

The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

Matthew 10:2-Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother.)KJV)

Peter was chosen by Jesus Christ to be among the original Twelve Apostles. Simon Peter's relationship with Jesus Christ merits continuous thought. Believers benefit from seeking to be renewed in Christ throughout life. Apostle Peter is an inspiration for learning throughout the Christian life. The Scriptures serve as a primary source for learning about Apostle Peter.

Mark 10:28- Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. (KJV)

Apostle Peter's commitment to Jesus Christ is evidenced by his sacrifice. Family, home and occupation were given up by Peter to follow Christ. Believers benefit by assessing their degree of personal sacrifice for Christ. Followers of Christ learn from the sacrifice demonstrated by the Apostles. Church history provides innumerable accounts of sacrifice for Christ.

Luke 9:20- "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "God's Messiah.")KJV)

The Church prescribes the Apostles Fast as a time for self-assessment. The Apostles Fast culminates in the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Believers learn from and are nourished by the example of the Apostles. Apostle Peter is very clear in expressing his firm belief about Jesus Christ. The words and actions of believers reflect the thoughts of their hearts.

John 6:68-Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.)KJV)

The Apostle Peter's testimony provides direction for seekers of eternal life. Peter makes clear that Jesus Christ has the words necessary for eternal life. Attentive followers of Jesus Christ heed the testimony of the Apostle Peter. Constant vigilance is required to adhere to the path set forth for eternal life. Great care must be taken to follow the paths established by the Apostles,

Acts 2:38-Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.)KJV)

Apostle Peter expressed the immeasurable value of repentance and baptism. Peter's resolute message promised adherents the gift of the Holy Spirit. Believers are blessed when taking Peter's words and example to heart. Learning from the Apostles is the way to increase love for Jesus Christ. Believers enrich their lives when learning from the Holy Apostle Peter.

Romans 1:1- Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (KJV)

The Apostle Paul's identity is permanently linked with the Holy Gospel. The Apostles Fast draws the believer's attention to Paul's Christian service. The Fast is an opportunity to find inspiration in Paul's life and teachings. Renewal in Jesus Christ is evident in the Apostle Paul's life and writings. Apostle Paul makes clear by his life and writings his love for Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 3:5-Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? (KJV)

The Church prescribes the Apostles Fast to facilitate the repentance of sins. Apostle Paul writes clearly about living in and loving the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul's epistles provide lasting wisdom to benefit the soul. Believers invest wisely when reading and studying Apostle Paul's epistles. Abundant nourishment for the soul is found in the Apostle Paul's epistles.

Galatians 1:1-Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) (KJV)

The reading of Paul's epistles in the Divine Liturgy signifies their value. The Church has embraced Paul's Epistles as part of the New Testament. Paul's teachings are fundamental to the formation of the Christian life. The soul will find nourishment throughout life in Apostle Paul's epistles. The life in Christ intends repentance and renewal until earthly departure.

Ephesians 3:1For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, (KJV)

Apostle Paul firmly embraces the value of being a prisoner of Jesus Christ. Each person freely chooses throughout life whether to identify with Christ. The Christian identity is initially freely and consciously chosen at Baptism. Renewal of the life in Christ is expected and beneficial to seek eternal life. Being a prisoner of Jesus Christ strengthens the believer against perils of sin.

Philippians 1:1-Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: (KJV)

The Apostle Paul's writings reveal the emerging structure of the Church. The presence of bishops and deacons is documented in Paul's Epistle. The Church's essential structure and order endure through the centuries. The winds of change and attempts to undermine the Church have failed. Apostles Peter and Paul firmly stand as pillars of God's Holy Church.