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A Time of New Beginnings



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A couple of years ago I encountered a student on campus who use to attend the Chapel on a weekly basis. He had not been attending the weekly, worship services for a while, and I asked him, if things were going well in his life. In so many words, the student said: "Thank you for asking Dean. Actually, I've been having a really tough time lately. When I get my life together, I will gladly come back to the Chapel." I said to him. "I completely understand. We all have very serious challenges in our personal and professors lives. However, I would like to say that success and worshipping God go hand in hand. Please don't wait to get your life together to come back to Chapel. Chapel will actually help you to get your life together. We would really like to see you in back the fellowship once again." The student was in Chapel service the following Sunday.

Advent is a time of new be-

ginnings for each and every follower of Jesus the Christ. It is a time within the Christian or liturgical calendar in which we begin to spiritually prepare ourselves to recognize and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior on Christmas day. The word Advise is a derivative of a Latin word which means "coming" or "arrival." It is a time when Christians throughout the entire world spend four Sunday's recognizing the initial arrival of Christ two-thousand years ago, and anticipating the second arrival of our Lord and Savior.

As followers of Jesus the Christ, we should always be anticipating the miraculous power and abiding presence of Almighty God in our lives. There are no situations, or problems, or events, or people, or circumstances that are beyond the unmistakable influence of the omnipotent God that we serve. God's unique and unmistakable presence throughout the

lives of Christians in the New Testament has brought hope (the feeding of five-thousand, Matthew 14:13-21), and healing (the pool of Bethesda, John 5:1-18), and forgiveness ("Rise and walk, your sins have been forgiven," Luke 5:23), and restoration (Peter's faith was restored, Matthew 14:22-26) and confirmation (God said: "This is my son in whom I am well pleased," Matthew 3:17) and faith (to overcome temptation, Matthew 4:1-11) and power (to cast out demons, Matthew 8:28-34). Throughout the season of Advent, we recognize that God's presence in our lives will also bring out a new beginning, for Nicodemus asked Jesus: "What must I do to be born again (John 3:3-4)"

As we prepare to recognize the new beginning that God made in history with the birth of Jesus, let us anticipate the new beginning that God will make in our lives. Amen.