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Volume 8 - No 1 - January 1993

السنة ٨ - العدد ١ - يناير ١٩٩٣

**"THE SON OF
 MAN HAS
 COME TO
 SEEK AND
 SAVE WHAT
 IS LOST"**

(Luke 19:10)



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A SAVIOUR WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD"

CHRISTIAN CULTURE
 AND
 CHRISTMAS CHARACTER

"The people who walked in the darkness have seen a great light". (Isaiah 9:2) The great light that God sent to us was no other than His Son Jesus Christ. When we let Christ, the light, into our lives, we will be able to see far enough ahead to make spiritual progress."

Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ the eternal God, was born in Bethlehem. An angel of the lord announced His wonderful birth to some simple shepherds saying: "....behold, I bring you good news, of a great joy, which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

What a lofty and miraculous announcement which brings, from heaven to earth, the joy, the hope and the peace that never fails. But are we capable of realizing the essential beauty of this announcement?

Christian Culture:

Is Christmas just a holiday for the family, for the children for the poor? Is it a time for gift giving?

Indeed Christmas is associated with a display of goodness, human concern, kindness and love that marks the most beautiful moments of the year. Among these is everything that is characteristic of what we call: "Christmas Culture". This aspect of Christmas is so beautiful that no one, not even those who refuse to recognize its deep significance, can deny it.

Two Different Aspects:

Consider, if you will, the lyrical and sentimental aspect of the holiday. How many poets has Christmas inspired? How many sweet songs? How many pastoral melodies and contemplation have been engaged by this day?....

Soon another aspect appears, one which alters the clarity and the great overwhelming motive for Christ's birth. There have crept into the celebration

the elements of fantasy, legend and spectacle. We adore the Christmas tree, anticipate the arrival of Santa Clausetc.....


Christmas lapses into the superfluous: mistletoe, lights, greetings, dinners which, to a certain degree, express the joy of the feast. Yet, of themselves what are they?... When the frenzy of external trivia begins, Christmas loses its character.

Christmas Character:



St. Luke's narrative of the birth of Jesus Christ, is so specific and clear, it makes us actual participants in the event itself, but have we understood the significance and value of the event which St. Luke relates? What is the character of Christmas for which there is no substitute?

The narration has presented the historical and exterior forms of the event, but has it enabled us to penetrate to its meaning? The Gospel states it "The Savior is born --- the Messiah has come ---- but why did he come? St. Luke gives us the answer: "The Son of man has come to seek and save what is lost." (Luke 19:10) This - and this alone - is an essential character of Christmas. All the trimmings of Christmas are trivial if we fail to recognize that.


قداس عيد الميلاد المجيد
 يبدأ بمشيئة الرب قداس عيد الميلاد المجيد
 الساعة السابعة من مساء يوم الاربعاء ٦ يناير ١٩٩٣
 وينتهي الساعة الحادية عشر وكل عام وحضراتكم بخير.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
 & HAPPY NEW YEAR



عيد الميلاد
 وعام مبارك جديد



Gnosticism:

One of the greatest difficulties confronting the early church was the rise of heresies. Gnosticism was one of the most influential heresies of the first century. Gnostics believed that matter is evil and spirit is good, on that basis God did not create the world because God could not touch matter. By itself that idea is bad enough, but it was made worse by an addition: Docetism.

What is Docetism?

Some Gnostics held that Jesus had no real body and as they said: He was a kind of Phantom without real flesh and blood. They held, for instance, that when He stepped on the ground, He left no footprint, for His body had neither weight nor substance.

St. John and Gnosticism:

As the first century drew to a close, Gnosticism was very widely spread, and by that time the aging John, who was the only survivor of the Lord Jesus's disciples, was writing the fourth Gospel in Ephesus. Among the final battles St. John had to fight was Gnosticism. It is to combat its false teachings that St. John, in the fourth Gospel, lay down the following christian truth

The Word became Flesh:

Gnostics could never have said that. That is why St. John stresses this fact saying: "The word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory." (John 1:4) Also, in his first letter he states that: "---- and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God". (1 John 4:3)

The Humanity of Jesus:

In the fourth Gospel St. John emphasizes the real humanity of Jesus, for example, Jesus, as human, was angry at those who bought and sold in the temple courts (John 2:15), He was physically tired and sat by the well in Samaria (John 4:6), He knew grief and He wept tears as any mourner might do (John 11:35),...etc... It is the truly human Jesus whom St. John sets before us.



