Russia

2019

### Prayers

† Blessed is our God always, as it is now, was in the beginning, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. ... in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Through the prayers of our holy Ancestors, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen. Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, You are everywhere and fill all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

† Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us (three times).

† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it is now, was in the beginning, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

“Ὁ θεός, ἱλάσθητί μοι τῷ ἁμαρτωλῷ.” — Luke 18:13[[1]](#footnote-1)

“Ἰησοῦ, μνήσθητί μου ὅταν ἔλθῃς ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου.” — Luke 23:42[[2]](#footnote-2)

“David ascended in the Ascent of Olives, ascending and weeping, with head covered, he went barefoot; and each person with him covered his head, so they went up, ascending and weeping.” — 2 Samuel 15:30

“The sowers will reap in joy. The ones going, went and wept, casting their seeds; yet, the ones coming, will come in exultation, carrying their sheaves.” — Psalm 125:5-6 LXX [126:5-6][[3]](#footnote-3)

“Send away your bread on the surface of the water: because, in a multitude of days you will find it.” — Ecclesiastes 11:1

“Indisputably great is the good-worship mystery: Who was clearly displayed in [the] flesh; Who defended righteousness in [the] Spirit; Who was witnessed by messengers; Who was proclaimed internationally; Who was believed cosmically; Who was taken up in Glory.” — 1 Timothy 3:16

“…: for, when prophecy came, not by human will: but, being carried by [the] Holy Spirit, humans, spoke from God.” — 2 Peter 1:21

“These [Bereans] were better-begotten than the [people] in Thessaloníki; who welcomed the Word with all enthusiasm: daily examining the writings if He might have it so.” — Acts 17:11

### Introduction

It would be natural to suppose that our convictions about Russia grew out of our growing understanding of 1054. Actually, it is the opposite which is true. Granted, the study of 1054 did pick up some new ideas; but, for the most part, the new ideas were being driven by the always complicated and often confusing attempt to understand USSR, Russia, MP, OCA, ROCOR, ROAC, ROCA, ROA, communism, atheism, and the like.

Many other readers (students) of this agglomerate mixture, include the Russian people in this discussion: we do not. We view the Russian people, by and large, as innocent sheep being rent and tortured by ravaging wolves. We never, ever, in our discussion refer to the Russian people, except in various applications that impact them as victims: the Russian people, in our view, must be dealt with as a distinct and separate matter. The same thing must be said of the Ukrainian people, the Belarusians, the Balts, the Slavs, and all the other variegated ethnicities that constituted the once massive USSR... or for that matter, the American people, especially the refugees from USSR and elsewhere, who live in the West.

We are writing about the government and the hierarchical leadership of the church primarily: specifically, about those who may be identified as officers of either church or state.

### Timeline[[4]](#footnote-4)

Here we summarize a brief timeline in an attempt to simplify our own understanding of a history that is anything but simple: rather, this history is complex to the point of being tortured. Hence, no real historical solutions are possible; only glimpses of developments are proposed: even these must eventually survive the scrutiny of those who know these developments better than we. We begin with fear and trembling.

1789-99: The French Revolution[[5]](#footnote-5)

1848: Marx, Karl[[6]](#footnote-6) and Friedrich Engels[[7]](#footnote-7) publish *The Communist Manifesto [[8]](#footnote-8)*

In the very same year, 1848: The Year of Revolution[[9]](#footnote-9) sweeps Europe. Causes were: growing widespread famine and poverty among the lower classes (proletariat), and distancing by the upper classes (bourgeoisie), with crop failure (blight), industrialization, and population growth all given as contributing factors.

1898-1912: The Russian Social Democratic Labor Party (RSDLP),[[10]](#footnote-10) the socialist predecessor of the Communist Party is formed as a merger of SBORK[[11]](#footnote-11), Jewish Labor Bund[[12]](#footnote-12), and others.

1914-1918: WW Ⅰ[[13]](#footnote-13) is used as a lever in an attempt to promote Communism.

1916: The Tsarist Government[[14]](#footnote-14) fails, being abolished after the 1917 revolution. In 1918 Nicholas Ⅱ[[15]](#footnote-15) is executed with his entire family.

1917: The Russian Provisional Government[[16]](#footnote-16) fails in less than one year.

That same year, 1917: The Bolsheviks[[17]](#footnote-17), led by Lenin[[18]](#footnote-18) and Bodganov[[19]](#footnote-19) seize power from Martov’s[[20]](#footnote-20) Mensheviks[[21]](#footnote-21) at the October Revolution[[22]](#footnote-22), during which the Red Army[[23]](#footnote-23) was pitted against the White Movement[[24]](#footnote-24).

1921: The Communist Party of China is formed.

1921-…: The Russian Orthodox diaspora in Western Europe[[25]](#footnote-25) functions under Metropolitan Evlogy (Georgiyevsky)[[26]](#footnote-26) from Paris, but never fully aligned with ROCOR.[[27]](#footnote-27)

1922-2007: The Temporary Holy Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, the ROCOR[[28]](#footnote-28) predecessor is established with Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky)[[29]](#footnote-29) at its helm in Serbia.

