“Unto Us a Child is Born: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”

Isaiah 9:1-7

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 12/20/20)

 We long for the perfect leader.

 One who is strong, yet tender, wise, yet powerful. One who will stand up for us. One who will never leave us. God has sent us a Leader like no other: a King who is everything we need Him to be for us. To know Jesus is to lack nothing. Only in Jesus do we find all we need to live the life God created us to live. Only in Jesus can we live in the joy He prepared for us. The reality of WHY Jesus came is spelled out in the couplets of Isaiah 9:6. All of the powers of God’s might are put to work in Jesus… for YOU. Death has no claim on you, if you are His child.

 Isaiah is describing a coming Messiah who will occupy the throne of Judah. Jesus, the Son of God, will be to His people an Everlasting Father. (Think of the position of father Abraham or George Washington, the father of our country.) Jesus is eternal. He is not bound by time. He existed before Bethlehem, and He exists now (see John 1:1-4;14). (Q1) (Q2) Christmas is about Divinity stepping into humanity. Jesus is fully God and fully human. His eternal care is like the tender love of a father to his children.

 Jesus is the permanent, heaven-sent protector and provider for His people. Your security is not based on your strength or your feelings or your circumstances- it’s based on His immutable character (see Psalm 28:7). Many people today live in fear, but we are not meant to live this way. Is your hope attached to the wrong things? Look at Job. Job chose to fear God, not his circumstances.

 God’s tender love provides (see Isa. 64:8). In Him we lack nothing. Think of a good, earthly father. Is his love dependent on the behavior of his child? No! His love is unending. It is warm and welcoming and without condition. WE ARE THE OBJECT OF THE AFFECTION OF THE EVERLASTING FATHER! WOW! We are not born at peace with God and with one another and with ourselves. We must be adopted into His family (at great cost to Him). THEN, finally, we can know peace: To know Jesus is to know peace.

 The Prince of Peace is our Shalom. Shalom is inner wellness, wholeness, peace of soul, inner tranquility. This peace flows from a relationship of love and loyalty with God and His people. Jesus makes possible this peace with God (see Luke 2:14). He took the wrath we deserve so that we could be made right with God. He brings us to the Father by being our substitute (see Isa. 53:7-8). If you are in Christ, you are a new creation. He loves you as your Everlasting Father. Are you at peace with God? Are you at peace with others? Jesus is for you an all-sufficient Savior. Simply receive Him and follow Him and be secure. (Q3)

 Jesus is seated at the right hand of God and reigning over all things right now. Nothing in our crazy, topsy-turvy world is outside of His control. (Q4) In Christ alone sinners are promised an eternal relationship with the Prince of Peace. It takes a work of God’s grace to bend your knee and follow Jesus. (Q5) Won’t you say yes to His gift of salvation and follow Him today?

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Jesus is referred to as “Light” and “Life”. What meaning is wrapped up in these two descriptive words?
2. Why do you think Jesus had to dwell among us?
3. How do we “receive” Jesus?
4. Read John 16:33. Paul David Tripp says that Jesus “is telling His disciples that it is the plan of God for His glory and their good to keep them in a world that is terribly broken and therefore does not function in the way God intended.” He goes on to say that “your troubles don’t determine your destiny; He does!” (New Morning Mercies, Dec. 18). Why do you think God has us go through so many troubles?
5. We usually think of God’s grace as providing for our means of salvation. Why do we also need His grace to worship and follow Him?

**“Joy to the World”** (Isaac Watts)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;

Let men their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow

Far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse is found,

Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love,

And wonders of His love,

And wonders, wonders, of His love.