

## HTOCNB Study Group 1.8.12

### Monasticism & the Church

- Terminology
  - Monastic—*monastikos*
  - Ascetic—*askesis*
- Early Developments
  - Jewish Roots
  - Edict of Milan: 313AD
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Council of Nicaea: 325 AD
  - Establishing of Constantinople: 330AD
- St. Anthony
  - “Founder of Monasticism”
    - Eremitic monasticism
  - 285AD: Matthew 19:21
  - Life of St. Anthony—St. Athanasius of Alexandria
    - Flight to the Desert
- St. Pachomius
  - Cenobitic monasticism
  - Establishment of monasteries
- Later Developments
  - Daily Cycle of Worship
    - St. Sabas
    - John & Sophronios
  - “Defenders of the Faith”
    - 7<sup>th</sup> ecumenical council
  - Members of an “Angelic Rank”
    - St. John Klimakos
  - Hesychast Movement
    - St. Gregory Palamas

#### Excerpts from the 38 sayings of St. Athony

3. Someone asked Abba Anthony, “What must one do in order to please God?” The old man replied, “Pay attention to what I tell you: whoever you may be, always have God before your eyes; whatever you do, do it according to the testimony of the holy Scriptures; in whatever place you live, do not easily leave it. Keep these three precepts and you will be saved.”

4. Abba Anthony said to Abba Poemen, “This is the great work of man: always to take the blame for his own sins before God and to expect temptation to his last breath.”

5. He also said, “Whoever has not experienced temptation cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.” He even added, “Without temptations no-one can be saved.”

25. Abba Anthony said, “A time is coming when men will go mad, and when they see someone who is not mad, they will attack him saying, ‘You are mad, you are not like us.’”

32. Abba Anthony said, “I no longer fear God, but I love Him. For love casts out fear.” (John 4.18)