

Christmas Eve 2022

“The Everlasting Father”

I. Introduction - The great thing about Christmas is it is a time of hope! It's a time to celebrate new birth and new beginnings. Whatever has happened to you this year, whether it has been a good year or bad year, tonight, I want to bring you a word of hope. Tonight has the chance to be a new beginning.

A. C.S. Lewis quote - “The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.”

B. Do we understand how impossible that was? That God could reach into fallen humanity in the midst of our depravity and make us like Him?

II. The Everlasting Father

A. **Isaiah 9:2,6-7**

1. **Verse 2** - Isaiah prophesied 700 years before the birth of Jesus that things would be so bad people would be walking in darkness.

a. Have you ever walked in darkness? You don't know where you are going, sort of wondering not knowing where you are or how to get to where you want to go? At best we are lost, at worst, we get hurt because we are running into things we can't see.

b. **Matthew 4:16** As bad as all that sounded in Isaiah's day, by the time Jesus showed up people quit walking in darkness and just sat down in it. That's even worse because as long as we are walking there is a chance we could walk out of the darkness, but when we sit down we have no hope. It's a sign we have given up.

2. **Isaiah 9:6-7** are some of the most well known and powerful passages in the Bible. It's the promise of God's Son, Jesus, that He brought through a virgin to deliver us and set up His government (rule/reign) of peace with which there will be no end.

a. His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

i. His name is Wonderful not Wonderful Counselor. This is key. He is Wonderful - full of wonder. I believe God wants to restore some of His wonder in your heart to night. His ways are higher than our ways, His thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

ii. Example - He the Son who was given, and yet He is the Everlasting Father. How is that - He's full of wonder. We do affirm the Trinity so I'm not saying Jesus is God the Father, but in

this passage it is clear, Jesus is who Father's others. What does this mean?

3. **Romans 5:12-21** - In the beginning, Adam was the master copy everyone was to be created like (be fruitful, multiply, fill up the earth) - in Adam's image who was made in God's image.

a. When Adam transgressed, He became defiled and passed on that defilement to everyone made in his image.

b. God sent Jesus to be the second Adam to restore the image so He could pass down a perfect image to His lineage. In that sense, He is the everlasting Father as we are now made righteous based on what He did.

4. As miraculous as the Virgin birth was, the New Birth is just as miraculous. This isn't something any of us deserve, it is a free gift. This brings hope in 2 ways:

a. No matter how bad things get in this life, I get to spend eternity with Jesus. That brings eternal peace.

b. Because of the New Birth, I am now called to rule and reign in life. I have new authority and privileges in His name. We get to reign over problems instead of letting them reign over us.

c. **This is why we renew our minds; so we can remember the benefit package that comes along with the new birth.**

III. Conclusion - As I close, I want to encourage any of you who have never made Jesus the Lord of your life to invite Him into your life tonight. He wants to give you a new beginning. For those who are already saved and have been going through a rough time, I want to encourage you to meditate these passages and let hope come alive in your heart again.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer