

Friday Men in Christ – February 7, 2025

Numerous contemporary thinkers have studied the words of the first witnesses recognize the “Incarnation” as a distinctly Christian truth. How we are to understand the thinking of “The Witnesses” who wrote and gave to us holy scriptures. These persons, who added to the Hebrew holy writings the Christian sacred documents, created the Holy Bible collection.

Central to the witness of the Christian writings is the concept that the God of Abraham’s glory had departed Israel in the sin of their ancestors (Ezekiel 11:22-23). That Glory returned in the coming of Jesus. *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father (Joh 1:14 RSV).* In Christ, God returns to Israel and dwells among his people. Jesus is the new temple where the shekinah dwells. *For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, (Col 1:19 RSV) Again: He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power (Heb 1:3 RSV).*

This presence is the message of the New Covenant: *or in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily,¹⁰ and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority (Col 2:9 RSV).*

This helps us to understand Saul of Tarsus as Paul writing in Romans - But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. *Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you. So then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – for if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with hm.*