



The Glorious Christ

(As the candles are being lit)

We prepare for Christmas in a multitude of ways. Outwardly, we deck our halls with evergreens, bunches of bright red-berried holly, maybe even some fresh cedar sprigs. We may put up a Christmas tree, decorate it with tinsel and popcorn strings. We may even toss up some colorful sparkling lights. Inwardly, we may spend some time reflecting on Christmas past, or on Christmases to come. We may consider the “reason for the season”. And as we prepare in these myriad of ways, may it be said that in the end, there is really nothing we can do to completely prepare ourselves for the experience of the majesty and glory of God as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, whose arrival we celebrate on Christmas day.

Moses desired to see God’s glory in his day. God said, “I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.” And God said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!” Moses had to shield himself from God’s glory as it passed by. Yet the shepherds who journeyed straight away to Bethlehem were blessed to behold with their very own eyes the Glorious King, in all fullness of Deity (Colossians 2:9). “The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them” (Luke 2:20).

As we light this final candle, the Christ candle, may our hearts be stirred to revival as we contemplate the Word become flesh, dwelt among us. May we see His glory, the glory as of “the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14), and like the shepherds, may we go forth, glorifying and praising God.