake of fire “As for the cowards, and traitors to the faith, the depraved and murderers, the fornicators and sorcerers, the idol-worshippers and deceivers of every sort – their lot is the fiery pool of burning sulphur, the second death” Revelation 21: 8. “Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God” 3 John 1:11.

The following is the incomplete list of sinful works of the flesh and their definition. The Scripture warns rather plainly that persons with these kinds of lifestyle acts will not inherit the kingdom of God. A careful reading should permit a realistic self-examination.

Adultery means to depart or break the marriage covenant. The Hebrew word for adultery, *nsaph* is similar meaning to break wedlock. The word adultery does not necessarily refer to

Meekness

Asked to name the most severe temptation in a monastery, one monastic responded swiftly and instinctively, “Anger!” St. John Climacus says that a monk in community is like a hard edged stone constantly rubbing against others like itself. Eventually, these sharp rocks are worn smooth and polished by the friction. St. Basil the Great says something similar in his *Long Rules*. He praises community life by asking his monks how they could possibly keep the commandment of love unless they lived with genuinely annoying people. You do not need to live in a monastic community to appreciate this very patristic insightful humor. Few of us are so meek that we can confidently lay claim to the reward of the third Beatitude. A careless word from a spouse, a nuanced expression of a friend, a child doing childish things, a noise not welcomed. How long we could make this list!

And how far detoured would the items on such a list lead us from the true purpose for which the Father gave us the *gift* of anger? Anger is the proper response to all that is unholy, ungodly, unjust. It is a kind of psychic pain response meant to alert us to the presence of real spiritual danger. But once the danger is recognized and steps taken to avert it, what place has anger in our lives? None. Once the Temple was cleansed of its money-changers, the Lord was able to return to that meekness which enabled him to forgive on the Cross.

Ours is indeed an angry age. “I’m offended” has replaced “I disagree” in both private conversation and in public discourse. Anger today seems to have claimed the prerogatives that were once reserved for reason. Since we think so little we reason even less. We permit past ghosts of infantile behavior to surface with vehemence and justify them with our publicly disclosed anger. God’s revelation to us as well as the insights of the Fathers warn us that rage reduces us to the level of snarling beasts, but since we rarely hold a mirror up to ourselves when so inflamed, we do not believe God or his spokesmen. Today many seem to see in anger’s very irrationality its highest quality. They thus speak to themselves, “I have a *right* to be angry; you *made* me angry.” And yet the wise counsels of Christian ascetics remind us that in fact no one can really *make* us angry. No one has the power to take away what our God has given us, that Resurrection assurance that life and justice are ultimately stronger than death and iniquity. Christian asceticism also teaches us the only “right” guaranteed to humans is the right to God’s love. Grounded in God’s own Word, this alone stands sure and steadfast. Every time we attempt to invest some lesser thought with the quality of a divine promise, we are bound for sorrow as we unleash torrents of ill-will within ourselves. The final answer to chronic anger is not more human justice. It is greater, deeper, profounder faith in the Lord’s boundless love, mercy and justice.

would be saved, only those who live their lives in accordance with His teaching. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven" Matthew 7: 21.

Of one's lifestyle consists of works and simple activity of the flesh, there is only one thing that can detour a dreadful destination. Repentance with absolute forsaking of the fleshy life-style of sin and debauchery must take place. Repentance means to "...turn around and walk in a new lifestyle" 2 Corinthians 7: 10. Any person who truly repents and confesses his sins is empowered by the Spirit of God to walk in a new lifestyle. Scripture testifies that "...old things pass away and all things become new" 1 Corinthians 5: 17. Instead of justifying continued sinful behavior, those who wish to follow Christ must forsake a lifestyle of sin and walk in the newness of Christ's life. "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires" Romans 6: 12.

No one should misunderstand. We are not implying believers will never stumble into sin or imperfection. "I am writing this to keep you from sin. But if anyone should sin, we have, in the presence of the Father, Jesus Christ, an intercessor who is just" 1 John 2: 1. But the genuine experience of God's forgiveness produces good works in us. "Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that without good works faith is dead" James 2: 20? In effect, a godly change in a person's lifestyle becomes necessary if the presence of the Holy Spirit is sustained. The same Holy Spirit who imparts grace to forgive and wash away all your sins "The law of the spirit, the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, has freed you from the law of sin and death" Romans 8: 2, also brings a new nature, to which we are to yield our lives. "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" Galatians 5: 16.

The grace of God and forgiveness is available for all manner of sin, whatever it may be. Jesus will forgive all sins we devoutly with repentance, reverently confess in the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation. We must also remember to forsake them as well. "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy" Proverbs 28: 13. True and genuine repentance means we will make every effort not to repeat our former sins and will seek to walk in the nature of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Such was David's desire in his repentant prayer, "Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" Psalms 50: 9, 10.

sex, but deals primarily with the betrayal of a sacred covenant and commitment. Adultery is a sin of unfaithfulness and describes the sinful sexual activity of a married person with another who is not the spouse. "What I say to you is: anyone who looks lustfully at a woman has already committed adultery with her in his thoughts" Matthew 5: 28.