1922-91: The USSR[[30]](#footnote-30) is established.

1923: The New Calendrist Movement triggers schism, especially in Greece.

1924: Lenin dies and Stalin[[31]](#footnote-31) eventually takes over.

1925: Patriarch Tikhon dies.

1927: Khrapovitsky’s jurisdiction breaks with the MP over the MP’s submission to communism. Some might view this as the real founding of ROCOR.

1936-38: The Great Purge[[32]](#footnote-32) “purifies” the Communist Party and government, killing roughly 1,000,000 people.

1939-45: WW Ⅱ[[33]](#footnote-33)

Circa 1940-79: Communism is established throughout the world.

1945: The Cold War[[34]](#footnote-34) begins.

1947: Truman introduces Containment Doctrine.

1989: The Berlin Wall comes down.

1991: The USSR is dissolved.

2007: ROCOR is integrated into the MP

### Groups

It is impossible to separate the participating groups from the events. At the same time, it is impossible to always discern a direct causative line from the groups to events. It will suffice to identify key characteristics of Christian interest with each group.

Judaism

The commonly agreed and longstanding distinction of Judaism is its rejection of Jesus as the Christ. We are particularly interested in the analysis of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist in this matter, since his analysis is indisputable.

“Little children, it is the last hour. Just as you heard that antichrist comes, even now many antichrists have come; from which we know that it is the last hour.” — 1 John 2:18

“Who is the liar if not the [one] denying that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the [one] denying the Father and the Son.” — 1 John 2:22

“Every spirit that does not agree [about] Jesus, is not out of God. This is the [spirit] of the antichrist, which you have heard that it comes. Now it is already in the world.” — 1 John 4:3

“Because, many deceivers came out into the world, who [are] not agreeing [about] Jesus Christ coming in flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.” — 2 John 1:7

John’s argument is not that hard to follow. He draws a sharp distinction between himself as a believer in Christ, and his kinsmen, the Jews, who do not believe in Christ: a distinction which still applies today. This distinction has several defining identifications: antichrist, liar, denier, deceiver. The denial has two aspects: one, that Jesus is not the [Divine] Christ; two, that Jesus did not come in [human] flesh. This denial also denies the Father.

Hence, John is claiming that since the Jews do not have the Son, neither do they have the Father: in other words, they have no God. The Jews know very well that this is true, living in constant denial, they have covered their willful “ignorance” with Kabbalah, and have replaced everything that Torah says about the Father, with the philosophical Ein Sof, the cold dead god that is not God. So, Judaism, according to John, is a godless religion.

Therefore, let us put away this chronic obfuscation about any Judeo-Christian ethic. Christianity and Judaism have absolutely nothing in common. Judaism is not even a monotheistic religion, except in some dull witted philosophical sense: this supposed deity is merely conceptual and dead, invented in the mind; whereas, Christianity maintains constant communication with God in three living persons.

We have assiduously avoided branding Judaism as atheism: but, it is, in reality, a practical form of atheism… atheism by denial….

Judaism is heavily involved in this Bolshevism, communism mix on at least three frontiers: banking, intellectual, and labor. These three appear to be distinct.

* The Jews have long been involved in banking, lending, and usury… practices forbidden by Torah: however, nearly every other family on earth has become involved in these reprehensible practices, so that it is now impossible to identify specifically Jewish violations of Torah.
* Intellectual pursuits are visible in Spinoza, Marx, and many others; but, again, intermixture with other races makes identification of specific trends impossible.
* Evidently, many Jews were involved as members of the working class, having nothing to do with either banking or intelligentsia, but equally mixed with other peoples.

Antichrist, for John, is not a particular evil person. John’s claim is that antichrist is Judaism.

Bolshevism

Bolshevism is Lenin’s invention. Historically, a division is being made between communism and socialism: communism tends to atheism, while socialism does not. Communism developed with a soft touch under Martov, which was totally unsatisfactory for Lenin, who wanted violent overthrow and war. Under Bolshevism, communism becomes an emphatically and openly declared atheism… scientific-atheism. Judaism has a strong presence in Bolshevism, largely through the working class. The Bolsheviks funded some of their activities through bank robberies.[[35]](#footnote-35)

Communism

Communism has now transitioned until it is an exclusively atheistic ideology. Dialectic-materialism is now the order of the day: which means that the spiritual world, and any reference to it, in their opinion, must not exist. Communism will now turn and rend Judaism, in its agenda of removing all religious belief of any kind. Moreover, Communism in its violent form will now claim many human lives in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, the Balts, and elsewhere: estimates run as high as 50,000,000, which makes the Jewish Holocaust seem like a children’s Sunday picnic. This blood lust will continue in China with even greater numbers. Bodies were often simply bulldozed into unmarked open graves, so it is humanly impossible to know the full extent of death tolls.

