



Christmas, Emanuel, God is with us!

This message of Christmas, ever ancient, ever new, brings home the truth that God wants to commune with us, to share His life with us, to walk with us 'in the cool of the evening' as in Paradise—a paradise lost by man and woman because they chose pride over humility, envy over gratitude, power seeking over seeking union with the All-powerful God who created them. The Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans says that we exchanged the glory of the Creator for the created thing. Whether that created thing is us, or some other creature out of which we make a god, the net effect is the same: we separate ourselves from the one Love that is necessary for our survival in His image.

Yet God did not abandon us to death. Rather, He tried, over and over again to reach out to us to restore our friendship with Him, to return us to paradise, that union for which we were made. He is still working on every front to try to reach us. The problem is that the Ruler of this world, Satan, and all his angels are doing a very good job in drowning out the voice, in distracting our eyes from, or even casting doubt by ridicule, every overture that God makes to us. To the world, belief in God is a quaint diversion, whereas belief in science, in physics, and in the philosophy of doubt is being pragmatic, realistic and clear-thinking. This has yielded for us a low-ebb of faith, and at least two generations now that don't know how to trust, even to trust one another.

Sören Kierkegaard, a Lutheran and a philosopher, upon coming to the realization that philosophy could neither prove nor disprove the existence of God and the movement of the grace of Faith. In a weak movement toward the biblical and apostolic attitude of the great saint-theologians of the middle ages and early second millennium, said that at some point we must trust something. Trusting that some "thing" amounted to exercising the will to accept the grace of Faith in God, who is at least in his reputation the most worthy of trust if He truly Is God. The act of trusting is a willed act, which makes use of the grace called Faith to begin to have a relationship with God, through Christ Jesus. This exercise of Faith is the entry into the mystical life of a Catholic Christian. From the point of one's placing Faith in God, in what God IS, in what God says, and in the truth of the Cross-Death-Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, one can begin a dynamic relationship with the Holy Trinity, given us in seed-form in our Baptism.

Are you tired of gutting it out for yourself? Why not take the Lord at His word, invite Him to take His rightful place as Lord of your life and let Him direct your steps for a change!