



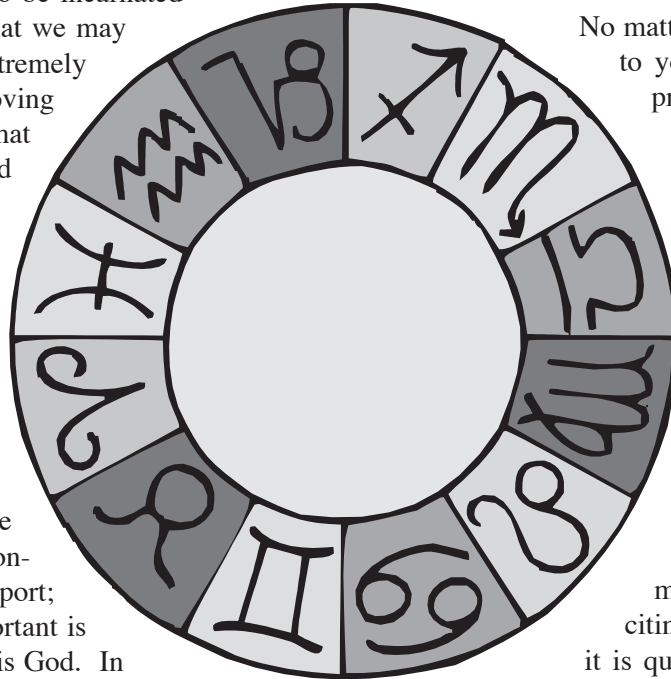
A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

We, as humans, are exceptionally fortunate, but we are not always aware of just how much so. We are fortunate that we have a loving Creator who, out of the abundance of His love, has created us in His "... own image and likeness." We are fortunate because we have a loving Father, who even after Adam and Eve sinned, was willing to be incarnated and die on the cross so that we may be saved. We are also extremely fortunate because this loving Father has promised us that he will protect and guard us, not merely as he does the sparrows, but much more, because we are "of more value than many sparrows."

The most reassuring thing in the world for a person is to feel that there is something there beside him/her, assisting in decision-making, guidance and support; and how much more important is this when that 'someone' is God. In the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, the priest asks God to "manage our lives as He deems fit and that He deal with us according to His goodness." If we depend on God's love and rely on His mercy to guide us in our lives, then we need not worry about what will happen today or tomorrow, because we accept that everything is in His hands...and this is where the dependence on horoscopes comes in.

People's reliance on horoscopes quite clearly states that they are not really willing to entrust their lives

to God's loving and merciful will, and thus they are anxious to know what will happen tomorrow. The unfortunate news that I have for them is, however, that they will never find out, unless it is the will of God, and that is almost certainly not manifest in the use of horoscopes.



No matter what certain people say to you, horoscopes are not as precise as they might like you to think. If you really read them carefully, you will find that they are written in such a general way that they can more or less be applicable to most situations. They deal with issues of general interest such as: attaining wealth, meeting your perfect partner, acquiring satisfying employment, and traveling on exciting vacations, and therefore it is quite safe to address any of these issues, because more often than not, they will be applicable in one form or another. The other interesting thing about horoscopes is that they put people into a state of what I like to call 'selective memory impairment.' Quite simply this is because if the horoscope contains ten items, of which nine are irrelevant, but the tenth becomes mildly applicable, be sure that what will generally happen is the 'smi' will wipe out the nine, and only the tenth will be remembered, thus giving the impression that the horoscope was precise.





What I wish to say to you at this point is that you be weary of wolves in sheep clothing! Horoscopes may seem to be quite harmless, but much more lies behind them. People who start to believe in the authenticity of horoscopes become more reliant on them, and less on God; they rush to see the daily newspaper to see what the day brings for them, and forget to consult the real source—God. What is even more dangerous than this however, that people should be aware of, is that such people start to fall into the very same sin that Eve fell into.

When the serpent tempted Eve, she was told that if she ate of the tree, then she would have knowledge of that which was previously unknown to her, and that she would be 'like God' and that is the same attitude taken by those who use horoscopes—they seek knowledge of the unknown through a source other than God, and thus may become eligible for punishment as a result of their lack of faith and their aspiration to take what is not theirs.

Trust in God and accept that your life be led by Him according to His will, as your loving and caring Father who perceives what is for your own good...much more than you do. Instead of spending valuable time looking into daily horoscope forecasts, spend it in trying it trying to know what God's plan is for you, through prayer, Holy Bible reading, contemplation, and consultation with your spiritual father, thus knowing that you will arrive at a precise answer from a reliable source, and that you may grow spiritually to the level at which you can truly say 'deal with us according to Your goodness' accept that whatever is given to you comes from God, and furthermore, accept that it is the best thing for you...according to His will. (reprinted)*

