



# Daily Reflections

**January 2, 2018**

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## Scripture

**1 John 2: 22-28**

The LORD said to Moses:

Beloved:

Who is the liar?

Whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ.

Whoever denies the Father and the Son, this is the antichrist.

Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father,  
but whoever confesses the Son has the Father as well.

Let what you heard from the beginning remain in you.

If what you heard from the beginning remains in you,  
then you will remain in the Son and in the Father.

And this is the promise that he made us: eternal life.

I write you these things about those who would deceive you.

As for you,

the anointing that you received from him remains in you,  
so that you do not need anyone to teach you.

But his anointing teaches you about everything and is true and not false;  
just as it taught you, remain in him.

And now, children, remain in him,

so that when he appears we may have confidence  
and not be put to shame by him at his coming.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

The harsh wording in today's Scripture text reveals the growing pains of the early Christian community immediately following the death and resurrection of Our Lord. As the early disciples went about preaching Jesus Christ, questions arose about the very identity of the One preached: Was He human? Was He Divine? The answers to these and many other questions would be painstakingly chiseled out over the next five centuries through great Church councils. So much time, energy and even blood was sacrificed to create the Creed that we profess. Why? Because knowing Who and what to preach was absolutely essential.

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### **Food for your Journey**

Two rural church deacons were having a sociable beer in the local tavern when they saw their minister drive by and take a good long look at their pickup trucks parked outside.

One deacon ducked down and said, "I hope the reverend didn't see us or recognize my pickup."

The other replied indifferently, "What difference does it make? God knows we're in here ... and he's the only one who counts."

The first deacon answered, "Yeah, but God won't tell my wife."

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### **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Lord, You make all things new

You bring hope alive in our hearts

And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year

For all the potential it holds.

Come and kindle in us

A mighty flame

So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God

And live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen