

December 11, 2022 Meeker Christian Church

Isaiah 9:6-7 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. KJV*

Isaiah said “*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:*” That prophecy is among the greatest understatements of all time! For that prophesied child was not just “a son” but indeed He was to be THE SON of God sent to earth as the physical presence and example of God Himself to be the Savior of sinful mankind.

Some 750 years before the birth of the Christ child, Isaiah was given to prophesy about the one we now know as Jesus as identified for us in Luke 2:21 *And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived.*

We are instructed that there are some 300 Old Testament prophecies regarding Jesus with many of them written well before Isaiah’s time. So the Hebrews of the time of Isaiah were not ignorant of the prophecies about a savior for the world nor were the Hebrews at the time of the birth of Jesus ignorant of the possibility. They simply had interpreted the prophecies in favor of their own passion for power and control of the Hebrew religions traditions. Paul recognized the problem as continuing on even after the birth of the Holy One. And he addressed it in Colossians 2:8 “*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on CHRIST.*”

2 Here is a lesson for Christians: remember to keep the focus of Christmas on CHRIST, not on the traditions of man...Colossians 2:8 “*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on CHRIST.*”

A wonderful way of saying that comes from the pen of Robert Lewis Stevenson: “Let us remember the birth of JESUS, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the Wise Men.”

Here are a few scriptural reminders about REMEMBERING:

A. Psalm 77:11 “*I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.*”

B. Psalm 105:1-5 *Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. 2 Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. 3. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. 4. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. 5 Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.*

C. Psalm 137:6 *May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy.*

D. 2 Timothy 2:8 *Remember JESUS CHRIST, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel.*

Lesson 1. remember to keep the focus of Christmas on CHRIST

2. Another lesson for Christians is to Remember the right things, fill your hearts, minds, motivations, passion, activities with the memories of Jesus this Christmas season and all year long. And look to the future in service and bringing glory to the Christ child.

Romans 12:1 KJV I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

3 There are lots more reminders of the joy and satisfaction in remembering:

Genesis 9:16 *Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between GOD and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.*

Luke 22:19 *And HE took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.*

***-- 2 Peter 1:12-15 *“So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them are firmly established in the truth you now have. 13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our LORD JESUS CHRIST has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. (That word you is you – put your name there -
15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you Jim will always be able to remember these things.*

Everything written in the Bible, everything we teach and preach here, and as we put them into practice in our lives is for this reason just as John records for us: John 20:31 *But these are written that **you** may believe that JESUS is the CHRIST, the SON of GOD, and that by believing you may have life in HIS name. And without that name there is no salvation, without salvation there is no hope for eternity in heaven! Again the word you is a direct reference to YOU. AND IT IS ALL FOR THE PURPOSE OF YOU BEING THE EMISSARY FOR GOD ON EARTH!!!*

Isaiah 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:*

lesson 1. **Keep the focus of Christmas on CHRIST**

lesson 2. **Remember the right things at Christmas and always for YOU.**

lesson 3. **Jesus is precisely who Isaiah said He would be, as we have seen first,**

4 as a child the birth was fulfilled exactly as Isaiah and the other prophets said it would be. Then remember that Isaiah 9:6-7 continued *and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. KJV*

So far not much of that second part of Isaiah's prophecy is presently in place or fulfilled on earth. Some of it is, for some of us – but the entirety of it, is on the threshold of the imminent human experience.///And as surely as the first part of the prophecy was exactly fulfilled you may be certain the rest of the prophecy fulfillment is pending just as precisely! ARE YOU READY?

So you are fully aware of the impending fulfillment of the rest of that prophecy, the scripture commands me to encourage you with these words from 1 Thessalonians 4:16-5:11 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

Chapter 5:1 *Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like*

5 others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

One poet put it like this:

CHRIST was born to deliver HIS people;
HE lived to unlock Heaven's door;
He died to redeem HIS creation'
HE lives, King of Kings, evermore. (Hoff) ///

lesson 1. **Keep the focus of Christmas on CHRIST**

lesson 2. **At Christmastime Remember the right things**

lesson 3. **Jesus is precisely who Isaiah said He would be, – the Savior coming for His redeemed whose names are written in the Book of Life. ~~Revelation~~**

~~13:8.~~ We close with My personal favorite poetess Helen Steiner Rice poem entitled: GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

Our FATHER up in Heaven, long, long years ago,
Looked down in HIS great mercy upon the earth below
And saw that folks were lonely and lost in deep despair
And so HE said, "I'll send My Son to walk among them there...
So they can hear HIM speaking and feel HIS nearness, too,
And see the many miracles that Faith alone can do...
For if man really sees HIM and can touch HIS healing hand
I know it will be easier to Believe and Understand:
And so the HOLY CHRIST CHILD came down to live on earth

And that is why we celebrate HIS holy, wondrous birth,
And that is why at Christmas the world becomes aware
that heaven may seem far away but GOD is everywhere.