



61st Year

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Pamphlet #1 (3110)

FROM SEEKING TO REVELATION

The seeking of God

The great day of Theophany, which our Church is celebrating today, projects to people the revelation of the Triune God, as is chanted in the Dismissal Hymn of the feast, "the worship of the Trinity was revealed". It is the answer of the Church to the anxious seeking of God on the part of man throughout the ages. Only the first created people, before being exiled from paradise, had the privilege of communicating constantly with their true God and Creator. They didn't need to seek Him and be searching for Him. They were in a god-appearing ceaseless relationship with Him. From their fall and afterwards man began searching for His God again because sin deprived him of His grace and light. This the Apostle Paul also assures when he writes that "all have sinned and are deprived of God's glory".

The initiative of the revelation of God

God seeing that man, no matter how much he was seeking Him wasn't managing to find Him, revealed His own self to him. "He revealed himself with His grace in order to save all people" the Apostle tells us. And this revelation occurred with the presence of Jesus Christ in the world. The economy of the divine incarnation of Jesus is the event of the Epiphany of the grace of God, as St. John Chrysostom interprets. So for this reason also, in the beginning, the feast of Theophany was celebrated with Christmas in a common feast with the name Epiphany.

The beneficial results of the revelation of God

The revelation of the triune God in the life of men with the presence of Christ influenced and formulated the life of men, especially of course those who received the true God in their personal life. But turning away from sin and impiety began and the conversion and compliance of thought and ethos with godly piety. The rejection of foolishness and of injustice occurred and chastity and the feeling of justice was cultivated. And all this Christian conduct was the outflowing of kindness and of

the philanthropy of God Himself, who for the sake of men sent His Only Begotten Son into the world so that everyone who believes in Him “might not perish, but have life eternal”.

Man on his own could not make this change. Whatsoever human virtue did not suffice to reform man. He washed us in the grace of holy Baptism and gave us spiritual and physical rebirth with the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. This was revealed in His Baptism “in the form of a dove” and was given to us through holy Chrism, which is the “seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit”.

And He justified us with His grace so that we could become inheritors of eternal life. This is the expectation and hope of our salvation. As St. Gregory Palamas says, with holy baptism the image of the Archetype Triune God is reconstructed in our soul through our triple immersion in the baptismal font. And we find, grasp and live the epiphany and theophany of the Holy Trinity, as we chanted at the end of the Divine Liturgy. “We have found the true faith worshipping the undivided Trinity”.

Where we must seek God

Many people continue, even after His Divine Epiphany to the world, to seek Him, to seek Him elsewhere where nevertheless they don't find Him. But also whoever thinks that they found Him in some other religion or philosophical teaching or in some personal ideological thought, they themselves cannot certify it. They are lacking the witness of the grace of the Comforter as we wisely chant in the Dismissal Hymn of Theophany: “and the spirit in the form of a dove certified the truth of the word”. But let us also recall the answer which Christ gave to His holy mother, when at 12 years of age they were seeking Him in Jerusalem and wondered when they found Him in the temple conversing with those learned of the law at the temple: “Do you not know that I must be in my father's home?”.

In other words, it does not suffice for us to be seeking God, but we should also know how and where we must search for Him. The apostle Paul urged the Athenians of his time to seek the true God so that maybe they might touch him and find him in the end, “if therefore you might touch and find”. He is very near us, “not being far from each of us” (Acts 17:27), but probably we make the manner of seeking Him difficult. The guarantee that we will find Him is if we seek Him in the streams of the Jordan, in His temple, His Church. There “the worship of the Trinity” is constantly being revealed.

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