Christianity

Christianity is being regularly challenged by claims that Jesus is not the Christ. We wish to make clear, Christianity’s claim that Jesus is eternally the Son of God without reverence to Nicaea.

“The Word was begotten flesh. He camped among us. We saw His Glory, Glory as Only-begotten in parity with [the] Father[[36]](#footnote-36), full of grace and truth.” — John 1:14

“What I have seen in parity with the Father, I say. So, you also, what you heard in parity with[[37]](#footnote-37) the Father, do.” — John 8:38

“No one takes it from Me; but, I lay it down from Myself. I have authority to lay it down. I have authority to take it again. This command I received in parity with[[38]](#footnote-38) My Father.” — John 10:18

This use of para makes it abundantly clear that John believes that Jesus, as the eternal Son is equal in every way to the eternal Father. It is not necessary to multiply verses here. Proofs for the existence of the Spirit as person are also easily found in Scripture.[[39]](#footnote-39) Thus, there is no room for confusion between Christianity and Judaism, or between Christianity and any other religion.[[40]](#footnote-40)

### Atheism

It should be obvious that Christianity opposes atheism in any form. Unfortunately, this is not clearly the case. Millions of Christians have been deceived into buying into the idea of a Judeo-Christian ethic, when no such ethic can possibly exist. If Judaism is atheism by denial; and Communism is the open and outright declaration of atheism; practical atheism deludes many millions more. Practical atheism in the United States alone, deludes as many as 100,000,000 Christians who think nothing of the rampantly growing secularism in American society. It is the obvious existence of this developing secularism, which constitutes the proof that practical atheism is present: people are living as though they did not believe that God exists. So, many Christians think nothing of collaborating with organizations that make the most outrageous antichristian claims.

Our Standard

Atheism is forbidden among any Christian people. People who practice declarations of atheism in any form are not Christians; practical atheists are in the process of becoming not Christians. This is our conviction; this is our first standard of measure.

### Violence

In Society

It is our growing conviction that violence never begets anything good; that if violence is used as a political resolution of problems, that it always produces evil results: because, the unforeseen byproducts of violence spread like poison throughout the rest of human society on earth, only begetting more violence, and confirming in the hearts of others, those errant and evil beliefs they already hold dear. Thus, violence, we believe, only serves to confirm people in their sin.

It is the gentleness of forgiveness that in time extracts this poison from the heart. It is the goodness of God which draws mankind to repentance, never His wrath.

“Or do you despise the wealth of His kindness, forbearance, and patience, being ignorant that the kindness of God leads you into repentance?” — Romans 2:4

In The Church

We cite now again for the third time (twice in *1054*):

[file:///C:/Users/cherb/Downloads/THE\_AGE\_OF\_FAITH%20(4).pdf](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ccherb%5CDownloads%5CTHE_AGE_OF_FAITH%20%284%29.pdf), pages 12-19. We believe this article to be self-contradictory insofar as it advocates autocracy. Justinian’s failed autocracy is not especially different from the abuse of the Moscow Patriarchate by communism. Nevertheless, we agree with Nikon’s views stated here:

“To begin with, we must distinguish between the two distinct ways in which God works within history: through the outer kingdom of nature and the inner Kingdom of Grace. When the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, He declared: “All power [authority] hath been given unto Me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28.18). All power [authority] means just that: power [authority] over both angels and men, both believers and unbelievers, both souls and bodies. Jesus Christ is the supreme King of kings and Lord of lords, “the prince of the kings of the earth” (Revelation 1.5): there is nothing created that is not ruled by Him.” — page 12

“The Church is the visible form of the Kingdom of Christ, its realization on earth, whereby it is destined to embrace the world (Mark 16.15-16; Matthew 28.19-20; Luke 24.47; John 20.23). It is the kingdom that is not of this world (John 18.36), the sphere in which the relationship of man with God is developed (Matthew 22.21; Luke 20.25). Church power by its spiritual character does not consist in the mastery and lordship that are characteristic of earthly power, but in service (Matthew 20.25-27; Mark 9.35).” — Zyzykin, Patriarkh Nikon, Warsaw: Synodal Press, 1931, p. 231 — page 14

It is the second section of this quote that has most weighed upon our consciences.

If violence in any form is intolerable in civil society where, we believe, it only produces toxic results; violence as a solution is absolutely inconceivable in the kingdom of God where we must look into the eyes of Christ crucified and claim that we thought we were doing His will. Violence is impossible and inexcusable among a Christian people; because, it is the ultimate act of unforgiveness: it is the very root and branch denial of the essence of Christianity, which is forgiveness, mercy, love, and all the like. Indeed, the mandate of Christ is that we lay down our lives for others; never to wage war against them: but, rather, as Christ laid down His life for us, we are to continue to do so, taking up our crosses to follow Jesus as His Church.