تمنئة

اطيب تمنيات قلوبنا لأبينا
الطوبى والى المكرم صاحب
القداسة البابا
الابنا لشهادة الثالث
بمناسبة

العام الجديد وعيد الميلاد والغطاس المجيد
الرب نسال ان يتمتع بالصحة والعافية وان يحفظكم زخراً
للكنيسة ويديم رئاستكم سنين كثيرة وازمنة سالمة مديدة.

نصيحة العام الجديد

لصاحب القداسة البابا الابنا لشهادة الثالث

نحن في بداية سنة جديدة، فانتهم الفرصة لتبدأ حياة جديدة مع الله... لا تنتظر الى الاعياد التي تمر بنا كمناسبات اجتماعية نفرح فيها معاً، بل علينا ان نتذكر المعنى الروحي العميق في ميلاد السيد المسيح وكيف انه تجسد لكي «يطلب ويخلص ما قد هلك». (لوقا ١٠:١٦) اطلب منه اذا بكل لاجاجة ان يخلصك من الخطية وابدل كل جهدك ان تخطو خطوة ايجابية، وتبتعد عن كل الاسباب التي تقودك الى الخطية. صمم بكل عزم قوى ان تعيش مع الله شاعراً باهمية خلاص نفسك واهمية وجود الله في حياتك.

ابدأ سنة جديدة بطلب بركة الله ونعمته وابدأها بتفسير جاد الى افضل ولا تجعل حياتك تتجمد على وضع معين، بلا تغيير، كما كنت هكذا انت بلا توبة، بلا نمو... اعط فرصة لله ان يعمل معك، واشترك معه في العمل. ضع امامك برنامجاً روحياً تسير عليه. يكون في حدود امكانياتك لان كثيرين يضعون امامهم برامج خيالية لا يقدرّون عليها. واذ يفشلون في تنفيذها يياسون. والله الذي اعطاك سنة جديدة فليعطك القوة ان تسلك فيها حسناً.

The Deity of Jesus:

Also, St. John emphasizes the pre-existence of Jesus "Before Abraham was" said Jesus, "I Am" (John 8:58). Again and again John speaks of His coming from heaven (John 6:33-38). John saw in Jesus one who had always been, even before the world began.

IN CONCLUSION, to meet the Gnostics and their false beliefs, St. John presents Jesus as one who was undeniably human, and who yet, was undeniably divine.

مبارك من له نصيب
في بناء بيت الرب

أمر الرب موسى ان يبني خيمة الاجتماع، واعلم موسى شعب اسرائيل بما امر به الرب وتحركت قلوب الناس فجاءوا كل من انهضه قلبه وكل من سمحته روحه. جاءوا بتقديم الرب لعمل خيمة الاجتماع. (خروج ٢٥: ٢١)

لقد كان الشعب سخياً في عطائه حتى ان موسى عاد وطلب ان يكفوا عن العطاء لان ما قدموه من ذهب وفضة كان أكثر مما هو مطلوب لبناء بيت الرب. (خروج ٢٦: ٥-٧)

والآن بعد ان تم شراء ارض الكنيسة، واصبح البدء في البناء امراً ضرورياً وعاجلاً، فقد حان الوقت ليسدد كل منا ما عليه من العشور والتقدمات المتأخرة لديه او المستحقة عليه حتى يمكن البدء في عملية البناء... احبائي: ان ماتدفعونه مهما كان قليلاً سيكون لبنة من لبنات اخرى كثيرة لأخوة غيورين قد سبقوا وقدموها. فلا تحرموا انفسكم من بركة الاشتراك في بناء بيت الرب متذكّرين قوله: «اعطوا تعطوا كيلاً ملبداً فائضاً مهزوزاً يعطون في احضانكم». (لو ٦: ٢٨)

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO TAKE PART IN
BUILDING THE HOUSE OF THE LORD



"An offering to the Lord: Gold, silver and bronze....." (Exodus 35:5)

كل من قلبه سموح
فليات بتقديم الرب:
ذهبا وفضة ونحاساً...
(خروج ٢٥: ٥)

اجتماعيات

تتقدم الكنيسة بخالص العزاء:

الاستاذ البيبر اسكندر، وسانتر افراد العائلة، لوفاة السيدة جورجيت نجيب حرم شقيقه المرحوم الاستاذ ادوارد. الرب ينيح نفس الراحلة الكريمة في احضان ابائنا القديسين.