**Christ - the Light of the World**

John. 1:1-5, 8:12

The first book of the Bible begins with the story of creation. The first creation on earth was the creation of light, and God saw the light that it was good. We Armenians greet each other every morning by repeating the same truth taken from the first chapter of Genesis and say *"Pari Looys",* meaning "light is good." Light is good because it is the source of life, well being and happiness. The opposite of light is darkness which is frightening and deadly.

Jesus used the word light metaphorically when He said: "I am the light of the world." He shed light upon obscure ideas like an electric lamp sheds light on the objects in a room. However, He did not come into the world to shed light on the secrets of nature, or some earthly science, but he came to shed light on spiritual matters, because His kingdom was not of this world. He was coming from heaven, He alone had seen God and He alone could give accurate information about heaven, God, and the life hereafter. (John. 1:18).

He shed light on five important spiritual topics:

1. He shed light on the true character of God. He placed God before men in His boundless mercy, His goodness and compassion and as a friend of sinners.

2. He shed light on the condition of man. He revealed man's deceitfulness, his wickedness, his sinfulness, and that he was condemned to everlasting destruction. He sounded an alarm.

3. He shed light on how the sinner can run away from such destruction into salvation. He declared that He came expressly to save that which was condemned to be lost, and that he suffered and died on the cross to grant this salvation.

4. He shed light on a new concept called holiness and requested of men not to be satisfied with their mere righteousness, and recommended to go beyond one's common duties, to run a second mile.

5. He shed light on immortality, on life hereafter. He gave information about heaven and the bliss of his followers in heaven.

To know mentally about these five topics is of no use unless that light from our brains descends into our hearts and our hearts too are illuminated. We have to approach to the Light - Jesus - in order to be enlightened spiritually. Evil people do not like the light lest their evil deeds be revealed. Men do not want to go to church; they do not want to read the Bible and do not want to hear the word of God preached so that their wickedness may not be revealed even to themselves. The more we are subjected to the light, the more we see our faults, our weaknesses and our sins and we correct ourselves.

We too are called the light of the world (Matt. 5:14). If Christ's light shines upon us, we too will shine it back to others.