



New Geneva

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



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The Certainty of Our Salvation: A Reason to Sing!

What is it about Christmas that causes us to enjoy colorful lights, sing joyful carols, and give generous gifts? Why do we celebrate this season with great expectation?

Christmas must be seen in the context of strife and enmity, but also in the certainty of what God did for us in Christ. Why did Jesus even come into the world? The simple and direct answer is because sin left us broken and separated from the special relationship between God and man; we were lost, left to wander in a spiritual wilderness. Christ's incarnation changed things; we need to focus on how Christ's coming released us from the despair and hopelessness that is a part of our present lives.

In "The End of the Incarnation," B. B. Warfield spoke of the fullness and certainty of our salvation:

"If Christ Jesus came to save and has saved, how can salvation fail? If the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord, how can this eternal life thus freely given go out in time, and fail to accord with its very designation as eternal? If Christ has undertaken not merely to open a way of salvation to us, but to save us; if he came into the world for the precise purpose of performing this will of God, "that of all that He has given him, he should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day," – what possibility lies open of the failure of this great design, framed in eternity by the Triune Godhead, and executed in time by none other than the strong Son of God?"

"Therefore our gracious Lord assures us: 'All that the Father gives me shall come to me, and him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out.' And, therefore, condescending to the weakness of our fears, argues with us: 'God commends his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more, then, being justified by his blood, shall we be saved from wrath by him.' Oh, the certitude in that 'much more.' ... O weak and trembling soul, can you not find, not courage merely, but certitude in this? What matters your weakness? Your salvation rests not on it, but on God's strength. He loves you; he determined to save you; he sent his Son to save you; he has come to do it: he has done it. You are saved: it cannot fail, unless God's set purpose can fail; unless Christ's power to save can fail; unless his promises of love can fail."

Now, this fullness of love and certainty of redemption give us reasons to sing with great assurance, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come!"

–Dr. Aquila



Appreciation for All Gifts

The board, administration and faculty of New Geneva deeply appreciate every gift we receive. Each gift helps us fulfill our purpose of preparing servant leaders for the church for a lifetime of ministry. Most of our regular gifts are directed to our current operating fund. There are a number of ways to support the seminary's ministry.

- ◆ Giving on a regular monthly or quarterly basis for current operations
- ◆ Providing for student scholarships
- ◆ Establishing a gift annuity or a charitable trust
- ◆ Creating an endowment
- ◆ Contributing to special needs, e.g., for property maintenance or equipment
- ◆ Establishing a memorial in the name of a loved one

Year-End Gifts

As we draw to the end of 2021, not only do we appreciate your regular support but we ask that you consider a year-end gift to help us provide the highest quality Christ-centered education for our students. Thanks to the generosity of individuals like you, we are making a difference in the lives of students as they prepare to serve in vocational ministry here and around the world.

It will also be a great encouragement for us to start a new calendar year with all our obligations satisfied.

You are invited to partner with New Geneva Seminary in one or more of the ways listed above. You may contact Dr. Dominic Aquila to discuss your desires at 719-573-5395.

Extension Locations and Programs

Besides our main campus in Colorado Springs, CO, the Lord has allowed us to provide our quality seminary education in Fredericksburg, Virginia (since 2002), and in Egypt (since 2010). In both locations we have been able to bring the full range of New Geneva's brand of higher Christian education to students for whom it would otherwise not be easily available. Many of the graduates from these extensions are now engaged in vocational ministry or are active leaders and teachers in their local churches. Thank you for providing the support that have made these extensions possible.

JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

² *He was in the beginning with God.*

³ *All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made* ⁴ *In him was life, and the life was the light of men.* ⁵ *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* John 1:1-5 ESV

Dear friends,

May the Joy of Christmas be with you all!

My heart is filled with gratitude to God as I reflect in this season of Advent on the birth in Bethlehem of our blessed Savior Jesus Christ. In this newsletter I want to reflect with you briefly on the text above from John's gospel (1:1-5), in which John introduces Christ Jesus as the "Word" who "was with God and the Word was God."

In the incarnation of Christ our Lord God commenced the long-predicted new beginning (Isa. 43:18-19) by which eventually the total renewal of the entire creation will be accomplished. This beloved disciple of Christ was clearly starting off his gospel in this deliberate manner: "In the beginning..." It is as if John shouts: "Pay attention! God, who created heaven and earth, is beginning something totally new—without losing connection with the past, and eventually it will lead to the future transformation of the world (Matt. 19:28).

³ *All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.*

The birth of Christ announced the arrival of the radically new epoch in redemptive history. Jesus' birth marked the intrusion into the creation He himself accomplished as one of the eternal persons of the triune Godhead! When the Word became flesh, our Lord Jesus

joined the human (albeit fallen) race He had made "in the beginning" (Gen.1-3).

The Alpha & Omega (Rev. 1:8), who was from before 'the beginning' (John 1:1), took onto himself limitations set by time and space! In Jesus' incarnation God's drama of redemption reaches crescendo levels. The New Beginning commencing with the incarnation of the Son of God pushes aside the old order in which darkness and death appear to have the final say. Mary's child born in the manger brings eternal life into this world, thus making way for the "world without end" (Book of Common Prayer). At his birth Jesus declared: "I AM is here! I have come to take away your sins."

Thus Paul waxed eloquent when he exclaimed, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20 NIV⁸⁴). And saying triumphantly elsewhere, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil.

1:21 ESV). Instantly, by faith Saul of Tarsus became united with the Author of Life everlasting.

The same apostle can rhapsodize on his eternal state before God, saying in 2 Cor. 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold the new has come!" Friends! That joyful expression spells the message the angels came to announce to the shepherds on the night our Savior was born! The Incarnation is the first of many nails put into the devil's coffin! (See Rev. 12:1-6.)

May God give the Church the boldness and conviction to proclaim Christ without apology, for He is and remains the only light of the world by which all sinners must be saved! He is the same One to whom the Church cries, "Amen, Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20).

Merry Christmas!

Dr. Fritz Harms,
Visiting Professor of Systematic
and Historical Theology

