

Community Bible Fellowship Church

Cedar Fields - A Bible Fellowship Church

December 9, 2007

2nd Week of Advent

THE SERMARY FOR ... The Peace of Christmas

Working with Isaiah 8-12:

Is.8:40 – to the law & to the testimony – otherwise DARKNESS, GLOOM & DISTRESS

Is.9:1-7 – Christmas child/son – child born humanity/son given divinity; PRINCE of PEACE

“... Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.”

Isaiah 9:12, 17, 21.

Brings other more wicked people to punish His own people

However, 10:12 – He punishes the punisher.

We drop down to 11:6-10 – peace and rest.

Chapter 12 – Results? – Your anger is turned away and you have comforted me; the Lord is the Savior; praise for salvation,

Wait! How did we get to joy and peace? Through the branch of Jesse

Is.11:1-3 – Branch of Jesse = the child born and son given = suffering servant = the Messiah or Savior = the Lord God.

The key here is that all the anger and wrath and punishment are taken away by the branch – the one on whom rests the Spirit of God as Savior – which is Christ the Lord. God Himself.

It's God's laws that are not being followed.

It's God's anger that is being poured out.

It's God's work that turns away the anger.

It's God's comfort that is being enjoyed in peace and joy.

How do we get to Christmas peace? Especially when there is a lot of darkness, gloom, distress, anxiety, anger, frustration, disappointment, agitation and turmoil.

You get to it by recognizing the anger of God over YOUR sin is taken away by God Himself in Christ. God became a baby and a grown human man so that He could be gloriously killed exhausting God's anger and wrath, so that you would know His peace and be comforted by it.

John Murray: “God appeases his own holy wrath in the cross of Christ in order that the purpose of his love to lost men may be accomplished in accordance with and to the vindication of all the perfections that constitute his glory.”

The big questions are: Do you enjoy Christmas peace?

If not, why?

Suggestions why not Christmas Peace:

1. Because you are more concerned and fixated on how others have hurt you than how you are hurting others. Therefore, there is a turmoil of anger in your soul.
2. And you are more fixated on sins of others because the stupendous historic truth that God became man to die for you and your sins has not gripped your heart.
3. Since the historic Christian truth of Christmas – the birth of our Savior – has not yielded what the angels and prophets had predicted for your soul – JOY & PEACE.
 - a. “I bring you tidings of great joy...” “Glory to God in the highest and peace to men on whom His favors rests.”

4. The Gospel has had minimal impact into your soul therefore it little affects your emotions and relations. You have no deep supernatural peace because you miss the grace of God for you at some level and therefore there is a distinct lack of peace in your home, work, social life and inner being.

When Trust is Established by Francis Frangipane

"Hebrews 12:14,15 says, "Pursue peace with all men . . . See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled." One angry person not only jeopardizes their own soul, but their root of bitterness can spread and "many be defiled." . . . Unresolved anger is actually a primary tool which Satan uses to break down marriages, destroy families, splinter churches and divide cultures within a community.

"The Lord calls His church to reverse the curse of injustice and anger upon our society. We are heaven's agents of transformation and reconciliation." - F.Frangipane

Seeing With New Eyes by David Powlison

X-RAY QUESTIONS:

"The questions aim to help people identify the ungodly masters that occupy positions of authority in their heart. These questions reveal 'functional gods,' what or who actually controls their particular actions, thoughts, emotions, attitudes, memories, and anticipations."

E.g.

2. What do you want, desire, crave, lust, and wish for? What desires do you serve and obey?
4. Where do you bank your hopes?
9. What makes you tick? What sun does your planet revolve around? What do you organize your life around?
10. Where do you find refuge, safety, comfort, escape, pleasure, security?
11. What or whom do you trust?
12. Whose performance matters? On whose shoulders does the well-being of your world rest? Who can make it better, make it work, make it safe, make it successful?
13. Whom must you please? Whose opinion of you counts? From whom do you desire approval and fear rejection? Whose value system do you measure yourself against? In whose eyes are you living? Whose love and approval do you need?
25. What do you think about most often? What preoccupies or obsesses you? In the morning, to what does your mind drift instinctively?
30. What are your idols and false gods? In what do you place your trust, or set your hopes? What do you turn to or seek? Where do you take refuge?
31. How do you live for yourself?
32. How do you live as a slave of the devil?

The whole turning point in the book of Isaiah is chapter 40

"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins."

The Lord Jesus has doubly paid for all our sins. Your twice covered by His redeeming work.

Astonishing in Isaiah 53:10 - "it was the Lord's will (i.e. his *good pleasure*) to crush him"

See Isaiah 63 - the Lord is motivated by his own sense righteousness to pour out wrath, his own arm worked salvation.