Fornication Harlotry, sexual impurity, sometimes used as a spiritual metaphor of idolatry. This includes premarital sex, homosexual sex, or any sexual activity outside the sanctions of marriage and describes the sinful sexual activity of single people, those not married to each other. "Shun lewd conduct. Every other sin a man commits is outside his body, but the fornicator sins against his own body" 1 Corinthians 6: 18.

Uncleanness is impurity, or foul, demonic activity. "Since we have these promises, beloved, let us purify ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, and in fear of God, strive to fulfill our consecration perfectly" 2 Corinthians 7: 1.

Lewdness is best characterized as licentiousness, lasciviousness, lack of restraint. "Athletes deny themselves all sorts of things. They do this to win a crown of leaves that withers, but we a crown that is imperishable" 1 Corinthians 9: 25.

Idolatry is image worship which is often associated with worshipping an idol, but God's revelation to us links it to covetousness because it can also be the worship of material possessions, including self or anything but God. "Put to death whatever in your nature is rooted in earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desires and that lust which is idolatry" Colossians 3: 5.

Sorcery means misuse of drugs, involvement in magic, witchcraft or that which deceives, manipulates or controls self or another. "For a sin like divination is rebellion, and presumption is the crime of idolatry" 1 Samuel 15: 23.

Hatred is hostility, opposition, enmity "Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer and you know that eternal life abides in no murderer's heart" 1 John 3: 15; Bitterness, hatred, and unforgiveness is contrary to every principle of the faith of Christ inasmuch as those who retain

unforgiveness cannot be forgiven their own sins. "If you forgive the faults of others, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours; if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive you" Matthew 6: 14.

Contentions occur when we quarrel, wrangle, keep at variance with others, contend in arguments, debate and cause strife. "Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Christ's peace must reign in your hearts, since as members of the one body you have been called to that peace" Colossians 3: 12 – 15.

Jealousy is envy, indignation, emulating with spiteful zeal the heat of the grudge. "Jealousy is cruel as the grave, relentless as the nether world..." Song of Songs 8: 6.

Wrath is passion, as if breathing hard, with fierceness, or indignation. "...for a man's anger does not fulfill God's justice" James 1: 20."...when he will repay every man for what he has done...wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. Yes, affliction and anguish will come upon every man who has done evil" Romans 2: 8, 9.

Selfish Ambition means separating, dividing factious provocation and contention which divides the unity of believers in the Church. "Where there are jealousy and strife, there are also inconstancy and all kinds of vile behavior" James 3: 16.

Dissension is disunion, division and separation from other believers and from Christ, the Truth; it is descent into error. "I beg you to be on the watch against those who cause dissension and scandal, contrary to the teaching you have received. Avoid their company. Such men serve, not Christ our Lord, but their own bellies, and they deceive the simpleminded with smooth and flattering speech" Romans 16: 17, 18.

Heresy is a choice for separation, to take error to one's self, or to prefer dishonesty. Heresy is a term which describes false teachings, but it means more than simply that. It is a proclivity or preference for that which brings disunity to the Body of Christ and draws persons apart into

dissenting groups. Heresy does not necessarily have to be false teaching, but can be pressing opinions which serve to divide, rather than unite God's people. "In times past there were false prophets among God's people, and among you also there will be false teachers who will smuggle in pernicious heresies. They will go so far as to deny the Master who acquired them for his own, thereby bringing on themselves swift disaster. Their hateful ways will allure many away. Through them the true way will be made subject to contempt" 2 Peter 2: 1, 2.

Envy is spiteful ill-will. "I fear that when I come I may not find you to my liking, nor may you find me to yours. I fear I may find discord, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, slander and gossip, self-importance, disorder. I fear that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you and I may have to mourn over the many who sinned earlier and have not repented..." 2 Corinthians 12: 20, 21.

Murder indicates slaughter, unjust killing and depriving someone of life. "The father you spring from is the devil and willingly you carry out his wishes. He brought death to man from the beginning and has never based himself on truth; the truth is not in him" John 8: 44.

Drunkenness describes intoxication, being under the influence of liquor or drugs, being drunk. It is during this time that man is susceptible to descending deeper into sin since his inhibitions are weakened. "Avoid getting drunk on wine, that leads to debauchery. Be filled with the Spirit" Ephesians 5: 18.

Revelries is riotous wild- partying with no dignity or sensible purpose. "Already you have devoted enough time to what the pagans enjoy, living lives of debauchery, evil desires, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and wanton idolatry. It is no wonder that those blasphemers are surprised when you do not plunge into the same swamp of profligacy as they" 1 Peter 4: 3, 4.

God's revelation to us in Scripture warns, "...they who do such thing shall not inherit the kingdom of God" Galatians 5: 21. It goes without saying this is an extremely serious warning affecting man's destiny.

Unfortunately, there are so-called professing believers, people who do go to church on Sundays, who assume that because they call Jesus their Lord, He will wink graciously at these so-called "character flaws." However, Jesus warned that not all who profess to be his followers