Hence, it is unthinkable for any Christian to solve the problems of the kingdom of God on earth by violence: and we shrink in terror from any such grave sin.

Christians in Uniform

For those Christians who are trapped in military service, where it is impossible to solve spiritual problems by physical violence; we weep on your behalf when your duties press you into violence in civil, political, secular matters: for, all such acts of violence constitute grave sin, and we can only cry out to God for your quick repentance and healing. We also pray for Christians trapped in military service; their urgent need for understanding the gravity of their danger: that they might seek discharge from military duties and responsibilities as quickly as possible.

Our Standard

No good can come of violence in any form; not in civil, political, secular life: least of all in spiritual life, in the kingdom of God, in the Church of Jesus Christ on earth. This is our conviction; this is our second standard of measure.

### Communism

Atheism

Let us not mince words about this. Communism unleashed upon the world the worst form of antichrist the world has yet known; communism was, from the Bolshevism onward, a total war of atheism: it was determined to destroy all religion in any form, not just Christianity. Thus, communism, by its own decree, attempted, and still attempts, to create a human-centric religion of no religion.

Condemnation

Thus, we are compelled to denounce and renounce every political leader involved in such a system. However, if we use such a standard for civil, political, secular leaders in communism; how do we avoid, or should we avoid, applying such a standard to other human governments, throughout space and history? We cannot, we must not, we are compelled to live by one single standard: a double standard is clearly wrong.

Violence

So, when communism began to turn and rend, with extreme malice and violence, the very Jews who created it, as well as many Christians, not to mention all the other religious groups it attacked: we must condemn this violence. By the same token, we must condemn all other violence as well.

Retaliation

However, Christians struck back, meeting violence with violence; until, in utter defeat and rout and shame, General Wrangel’s army[[41]](#footnote-41) was forced into exile in Serbia. Thus, if we are to apply the same standard, concerning violence, we are forced to conclude that all the members of General Wrangel’s army committed grave sin: they ought rather to have laid down their arms and conceded victory to the communists from the first day, not after half their numbers had been slaughtered on the field of battle. We are sick at heart; we want to extend compassion and forgiveness to General Wrangel’s army for such sin. Do we also meet our enemies with such tender mercies? If General Wrangel’s army was wrong to strike back at communism, as we believe it was, what about the misled striking back of Christians down through the ages?

Expulsion

We have one standard for the officers of such communist leadership. Every one of them should be retired from all civil service on a modest pension of mercy:[[42]](#footnote-42) but, never ever be allowed to hold public office again… they have disqualified themselves… they have betrayed mother Russia.

What standard shall we assume for the officers of General Wrangel’s army? How can we claim that Christ trampled down death by death if we allow this to stand in unrepentance? If we truly believe that Christ trampled down death by death, do we not also come to accept our own crucifixion and martyrdom as the ultimate victory in Christ? I fear my own death; yet, I also know that I must face it, and embrace it: this is the only road Christ has mapped out for us.

Still, it is unrealistic to believe that such a massive expulsion from office would ever take place. Former communists now become entrepreneurs; retaining all their former dictatorial power: simply changing the nameplate on their office doors. It’s business as usual at KGB, they just went deeper underground. Nothing much has changed.

### MP

Subversion

Within the strange philosophical manipulations of dialectical materialism, the communists soon reasoned that it was easier to convert the Moscow Patriarchate into atheists, than it was to physically destroy them. Before long, much of the Moscow Patriarchate buckled, to become full-fledged communists, confessing atheists, pagans, even officers and secret agents of the KGB. By this demonic instrument, the Russian Orthodox Church within Russia was turned into the propagator of scientific-atheism, the voice of Satan himself. Dissidents fled for their lives: some escaped to exile in foreign countries, some to the catacomb church; the less fortunate were sent to prison camps or tortured; the lucky ones died.

Let us not underrate the gravity of this crime. To willfully join MP to USSR:

* Makes MP the mouthpiece of world atheism.
* Erects the abomination of desolation in the Church.
* Makes mankind their own god.
* Reverts MP to total paganism, a pagan religion.
* Turns all Russian church buildings in to demonic idol temples.

Such thorough destruction cannot simply be undone. A few casual apologies will never return these temples of pagan idols to Christian church buildings, they are defiled and must be cleansed. Nor will a few casual apologies make these leaders back into Christians; a clearly demonstrated personal repentance is necessary: this takes time, at least seven years. Christians have a right to assure themselves that those who have perpetrated such destructive and vile acts upon the whole Christian community will have no opportunity to repeat such malice.

“If it is [that] our good news was being hidden; it is [that] it was being hidden among those being destroyed: in whom the god of this age blinded the minds of the unfaithful, so as not to understand the light of the good news of the glory of Christ, Who, is the image of God.” — 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Such is God’s assessment of the spiritual condition of these leaders. This is with whom we are dealing, confessing atheists and Satanists… idol worshipers.

