

**CHOOSE EACH DAY TO RECEIVE THIS WORD
AND LIVE FROM IT**

"Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son..." (Hebrews 1:1-2).

In these words from the Mass of Christmas Day, the author of the *Letter to the Hebrews* announces the wondrous truth that God has fully revealed Himself in His Son. A contrast is made with the divine self-revelation given in the past. Prior to the Incarnation, God had certainly made Himself and His love known, but not completely. His great acts of loving intervention in the history of His chosen people were glimpses of what would be fully manifested in the gift of His Son. Since Jesus Christ is "the exact imprint of God's very being" (*Heb.1:3*), all that the Father has willed to make known has been spoken in Him. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh (*John 1:14*). Therefore, no further public revelation is necessary (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nn. 65-66).



This self-revelation of God in Jesus Christ is given in order to be received. Acceptance in faith of the Word of God, spoken in Christ, gives birth to life and light in the heart of the believer. Yet such acceptance presupposes attentive and obedient listening.

As we ponder the mystery of Christmas, we should ask ourselves if we are truly listening to the Word of God. Are we, in fact, people of the Word? Do we consciously and deliberately make time to receive God's life-giving message by pondering the person of Christ and meditating upon His teachings? Even though the lives of contemporary men and women are hectic and full of distractions, it remains possible to find time for God. Indeed, we regularly set aside time to listen to the news, watch a favorite television program, read the newspaper, or enjoy a novel. What are these in comparison to the Word of God? Who else but the Word made flesh can speak to us words of everlasting life? (cf. John 6:68.)

God's self-revelation in Christ is preserved for us in Sacred Scripture and handed on in Sacred Tradition. With the help of God's grace, let us not fail to choose each day to receive this Word and live from it.

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