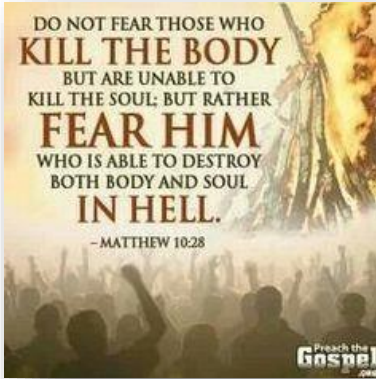


From Wolves into Lambs..!

In a previous article, we talked about our status in the world as lambs among wolves. We asserted that **the lambs should never be scared no matter how ferocious the wolves are.** They adhere to what the Lord Jesus Christ said: *"do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"* (Luke 12:4-5).



This is what we have witnessed in the martyrs and confessors who were subjected to the most horrible kinds of torture and humiliation. However, their courage was super and the power of life in them defeated all the tools of death. Therefore, their names became like stars in heaven and they have been glorified on earth throughout generations.

The most important thing is that in confronting wolves, we should not turn into wolves to fight against them an equal battle, since some think this is the means of victory. On the contrary, as the Lord Jesus Christ, the meek lamb who was led to the slaughter, tolerated suffering till He defeated evil through His love. Our Lord invited us to walk in the procession of His victory, carrying the Cross after Him. We should trust that as He showed through the weakness of the cross what proved to be greater than power (the Hymn of *Omonogenees*). If we adhere to our nature as lambs, **He will be victorious in us and for us**, turning everything for the good and for the salvation of our souls.

St. Augustine says that **when the wolves eat the lambs, the blood of the lambs, when it runs in the veins of the wolves, is able to turn wolves into lambs.**

This means if God allows the wolves to eat the lambs, those wolves may be influenced by the blood of the lambs that would run inside them. Then, their life would change and they would stop being wolves and rather turn into lambs.

This is what we have seen in Longinus who stabbed Jesus with the spear. Later on, he believed and turned into a lamb and became a martyr.

Also **our teacher St Paul the apostle** who was a ferocious wolf persecuting Christians, arresting and imprisoning them, and even executing them. However, God changed him and he turned into a chosen vessel and a meek lamb. He tolerated dangers and sufferings that exceed human tolerance for the sake of Christ. However, he was happy and always repeated in every occasion: *"I now rejoice in my sufferings"* (Col. 1:24), and *"None of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God"* (Acts 20: 24).

We also remember the governor of Ansenia, **Aryanos**, who was one of the most ferocious wolves as he turned into a lamb and offered himself as a martyr for the sake of Christ.

The church history mentions many others who were transformed from wolves to lambs.

Thus, we realize that **the love and meekness of the lambs are stronger than the ferociousness, evilness of the wolves. Here strength is measured by the ability to make a transformation!**

When we, lambs, grow in love to the level of crucifixion and death, this love has the ability of raising the dead. That is how to turn wolves into lambs!

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