Excommunication

We have only one standard for the officers of such MP communist leadership. Every one of them must be retired from all ecclesiastical service on a modest pension of mercy:[[43]](#footnote-43) but, never ever be allowed to hold church office again… they have disqualified themselves… they have betrayed the kingdom of God. They must also be excommunicated.

After seven years, after public demonstration of remorse and repentance, those who freely wish, may return to the Church as novitiates and begin again at the bottom. However, they may never ever again be permitted to hold Church offices of any kind. Even if they once held impeccable credentials of Apostolic succession; they have forfeited these credentials by their acts of treason against the kingdom of God: this is not a matter of forgiveness, this is a matter of the office requirements of Apostolic succession.

Gainsayers will argue that both David and Paul were murderers and terrible sinners, which is true. Both, also retained or gained high office, in spite of their grave sin, which is also true. However, neither of them were traitors. So, their condition does not apply to this situation.

On the other hand, should there be a way for such officers to win back public or church trust by genuine display of repentance? That is a case for a specialty court to decide: but, not at any time within fourteen years.[[44]](#footnote-44) By this time most will be well past retirement age or dead: in our view, it would be best if they stayed in retirement. Nevertheless, we suppose, that allowance must be made for special cases through due process of law.

Still, it is equally unrealistic to believe that such a massive excommunication would ever take place. In such a case, Christian people are under no obligation to seek their “protection”: simply refuse to attend their services and seek, or stay in, the catacombs.

“Do not become unequally yoked with unbelievers: for, what partnership [has] righteousness and lawlessness? Or what communion [has] light with darkness? Now, what symphony [has] Christ with Beliar? Or what share [have the] faithful with [the] unfaithful? Now, what agreement [has the] temple of God with idols? For, we are [the] temple of the living God; just as God said that, ‘I will dwell among them. I will walk among [them]. I will be their God. They will be my people.’ Therefore, ‘come out of their midst. Be separated’, says the Lord. ‘Do not cling to [the] unclean [thing]. I will also welcome you in. I will be Father to you. You will be sons and daughters to Me’, says [the] Lord Almighty.” — 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

When confronted by such a blatant expression of idolatry, run; run the other way. Refuse to be any part of it. Come out. Flee [spiritual] fornication.[[45]](#footnote-45)

Nor is the rest of Christendom under any obligation to recognize MP as a true church: MP is an idol temple.

Thus, the earthly Church in Russia is reduced to isolated fragments of true faith, visibly united only by their humility, poverty, and the light of Christ that they emit. Such is the glorious status of the Catacomb Church in Russia.

Reality

However, this is not what happened. Many, perhaps most, of those who fled into exile formed the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR); ROCOR has a troubled history with which most folks are somewhat familiar today: yet, ROCOR took its stand, along with the Catacomb Church, and a few others; in direct opposition to the atheist communist, thoroughly pagan MP. Unfortunately, most others missed the point about atheism, communism, and paganism; few stood with ROCOR in her darkest hour: alone, misunderstood, even hated and ridiculed, ROCOR persevered. In their ignorance of what was truly happening, many concluded that it couldn’t really be that bad. It was that bad.

Time passed, perestroika and glasnost came, the Berlin wall came down, the USSR evaporated.

Much of the MP began to pretend that they had never been atheists, communists, and pagans; they were not removed from office in the Church: yet, suddenly, without rationality, most of ROCOR, precipitously jumped into bed with the MP as if nothing had ever happened. This terrifies us, yet, there is nothing we can do about it.

Much of ROCOR is in dire need of repentance. Until such repentance is forthcoming, Christian people are under no obligation to seek their “protection”: simply refuse to attend their services and seek the catacombs.

Total Absolute Replacement

In our view, the entire officer staff of MP needs to be permanently deposed: hierarchs, lesser bishops, priests, and deacons; to be replaced by loyal anticommunists and anti-atheists from ROCOR. This presents a seemingly insurmountable logistic problem: because, ROCOR has never had enough bishops and priests to fill the void created by MP. Since this did not happen, in our view, the MP simply ceased to exist; while the many lay people that were under MP are sheep without a shepherd, and have now been so for many years. ROCOR has also betrayed any Apostolic succession it might have had, and has also ceased to exist: individuals may be forgiven, but they have betrayed and forfeited their office, as well as their Apostolic succession.

In our view, the officers of MP and ROCOR are no different than any separatist group without credible Apostolic succession. Worse, they have made themselves into atheists, communists, and pagans. Who could even be gullible enough to believe that they are even Christians? Who needs them?

Survivors

That leaves the bleeding and wounded fragments of ROCOR, some of which have retained the name ROCOR, striving to remain faithful. That leaves most of Russia without any legitimate clergy. At the same time, the people of Russia, having endured great suffering, appear to have stronger faiths than the rest of the world.

