**Christ in the Early Church, By Victor Beshir**

When you ask Protestants or evangelicals (In the US both names refer to the same group) about what Christ did for you, the answer you get is Christ died for us. They recognize His death and His salvation. Yet, when you read the Bible and the early Church Fathers, you get introduced to amazing descriptions of what Christ has done for humanity.   Furthermore, when you study the Liturgical Year in the Orthodox Church, which is the extending church of the early Church, you get a touch of its deep spirituality; it has Christ as the center of the entire year. Christ fills the whole year with His deep gifts. So, the faithfuls live the entire year following Christ and get nourishment from understanding His gifts to us in every step during His life on earth, prior to His incarnation and after His ascension to heaven. Just to mention one example here, consider the Lent when the Church fasts and celebrates fasting of Christ in behave of us. In other words, I receive the power of His fasting in my weak life to make it a victorious life and to come closer to taste His spiritualities during His fasting!

 Even deeper spiritualities would be found in the daily prayers of the Orthodox Church, which is called the hour office. Those daily prayers let faithfuls live with Christ during their daily life by walking with Him through the main steps of His life on earth, before it, and after it. For a moment, could you think of the blessings a person might have as a result of walking with Christ every day on His resurrection, ascension to heaven, crucifixion, and His second coming!

 Since worship should be given not only to Christ-as many contemporary churches do-but to the Father and the Holy Spirit as well. The Orthodox Church, as the extension of the early church, offers worship to the whole Holy Trinity in its Divine Liturgies, liturgical year, and the daily prayers. For example, on the Third Hour Prayer, we pray to the Holy Spirit who was descended on the apostles on Pentecost to fill our hearts and our life too.

 Worship in the early Church included the Divine Liturgy as the manifestation of the real presence of Christ in the middle of His Church during the prayer and then offering Himself as food to His Church at the end of the Divine Liturgy. This is the culmination of blessings and the amazing spiritual experience of receiving Christ.

 All in all, those Liturgical year events, Divine liturgies and daily prayers allow Christians to live the spiritualities of the early Church. Thanks to God that we still have those spiritual treasures available until today in the Orthodox Church.

The absence of those spiritualities led to dry churches and to have many souls in deep thirst to the real spiritualities that Christ entrusted the Church with, gave it to His apostles, and were handed down until we have them today. If you're thirsty to the real spirituality, I invite you to come to taste, enjoy, and be filled.

I also invite those who're familiar with any of the above topics to share their understanding of those topics with the group. I invite all to be more active in this page in the New Year. We like to hear your comments, your suggestions, and your questions.