**Results of Christ’s Incarnation**

***14****The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

***15****(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”)* ***16****Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.* ***17****For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* ***18****No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. (John 1:14-18, ESV)*

 The entrance of Jesus into this world inaugurates a new era for us. Greetings dear brothers and sisters in Christ as today we begin a new sermon series, focusing on the Gospel of John. Human history changed with the Son of God entered it. Before Him, there ruled a completely different spiritual atmosphere among people. After Him, the church, His gathered people, would understand the word “grace” much more deeply. For the latter reason, the primary result of the Incarnation of Christ was a life of grace (Divine grace, not just an ordinary kind.) Of course, the latter kind of life has many aspects to it, but today we will at least introduce the subject, given that John’s words lend the discussion to that. Again, the entrance of Jesus into this world inaugurates a new era for us.

The Word of God becoming human is an opportunity for us to know God’s grace and truth. The Scripture says, “*And the Word became flesh,”* and live both within and among us. It says, (in effect,) that we saw His glory as His followers, and that He was full of grace and truth. What’s more, John the Baptist had already revealed that Jesus existed before he ever had. Back to the evangelist, he also said, “*We have all receive grace upon grace.*” In other words, God, through Jesus, encountered us through the Incarnation event (the reality of God the Son becoming man, or taking on flesh). Receiving grace upon grace also meant that believers received grace due to their decision to follow Jesus. (Remember the context of the Scripture – that a believer is writing this, not from outside, but within the faith community).

 Speaking of grace, a life that is functioning in it has many characteristics. Grace is the power to accomplish what God has instructed us to do. Grace can mean forgiveness when our imperfect works begin to abound. Grace is God giving us time when we still haven’t exercised our spiritual senses perfectly and when we still are spiritually weak in our works. God’s grace takes us out of the condemnation of the Law of Moses (upon non-compliance) and bring us into a relationship with God the Father through Jesus. Grace also patiently waits until we repent and change direction, when we are in a sinful path and have fallen into the enemy’s trap.

 When Jesus was born and performed His various deeds, He opened the door to God’s grace, the proof of which we see in the disciples’ recognition of the Father through Christ’s personality (hence calling him “Lord” on several occasions). They learned through Christ’s truthful expressions the proper mode of transmission of the Lord’s laws and directions. In other words, Jesus’ entrance into man’s history takes us out of the Old Testament Law-based life, which result was always going to be punishment, and brings us into the path of grace, patience, mercy, and a Christ centered journey.

"The truth," Jesus said, "shall make you free" (John 8:32). Long ago, on the night of the emancipation of some slaves on an island, a mahogany coffin was made, and a grave was dug. Into that coffin they crowded all the various relics and remnants of their previous bondage and sorrow. The whips, the torture irons, the branding irons, the coarse frocks and shirts, and great hat, fragments of the treadmill, the handcuffs—they placed in the coffin and screwed down the lid. At the stroke of midnight, the coffin was lowered into its grave: and then the whole of that throng of thousands celebrated their redemption from thralldom by singing the Doxology! This is a picture of the Christian's buried past.

We said that Jesus’ arrival changes the life of the one who believes in Him. In other words, once you have decided to follow Him, you now begin to live under a new law. That new law is known as living under grace, which means being forgiven of our sins, being worthy of a patient waiting by God as we His children mature. It also means that we have an unending relationship of love and truth with God the Father.

Being a Christian means knowing Jesus Christ as God in the flesh. It means that God is with us, and that He is always waiting for us (who know His grace experientially) to share that truth and grace with others.

*“The Word became flesh and lived among us.” “Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”*

Now is the time to recognize that great reality. To realize that the Incarnation of Christ calls us to become people of grace and truth. May God give all of us the desire to receive and live them out, that we may be a people of grace and truth, and not a people following dead laws and believing Antichrist untruths.

The entrance of Jesus into this world inaugurates a new era for us. The Lord Bless you all. Amen.