**A New Beginning (John 1:1-5, 9-14)**

 Jesus’ entrance into the world opens a new page for us every day. Christ is born and revealed, great tidings to you and to us! The world truly became new when the Lord was born 2000 years ago. People’s spiritual state was in a terrible state – and even the people group that had been entrusted with God’s true self-revelation was suffering because of its own sins. It was within this state of being that John the Apostle would come to know Jesus and afterward write the beautiful revelation (that you heard read), so that he could finally establish the truth that the whole world had been searching for… it was that Jesus was the source of New Life that people were longing for. It was that the meaning of His life was the beginning of a new existence for every believer in Him. In other words, through His birth, Jesus opened up a new life for us with his arrival. Let us speak, then, about this new spiritual reality in light of Jesus.

 Jesus’ birth was a new beginning for all of humanity, especially those who believed in Him. The Apostle was trying to contain Christ’s greatness with human language in this passage. However much he was able to do so, with that we can stand in amazement at Jesus’ identity. Jesus was God’s Word from the very beginning; He was with God; and especially – He *was* God. Jesus was the means of Creation – He was the light for all people – and that light shone brilliantly for 33 years while He was with us. He lit up the whole world, meaning all unbelieving humanity – but this “world” did not want Him. Even His own people, who were not supposed to be “of the world” did not accept Him, but those who did – no longer belonged to the “world”. They received new life, Life from God. They received a new identity – and that meant a great deal for the history of mankind, both individually and collectively.

 Someone once wrote this way about Jesus: “He who is the Bread of Life began His ministry hungering. He who is the Water of Life ended His ministry thirsting. Christ hungered as man and fed the hungry as God. He was weary, and yet He is our rest. He paid tribute, and yet He is the King. He was called a devil and cast out devils.... He prayed, and yet He hears prayer. He wept, and He dries our tears. He was sold for thirty pieces of silver and redeems the world. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter and is the Good Shepherd. He died, and gave His life, and by dying destroys death.”

 Jesus’ birth means a new life for you and me. It means both a joy at the arrival of our King, as well as an opportunity for new hope and meaning for us. Now, no matter what difficulties appear in our lives, Jesus is not going anywhere. No matter what sad things happen, Jesus is still our joy. No matter what painful experiences we go through, Emmanuel, God-With-Us will be hurting right alongside of us.

 Now, our ultimate destiny is no longer hell – it is not condemnation – it is not punishment – it is not hopelessness. No, we are destined for salvation, for joy, for peace.

Therefore, let us on this celebration of Jesus’ birth establish His identity within us. Let us not live as those who have lost in life, but those who are victorious in Christ. Jesus’ arrival becomes a daily event when we remember Him, invite Him into our hearts and lives. May God, through the birth of His Son, increase in us the faith, hope, and love so that we can reflect Jesus to those around us through our lives. Jesus, in his arrival to earth, opened up a new life for us. May the Lord always keep us in that new life – Christ is born and revealed, great tidings to you and to us! Amen.