

Making Christmas Endure

Most people enjoy the Christmas season. Oh, there are a few curmudgeons who don't enjoy anything in life, but for the most part, we all love to see childrens' smiles, Christmas lights, nativity scenes, Christmas music, and of course, better attended church services!

After the gifts are unwrapped, the family meals are well-digested, and the only memory for some is the credit card bill that comes in February, we may be left to wonder, "Is that all there is?" I would suggest that, for the unsaved, yes, that is all there is. The excitement dissipates, the peaceful sounds of Christmas carols fade, and life is back to the old grind.

For the Christian, though, there is a sense in which Christmas lasts. You see, for the believer, Christmas is the celebration that God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ for us. Isaiah 9:6 reminds us that the coming of Jesus was an awe-filled, amazing event.

Isaiah prophesied that **Jesus would be Wonderful**, filling His people with awe. Nature is awe-inspiring. When we see Niagara Falls, or the change of the seasons, or majestic mountains, we are to worship the God who has made these things. We are also to glorify God when we see that He has put on a human body. Our world is one of cheap amusements (I am thinking in terms of value, not cost!). But what is more amazing or wonderful than the One who saves you from your sins, and has done supernatural signs and wonders as proof of His words and work on the Cross?

Jesus would also be our Counselor, giving us guidance. We need that in today's world. People wonder where to turn, and who has an authoritative voice amidst the din of talking heads? Jesus is our Authority, and His counsel is always wise. The Bible tells us that He is always available--and He has paid the bill!

Jesus would show Himself as the Mighty God, who overcomes the world, and even our human weakness. Our world seems out of control. Many live lives of worry, wondering what is going to happen next. Again, I am glad we have a Sovereign God, who has ordered all things before the creation of the world. The Scriptures teach that He is almighty over all, even jetliners, ships, and the devil. When our weakness is exposed, then we are to run to Him for covering--and not make one of our choosing and design.

Jesus would be the Everlasting Father. Is this a contradiction? No, but a wonderful paradox--the Son is the Father. Jesus declared in John 8:58 that, "Before Abraham was, I AM." He stated, "I and My Father are one." Fathers are authoritative, and caring, but Isaiah says that he would be the One to give us life. In John 10:29-30, Jesus taught that He offers us everlasting life. Romans 8:15-18 tells us the Father loves us, supports us, sustains us, and comforts us in all things.

Jesus would be the Prince of Peace, and overcome our fear. The angels told Joseph, and the shepherds, to "fear not." Be not afraid, for God will grant us peace. Someone has studied what people worry about, and have found that 40% of our worries never happen. 30% are in the past and cannot be changed. 12% concern others and are not our business. 10% concern real or imagined sickness. Only 8% of our worries are worth worrying about, and then God says, "Don't worry, for I am sovereign." To know that there is One who loves us and is in control of all things gives us a great measure of peace

Perhaps you have not trusted Jesus as your Saviour, and your life shows it. You aren't experiencing peace. You are fearful of the future. Your relationships are shallow and fleeting. Put your faith in Christ, and lean on Him for all that He is as Savior and Lord! "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved," (Acts 16:31).

This Christmas, see what you can do to make Christmas last beyond the time you take down the lights and put away the decorations. When you focus on Jesus, it can last all year round.

May you have a merry Christmas!

Pastor Craig Alan Myers