“Do not become unequally yoked with unbelievers: for, what partnership [has] righteousness and lawlessness? Or what communion [has] light with darkness? Now, what symphony [has] Christ with Beliar? Or what share [have the] faithful with [the] unfaithful? Now, what agreement [has the] temple of God with idols? For, we are [the] temple of the living God; just as God said that, ‘I will dwell among them. I will walk among [them]. I will be their God. They will be my people.’ Therefore, ‘come out of their midst. Be separated’, says the Lord. ‘Do not cling to [the] unclean [thing]. I will also welcome you in. I will be Father to you. You will be sons and daughters to Me’, says [the] Lord Almighty.” — 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

As an additional word of encouragement for all those so wounded we recommend the reading of Psalm 9 and 2 Corinthians, in its entirety, every week… every day if at all possible… until confidence is gained that nothing significant has been lost. We have direct access to the Father through the work of the Son and Spirit: in our great hour of need, we must now count on that relationship, since all worldly leadership has betrayed us. The Catacomb Church is the Church.

### Applications

Early Church

Most amazingly, the prevailing church histories take the year 1054 as a major cardinal event. The behavior we have just described and condemned, after 1054 is seen as entirely evil; but such behavior prior to 1054 is explained away as an economy or a necessity of the kingdom of God brought about by Constantine’s miraculous conversion.

We claim that is utter nonsense. Even though we forgive Constantine himself as a man of his age, as well as many of his successors; the acts of violence cannot be so easily excused. In our view, the one ax cuts both ways; violence is reprehensible in every case; in and of itself, violence is sufficient cause for the erasure of any claim of Apostolic succession. By the time Justinian Ⅰ is through, he has filled the entire kingdom with violence. We must look elsewhere for the true Apostolic core of Christianity: it cannot be found in MP, most of ROCOR, Constantinople, or Rome.

As one monk put it, “the marks of Christianity are humility, humility, humility, and humility.” This is where we must begin again, with prostration and tears.

United States

What does this say about the encroaching and prevailing practical atheism in the United States today, where violence is supported by the strongest military forces in the world and practiced on every street corner. If it is wrong for Russia, it is wrong for Justinian Ⅰ, and it is wrong in the United States, as well.

The Church

Judgment begins at the house of God:

“Jesus replied, ‘My kingdom is not of this world; if My kingdom were of this world: My servants would fight, so that I would not be delivered to the Jews: but now My kingdom is not from here.’” — John 18:36

“For although we walk in the flesh, we do not soldier by the standard of flesh: for, the armaments of our soldiering are not fleshly; but, powerful in God for[[46]](#footnote-46) razed[[47]](#footnote-47) fortresses: razing reasoning, and all haughtiness being lifted up against[[48]](#footnote-48) the knowledge of God, capturing every thought in the obedience of Christ.” — 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

**“There is no such thing as just war”**

There is no such thing as just war for the Church; because, the Church is a spiritual kingdom: it cannot be involved in war. Christians and churches have committed an act of self-apostasy, insofar as they have engaged in acts of physical war.[[49]](#footnote-49) The weapons of our warfare are the evangelistic proclamation of the Gospel, prayer, the Word and Communion, martyrdom. We may happily die for Christ; we may not physically fight for Him.

It would seem that any idea of waging spiritual war by martyrdom, prayer, and effective testimony, was long since forgotten. War would now be waged after the weakness of human flesh, in clear disobedience to Christ.

“The Spirit is the life-giver[[50]](#footnote-50); the flesh does not benefit absolutely anything[[51]](#footnote-51); the utterances that I had spoken to you: it is spirit; it is life.” — John 6:63

A Wicked Transformation

The Church, which inherently belongs to Christ’s spiritual realm, has now been made parcel and part of Christ’s secular realm.[[52]](#footnote-52) A definite change of attitude has taken place. It would appear from this summary, as though the church on earth is destroyed. However, Jesus said.

“He sat down, calling the twelve. He told them, ‘If anyone desires to be first, He will be last of all, and servant of all.” — Mark 9:35[[53]](#footnote-53)

Thus, the Church survives in humility, poverty, and service as the visible light of the world.

From our perspective: atheism, communism, and paganism within the MP succeeded at eviscerating the church inside of Russia, and more; Justinian Ⅰ succeeded at eviscerating the people and wealth of the western empire, bringing them to the brink of destruction; modernism succeeded at eviscerating the church in the United States. In many ways, Justinian Ⅰ set the stage for the early Middle Ages. He did so at the jeopardy of Constantinople; so, he also guaranteed its eventual downfall. Such aggressive destructiveness can hardly be attributed to a truly Christian person: it is borderline blasphemy to call such a despot and a tyrant, a saint. It appears to us that, in a very similar manner, Russia and the United States have set the stage for Hell on earth.

