

Anticipation

Series: Advent: Thrill of Hope

November 29, 2015

INTRODUCTION

Today, we are kicking off a new sermon series called “Advent: Thrill of Hope.” During the season of Advent, we will be focusing on Jesus’ first coming and looking ahead to His return. For today’s message, we looked at a passage from the Old Testament book of Isaiah.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Latin word, *adventus*, literally means *coming* or *arrival*, and originates from the Greek word, *parousia*, which carries this idea of an immanent presence that is still yet to come. Was there ever a time when you waited in eager anticipation for something? Please share with the group.
2. Read Isaiah 9:1-2. At the time when the book of Isaiah was written, the nation of Israel was divided into two kingdoms, the North and South. The Northern Kingdom had been taken into exile and the Southern Kingdom was on the verge of being taken into exile due to the rampant idolatry of both nations. In verse, what message does Isaiah give to God’s people?
3. Read Isaiah 9:3-5. Based on these verses, what will this blessed hope look like? How are these verses relevant to us today?
4. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. Here Isaiah prophesies that peace for God’s people will come in the form of a little child, a son. How might this have been different from what they were expecting? What do you think these verses point to?
5. In light of what we’ve read in these verses, how should we respond to the events that are currently going on in our country and around the world?

CONCLUSION

The real problem that we need to address is the problem of sin. Yet, the good news is that God *has* given us His best solution to combat and extinguish this problem of sin, and it is none other than Jesus Christ the Messiah, who is called the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace. As the Church, we need to pray that the light of this Gospel would take root and that it would shine brightly in all the dark places of our world, and also within our own hearts.

True and abiding peace cannot be accomplished by mere words or enacted through policies or by simply acquiring more of the stuff that this world offers. It can only be found in Jesus Christ, who came to give us His peace, a peace that surpasses all understanding, and that will one day be established for all eternity. This is why we celebrate Advent for what Christ has already done in the past and for what He will one day do in the future.

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

– Isaiah 9:6