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President's Office

December Devotion

Christmas is all about what God has done and is now doing for us. His Son's birth in the flesh is a “new genesis” for us. This is why John’s Gospel starts out: “In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:1, 14).

In the flesh of Jesus, God has made a new beginning, a new world, a new creation that is not subject to decay and death. Christ’s death and resurrection in the flesh broke the curse of sin and brought life and immortality to light.

Christmas is like a second Genesis. It is as if the very first day were happening all over again. God said, “Let there be light,” and the light of the world was born. God the Son has entered into this world in order to make a new creation that will never pass away. He has done this so that we who are subject to the old order of things might be released from it and made to be participants in the new and eternal order of things.

It is only through the body of Jesus that this takes place. He who was once laid in a manger is the point of contact between the old and the new. **He is the only passageway from this fallen creation into life everlasting.**

Christ has come to make us His new creation. How? Paul answers that question in Titus 3:5 when he says that God saved us “by the washing of regeneration and renewal.”

The word regeneration is especially significant. In the Greek, it literally means “genesis again.” Through Baptism we are recreated, given a new life in Christ. We are made to share in the eternal blessings of the new world that Christ brings into being. God is at work, not only to wash away our sins but also to join us to Christ. He gives us the entrance to eternal life and new birth into the kingdom of God. As Jesus said in John 3:5: “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

Christmas is the pattern of our salvation. God comes right down to where we are in order to save us. He doesn’t go halfway and then require us to do the rest. He goes all the way, 100 percent, even to the point of becoming one of us. He descended to us in order that we may ascend with Him.

Christmas is all about God’s doing. Even our entering into that new life through Baptism is entirely by the Lord’s action. For just as we do not choose to be born, neither can we choose to be born again. It is entirely the working of the Holy Spirit, whom God poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

St. Paul concludes this section of Scripture in Titus 3 by stating, “The saying is trustworthy” (v. 8). The Word of God, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us, is reliable. The same God who kept His promise to send a Savior to save and deliver us will surely keep the promises that He made to you in your Baptism. **God bless your worship of Him not only throughout the year, but especially during this season of Advent and Christmas!**

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