

## WEEKLY MEDITATION

As Christians, God's will for us is to grow in virtues and decrease in vices. In this way we become more like Christ. Of all vices none is worse than pride. Of all virtues none is greater than humility, except perhaps love. But the two are inseparable. Without humility it is impossible to have true Christian love, and without love there is no humility. In the interests of helping us to grow in humility and (thereby) decrease in pride, I have selected a reading (January 2) from "The Prologue of Ochrid" and attached it below.

**Fr. Stacey**

***"Pride goes before disaster, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).***

"Of all that exists on the four corners of the earth, what, O mortal man, can make us proud except stupidities and demonic illusions? Did we not enter into the world naked and wretched and are we not going to depart this world in the same manner? Everything that we have, did we not borrow it; and by our death, are we not going to return everything? Oh, how many times has this been said and overheard? The wise apostle says, "*For we have brought nothing into the world, just as we shall not be able to take anything out of it*" (1 Timothy 6:7). And, when we offer sacrifice to God of ordinary bread and wine, we say, "Thine own of Thine own, we offer unto Thee" (Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom). For nothing that we have in this world is ours: not even a crumb of bread nor a drop of wine; there is nothing that is not of God. In truth, pride is the daughter of stupidity, the daughter of a darkened mind, born of evil ties with the demons.

Pride is a broad window through which all of our merits and good works evaporate. Nothing makes us so empty before men and so unworthy before God as does pride. When the Lord is not proud, why should we be proud? Who has more reason to be proud than the Lord? Who created the world and Who sustains it by His power? And behold, He humbles himself as a servant, a servant to the whole world: a servant even to the death, to death on the Cross!

O humble Lord, burn up within our hearts the devil's sowing of pride with the fire of Thy Holy Spirit, and plant within it the noble sowing of humility and meekness." (*From the Prologue*)