



Why 2020 Needs Christmas

Isaiah 9:6, page 573

December 20, 2020

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this Christmas service we seek to use Christmas to direct all our longings and lament in 2020 toward Christ.

The Text: Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

1) There is one Christmas verse that Christians in 2020 needs to hear: Isaiah 9:6.

2) How does Christmas minister to us in this unique and difficult year of 2020?

a) If 2020 shows us the deep divisions and strife in our world, Christmas reminds us that Jesus is the guarantee that peace and healing are coming.

b) If 2020 teaches us that our country cannot agree upon a ruling official, Christmas exhorts us to look to Jesus as our true, glorious, and benevolent King.

c) If 2020 caused all of us to experience longing and lament, Christmas disciplines us to direct all longing and lament toward Christ, our true satisfaction.

Response

Don't waste 2020! Use it.

Sunday Text Questions for Isaiah 9:6 (Sermon: “Why 2020 Needs Christmas”)

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- 1) Starter Question: When you were a child, how much did you long for Christmas, or specifically Christmas morning?
- 2) Read Isaiah 9:6 aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification (it would not hurt to read it in context – Isaiah 9:1-7).
- 3) Why would God say that “a child” (Jesus!) was born specifically “to us,” and how does that reveal God’s intentions for this child?
- 4) What kind of “a son” is Jesus?
- 5) In light of the rest of the Bible, what does it mean that “the government [of the world!] shall be on his [Jesus’] shoulder?”
- 6) Which title for Jesus (out of the four) stands out to you the most?
- 7) Which title for Jesus (out of the four) is one you need to remember or even rely on during this difficult year of 2020?
- 8) How should Advent and Christmas offer a special ministry in the lives of Christians every year?
- 9) If you were to summarize to a neighbor or friend, maybe especially a non-Christian, what Christmas is teaching you this year, what would you say?
- 10) For your own growth as a disciple, the good of others, and the glory of God, what can you do to make sure you are not wasting COVID or the difficult year of 2020?

Further study this week: Reflect and meditate on the Christmas story in Luke and Matthew: Luke 1:1-25 (Mon); Luke 1:26-56 (Tues); Luke 1:57-2:21 (Wed); Matthew 1 (Thurs); Matthew 2 (Fri).