

ADVENT 1976

D.B. Knox

"The Protestant Faith"

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Today is Advent Sunday. Advent means coming. God's purposes are coming to their fulfilment. Jesus of Nazareth is the centre of God's purposes. He is God with us, Emmanuel, for that is what Emmanuel means, God with us. God has taken our nature and come into the closest possible relationship with men and women. It was Jesus whom God had in mind when at the beginning He said "Let us make man in our image and let them have dominion". Jesus is the image of God, He reflects God's character perfectly in human life, for He is God and man, two natures united in one person, our brother and yet our Creator.

Jesus is not only the image of God but He has received dominion. He is the Lord, the boss and governor of all things and He expressed this dominion and demonstrated its completeness when He defeated evil by living a perfect life, free from sin although sorely tempted and tested, and when He identified Himself with us in our sin on the cross and bore our penalty perfectly. His dominion and victory is complete, complete over sin and thus over death, its consequence.

The resurrection of Jesus is the demonstration of the complete victory and now He is with God at the centre of everything. He is there representing us, praying for us, helping us. And He has given us His Spirit so that we may have fellowship with Him and be in His presence. But God's purposes are still to be completed. This is what we remember at Advent. The day will come, and perhaps soon, when our lives will be judged and we will be examined as to how we have related to other people and to our Heavenly Father. We will have to give an account of our life. After all, life is very short, death may come at any moment and will certainly come before too long and God's purposes may be completed and the end come even before death catches up with us.

Now is the time to change our way of thinking, to make Jesus the centre of our life, to receive forgiveness for the past, and His help and presence in the future so that the future will break through death into the glorious eternity of heaven. This is God's purpose for us. It was for this that Christ came and died and rose again that we might be with Him forever. We look forward to His coming again in glory to bring this world process to its conclusion, to judge us all and to condemn and banish from His presence into hell all who have resisted His gracious spirit; and to accept into His eternal fellowship those who have put their faith in Him and look to Him as their Lord and boss and priest.

The Advent season reminds us that this is the Christian world view, i.e., the Christian view of reality and of history. How does it compare to yours? If it doesn't, change your mind and believe the news about Jesus!

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THE PROTESTANT FAITH
is broadcast every Sunday at
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