The claim of a new David like theocracy finds no support in the East in the sixth century. The Roman Empire is exactly what it claimed to be: “In hoc signo vinces”. “In hoc signo vinces”, defines the behavior of the empire: emperors would play the Church for its cultural forces in order to maintain power. Other than its use as a political dupe, minion, and tool, the Church had no place in the decisions of empire. How is this different than the conditions that prevail in Russia today? … or, for that matter in the United States? Constantine’s motto hangs over us as a warning not to be gullible. The very presupposition of, “In hoc signo vinces”, is that the Church is physical at its core: this is patently false.[[54]](#footnote-54)

“Do not be deceived; God is not mocked: for, what a person would sow, that he will also reap: because, the one sowing in his own flesh, will reap corruption out of the flesh. But, the one sowing in the Spirit will reap everlasting life out of the Spirit.” — Galatians 6:7-8

We do well to give attention to the words of Daniel. Rome may have moved its Capital to Constantinople; it will later shift back to Rome again… and to Metz, Aachen, Vienna, Regensburg, Wetzlar, Weimar, Berlin, Moscow, and yet other cities: but the Word of God stands firm… Rome will crumble and fall to dust along with all other human arrogance. True Christianity is humble and seeks humility in service.

“You continued to observe until a stone was cut out of a mountain without hands. It struck the statue[[55]](#footnote-55) upon the iron and clay feet. It ground them into eternity. Then the clay, the iron, the copper, the silver, the gold was ground into one. It became as if dust from a summer threshing floor. The abundance of the wind lifted it up. It was not found anywhere. The stone striking the statue was begotten a great mountain. It filled all the earth.” — Daniel 2:34-35

“In the days of those kings, the God of heaven will stand up a kingdom, which will not be destroyed into the ages. His kingdom will not be left to a different[[56]](#footnote-56) people. It will grind and separate all the kingdoms. It will stand in the ages. Which way you saw that a stone was cut without hands from a mountain; it ground the clay, the iron, the copper, the silver, the gold: the great God made known to the king what is necessary to be begotten with these. The dream [is] true. Its analysis [is] faithful.” — Daniel 2:44-45

“Similarly, younger people, be submitted to [your] elders; all of you be clothed with humble mindedness toward one another: because, God opposes [the] arrogant; but, gives grace to the humble. Therefore, be humbled under the strong hand of God, so that He would exalt you in due time: casting all your care on Him: because, He cares about you.” — 1 Peter 5:5-7

### Analysis

This is the Church to which we must come. By the power of the Spirit, we follow Jesus, Who is invisible; bearing invisible crosses, which only we ourselves know. Climbing Jacob’s Ladder,[[57]](#footnote-57) *A Ladder of Divine Ascent*, is not only for monastics, but for all Christians, the narrow way,[[58]](#footnote-58) until we arrive at the indivisible and invisible kingdom of God.

“For, you had not come to a tangible [thing], to a [visibly] burning fire, to darkness, gloom, and storm; or to [audible] sound of trumpet, voice of speech: which, the hearers begged to not be subjected to [another] word to them: for, they had not carried what was being commanded, ‘if even a beast would touch the mountain it will be stoned.’ Thus, so terrible had been the appearing [that even] Moses said, ‘I am terrified and trembling.’

“But, you had come to mount Sion, to [the] city of the living God, to heavenly Jerusalem, to myriads of angels, to a festal assembly; to the calling out of the firstborn having been enrolled in heaven; to God, judge of all; to righteous spirits being made complete; to a new covenant mediator, Jesus; to sprinkled blood speaking better than Abel’s.

“See that you would not reject the speaker: for, if these did not escape on earth, rejecting the warning One, much more we [are not] escaping the One from heaven, by Whose voice the earth was shaken then; now He had promised, saying, ‘Yet once I will shake, not only the earth, but also the heaven;’ this ‘yet once’ makes clear about the shaking, the transformation, as of things being made over, that the not shaking things would remain: through which, receiving an unshaken kingdom, we would have grace through which we could serve God well-pleasingly, with respect and fear: for, our God [is] a consuming fire.” — Hebrews 12:18-29

All of which is presently invisible: except for the humility, poverty, and light it emits. This is the Church that we seek. This is the only path to attain it. We must set aside all earthly notions of churches; they either help us to attain this heavenly kingdom, or they do not…. It would appear that the dominant churches of the first millennium failed miserably at this task. Did any of them ever repent? That is a new topic.

Today, the latest insult to spiritual reality may be seen in Russia and the United States. Russian (neo-Rome Ⅲ) has had the audacity, like Constantinople of old, to bring the Russian church under its authority, and make the Russian church the mouthpiece of an openly declared atheism. The United States (neo-Rome Ⅳ) has largely succumbed to a subtle practical atheism surreptitiously approved by many American churches.

“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.” — Jeremiah 15:16

“Ἐλέησόν με, κύριε υἱὸς Δαυίδ….” — Matthew 15:22

“Κύριε, ἐλέησόν μου τὸν υἱόν….” — Matthew 17:15

“Κύριε, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς, υἱὸς Δαυίδ.” — Matthew 20:30

Amen.

