**The Glorious Birth of Christ**

***8****And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.****9****And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.****10****And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.****11****For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.****12****And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”****13****And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

***14****“Glory to God in the highest,
    and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

***15****When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”****16****And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.****17****And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.****18****And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.****19****But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.****20****And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

***21****And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Luke 2:8-21, ESV)*

 Christ’s glorious birth is the beginning of the entrance of God’s glory into every believer’s life. Christ is born and revealed, blessed is the revelation of Christ, good tidings to you and to us! Truly Jesus’ revelation (in his birth) is a glorious and blessed reality for us. Our subject for today is that glorification that took place connected to the events of the Lord’s birth. That praise that came from the angels and later the shepherds was the beginning of praise and glory-filled worship in church history, through which the experience of God’s tangible glory was made available for human beings. Thus, we are going to talk about Jesus’ glorious birth, keeping in mind that it is the beginning of the entrance of God’s glory into all the hearts of believers. Let’s go a little deeper…

 God’s glory becomes apparent when Jesus is glorified. Looking at the event from the Scripture, the praise aspect might not seem that important to us. Today, in our minds, the subject of the glory of God is not the one on the forefront. Today’s topic, however, is an important one because it is connected to our progress in the life of God (our Christian walk, in other words). The birth of Jesus is the beginning of God’s tangible activity within each Christ-believer, and through them, within each human being that encounters the believers’ faith. The angel of the Lord, the messenger and herald, appeared and said, “*Today a Savior is born to you, namely the Anointed Lord.”* The heavenly armies (which is what hosts are,) who were used to warring in the spiritual realm, suddenly appeared, and were singing with loud voices and glorifying or praising God. Now, the shepherds were amazed at the sight, but they did decide correctly to go and see the infant Jesus and came back to their fields with praise and glorification, to a new joy and renewed spirits.

 We can find God’s glory wherever his name is praised, but also wherever he decides to be tangibly found in a specific way. I say this because those armies of angels, having been in God’s presence in the invisible realm, are a proof through their appearing of God’s presence and activity at that place and time. God’s activity was to bring his Son into the world. The angels praised God saying, “Glory to God,” because God with his glory, his presence, through them was proving his greatness through the birth of the newborn Savior Jesus.

 We all know that there is perfection within God. God does not contain darkness, sin, weakness, imperfection, pain, suffering, sickness, or justice within himself. When God works for his absolutely good purposes among us, around us, and within us, his nature is the same. God is absolutely good – no evil exists in him, and Jesus’ birth was an event that happened because and through that absolute goodness.

 I say the above because that glory, that tangible activity and presence of God has not stopped within the Church. God is still working through Jesus’ presence and the power of His Divine activity within every believer’s heart and life. God is filling every church that worships him wholeheartedly and purely with his glory. God is still intervening in our lives, saving, healing, freeing, and ordering them.

 When we praise God, that honest glorification itself becomes an invitation for him to come and live with that tangible glory. Yes, it is true that we often cannot feel it – but when we praise Him together, united, and we begin to devote more time to simply praising him, then we will begin to see, both individually and on a larger scale, that glory that the angels remembered, which the shepherds gave, within our own experiences in today’s context.

 Jesus’ birth was glorious because God’s presence was from now on with us. We will experience that reality even more, however, if we become a people that praises God on an even greater scale.

 Therefore, let us praise God for His Son, and let us make a positive change in our lives, becoming people of praise, just as those shepherds praised God and were changed. May our praises for the Lord be abundant, may Christ’s glory, reputation and presence spread through us all over the world.

 Christ is born and revealed – blessed is the revelation of Christ. Amen.