

12/10/23

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**Sermon – God's Son (Advent week 2)**

**Scripture – Isaiah 9:1-7 NLT, John 3:13-17**

**Main Message – God so Loves us so let's be filled with love for one another**

This 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Advent reminds us of the most basic, easy to understand, gift offered to us that required everything from God, and only humble acceptance by us. Who pays for a gift that is given. On Christmas morning, we will give and receive gifts from those who love us. We ask for no payment. Our joy is in seeing the delight on each other's face. Of course, no gift we give to one another compares to the gift of eternal life given by Almighty God Himself.

**Read John 3:16**

So, look around the sanctuary here today. See the people here who come to worship the God in heaven who has loved the world. We are "eternally" grateful for what he has done. We join alongside the many churches who hold to the truth of His Mighty Name that is above all names. We give gifts to one another whom we love. God gives the gift of eternal life to the entire world. He only wants His Gift to be accepted. Our Father in heaven knows that not all will accept this gift, yet he sent His Son, Jesus, anyway to do what we could not do.

**Read Isaiah 9 (NLT)**

See, what people read here is this hope for a future, but what folks don't always realize is that this can be the NOW reality for those who are committed to Christ. We are walking in the light, so we see the truth. We are living in peace, because nothing can steal God's gift to us. We will be with him during His governance – forever! Justice and righteousness permeates our soul, because of what He has done.

Knowing all this from the prophet Isaiah gives richer meaning to the Apostle John in Chapter 3 so let me expound upon a bit beyond only John 3:16.

Yes, God fully knows what He needed to do for us to have eternal life. This package did not come wrapped with a pretty ribbon, but a Crown of Thorns. This gift wasn't wrapped in a box, but laid for 3 days in a dark cave. This gift was despised by many then, as well as today, but Jesus was risen by the power given unto Him so that he could conquer death for us. For that, we praise him and celebrate with Him and are filled with JOY.

That Salvation is NOW, not some time off in the distant future. Oh, we will groan in these earthly bodies for a while, but eternity is a long time to forget about that. Share that Joy with others so they also can have not hope for the future, but a now that is filled with life everlasting.