

## What is the Church for?

"We cannot see the Church as a sort of aesthetic perfection and limit ourselves to aesthetic swooning – our God given freedom calls us to activity and struggle. And it would be a great lie to tell searching souls: 'Go to church, because there you will find peace.' The opposite is true. She tells those who are at peace and asleep: 'Go to church, because there you will feel real alarm about your sins, about your perdition, about the world's sins and perdition.

There you will feel an unappeasable hunger for Christ's truth. There instead of lukewarm you will become ardent, instead of pacified you will become alarmed, instead of learning the wisdom of this world you will become foolish for Christ. It is to this foolishness, this folly in Christ, that our freedom calls us ... And we will become fools for Christ, because we know not only the difficulty of this path but also the immense happiness of feeling God's hand upon what we do."

*St. Maria Skobtsova*