

Let's follow the Shepherd!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2021 Alexandra Houck.
Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

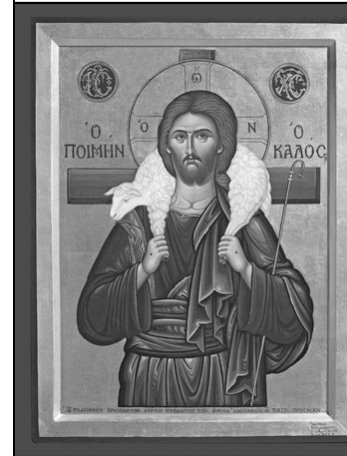
Sunday, March 7, 2021

Volume 9, Issue 10

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Goats and sheep



Have you ever seen a goat? Maybe you have visited a farm and fed the animals. Maybe you have some goats that you take care of yourself.

Did you notice today's Gospel reading says a little about sheep and goats? Jesus tells about how God will judge us all. He will put some people on one side and other people on the other side, just "as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."

Do you know something about goats? They are stubborn animals. It's hard to get them to do something. They are smart, but they don't do things they don't *want* to do. They just think about what *they* want to do. Sheep are different, because they usually follow the shepherd. They go where the shepherd wants them to go.

God doesn't want us to be like the goats! God doesn't want us to be stubborn. He doesn't want us to think about ourselves all the time and what *we* want to do. God doesn't want us to run off and get into trouble (like goats always do!). God wants us to stick with the Shepherd. And who's the Shepherd? Well, God is the Shepherd, the loving Shepherd who is always looking out for His sheep.

Let's think about how we can be more like sheep, and less like goats. Can you think of times you think about what *you* want too much? Can you think of how you can think about what *others* want?

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Desert
- Egypt
- Fasting
- Goats
- Grace
- Judgment
- Love
- Paul
- Prayer
- Sheep
- Shepherd
- Simple

S G J I J M M G A S N M R S C
 I H D V O P C L I E P W S X O
 O Z E F C A K M E B C S D W G
 J H B P V U P M F W D M E S H
 Y P G P H L L I Q X P E Q Z S
 G I S D E E K Y T V N H N O P
 D R E Q P Q R J U D G M E N T
 G V A E Q O R D G R S L R M T
 O N E C K G E D D F H G U P Y
 P H I F E C Y C U A L G Y W V
 S V I T O V A L B X C G G E Z
 Z S O Y S H R O F K E I Q H D
 W G K A C A P V Q Q H K A K H
 G O A T S F F E D N L N R F L
 G M X T R E S E D V Y R L J T

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?



Saint Paul the Simple became an old man in the desert, but he didn't take it easy with a comfortable life!

He prayed and fasted and lived in the hot Egyptian desert!

SAINT PAUL THE SIMPLE BLESSED SIMPLICITY

Have you ever heard somebody call a person “simple”? Usually, it doesn't mean something good! Somebody simple might be somebody who isn't too smart or doesn't understand anything!

But today we celebrate Saint Paul the Simple, and “simple” for this saint was a great compliment! Saint Paul was simple, because he knew the simplest thing—that he wanted to love God and to serve Him! In a way, life was simple for this saint, because he knew that one thing.

Do you want to hear an example of how Saint Paul was simple? Well, when he was 60 years old, he knew that he wanted to live in the desert in Egypt. He wanted to become a monk. He visited the great Saint Anthony, who lived there. Saint Anthony told Paul he was too old; he told him he couldn't live such a hard life in the desert. But Saint Paul stood outside Saint Anthony's hut for three days. He didn't argue. He didn't complain. He just waited. Finally, Anthony knew Paul was serious, and he guided him to become a monk, praying and living in the desert.

God saw Saint Paul's love for Him. He saw his simple ways. God gave him special gifts, and Saint Paul was able to heal people (even one Saint Anthony the Great wasn't able to heal!) God loves the simple!

We celebrate St. Paul the Simple today, March 7th (OC: March 20th).