[[59]](#footnote-59)

1. God, let me be pardoned, the sinner. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Jesus, let me be remembered when you come in your kingdom. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The name, Jezreel (יִזְרְעֶ֑אל) means God spreads or scatters; in its positive connotation, it paints a picture of God sowing seed on the earth. In its more negative meaning, it suggests that God is dispersing a gainsaying, wicked people. Perhaps, these are not necessarily two different and distinct things. Matthew 13; Mark 4; Luke 8; Ecclesiastes 11:1 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.history.com/topics/russia/communism-timeline>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_socialism>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_communism> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Marx> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Engels> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Communist_Manifesto> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutions_of_1848> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Social_Democratic_Labour_Party> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_of_Struggle_for_the_Emancipation_of_the_Working_Class> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Jewish_Labour_Bund> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Civil_War> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsarist_autocracy> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_II_of_Russia> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Provisional_Government> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolsheviks> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Lenin> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Bogdanov> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Martov> [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mensheviks> [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_Revolution> [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Army> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_movement> [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archdiocese_of_Russian_Orthodox_churches_in_Western_Europe> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eulogius\_(Georgiyevsky)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eulogius_%28Georgiyevsky%29) [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. <https://www.academia.edu/28965905/_Neo-Traditionalism_in_Contemporary_Orthodoxy_Conference_of_the_Orthodox_Theological_Society_in_America_Crete_2016_Post-Conciliar_Reflections_Holy_Cross_Greek_Orthodox_Seminary_Brookline_MA_September_29_to_October_1_2016> [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. <https://orthodoxwiki.org/Russian_Orthodox_Church_Outside_Russia> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. [https://orthodoxwiki.org/Anthony\_(Khrapovitsky)\_of\_Kiev](https://orthodoxwiki.org/Anthony_%28Khrapovitsky%29_of_Kiev) [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union> [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Stalin> [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Purge> [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II> [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War> [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolsheviks> [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. He is, Μονογενοῦς Παρὰ Πατρός, Only-begotten on par, or equal with the Father, not merely begotten of the Father…. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. The Apostles heard on par with the Son as perfect Man; we hear on par with the Spirit and His indwelling presence. There are only two kinds of parallel behavior, or parity: one moving in the same direction, or absolute equality; and one moving in the opposite direction, or absolute adversity; a third use of παρά simply notes location, place or position: beside. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Παρὰ, is used here, which is most unusual: we expected ἀπό or ἐκ, with a preference for ἐκ. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. <https://www.swrktec.org/theology>: *Introduction, Theology Proper*; *Trineology, Study of the Trinity*; *Patrology, Study of the Father*; *Christology, Study of the Son, Part 1*.

<https://www.swrktec.org/spirit>: *The Holy Spirit*. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Alvin Plantinga discusses the warrant for such a dogmatic claim at length: <http://carnivalsage.com/articles/Biographies/21st-century-luminaries/alvin-plantinga-philosopher/plantinga-alvin-pluralism-defense-of-religious-exclusivism.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyotr_Wrangel> [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. in other words, house arrest [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. long-term monastic retirement [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. If it takes seven years under excommunication, demonstrating sincere repentance, before such individuals are received back into communion; it should take, at least, another seven years to demonstrate that they have any spiritual gifts that would justify their leadership in the church, and to show the people, who were their victims, that they were purged from all treachery. If this seems harsh, let us remember that these same individuals, sold true Christians into prison camps, torture, and death: in contrast, our proposed punishment is loving and gentle. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. 1 Corinthians 6:18 [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. Πρὸς: toward, here it approaches the meaning of producing. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. This is a noun, not a verb, functioning adjectively with fortresses. Descriptive actions follow. [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. This word would make an interesting study by itself; nevertheless, we are after Paul’s core thought that we never fight with weapons of flesh in mortal secular combat: we witness, we pray, we sing, we die. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. Elsewhere, I have publicly denounced and renounced my own ignorant involvement in such matters: much of my life, over a score of years, has been involved with the support of war and war machines. I am ashamed of all such participation in my life. [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. ζῳοποιοῦν [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. The double negative, οὐδέν, nothing, intolerable in English is emphatic in Greek. [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. [file:///C:/Users/cherb/Downloads/THE\_AGE\_OF\_FAITH.pdf](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ccherb%5CDownloads%5CTHE_AGE_OF_FAITH.pdf), pages 12-19 [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. Isaiah 41:9; Matthew 20:27; 23:11; Mark 10:44; Deuteronomy 34:5 (Moses); Joshua 24:29 (Joshua); 1 Samuel 3:9-10 (Samuel); 1 Kings 11:13 (David); Romans 1:1 (Paul); Titus 1:1 (Paul); James 1:1 (James); 2 Peter 1:1 (Peter); Jude 1:1 (Jude); Revelation 1:1 (The Church and John) [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. <https://www.swrktec.org/theology>: *Trineocracy, Rule of the Trinity*. [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. εἰκόνα [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. ἑτέρῳ: another of a different kind [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Genesis 28:10–19 [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. Matthew 7:14 [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
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