



Why Advent is the Best Christmas Tradition

Romans 8:18-25

December 19, 2021

Pastor Mickey Klink

The Text: Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Advent is a ministerial aid and helpful for Christians in three ways:

- 1) Advent helps Christians separate the biblical Christmas from the secular Christmas.**

- 2) Advent helps Christians conform to the Christmas message and not the Christmas season.**
 - a) Advent helps us remember our need of Christ – the gift of the incarnation.*

 - b) Advent helps us refresh our life in Christ – the glory of Christmas.*

- 3) Advent helps Christians aim their desires toward the greatest Christmas gift, and the final gift that is still to come.**

Response

At Advent we sing both “O come, O come, Emmanuel” and “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee.”

Small Group Questions

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- 1) Starter Question: What are some of your favorite Christmas traditions?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What might Paul have in mind when he mentions “the sufferings of this present time” (v. 18)?
- 4) How is it possible that our sufferings “are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (v. 18)?
- 5) How can a Christian apply this “future glory” to the suffering in our lives right now?
- 6) What do vv. 19-22 teach us about the sufferings of creation itself, and why is that significant?
- 7) How does Advent give the Christian an opportunity to express and reflect upon what v. 23 explains?
- 8) What do vv. 24-25 teach us about Christian “hope?”
- 9) How might Advent help center your longings and desires in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
- 10) What are some ways you can utilize Advent every December in your own Christian life and in the life of your family?

Further study this week: Passages from our Advent readings: Genesis 12:3 and 17:19 (Mon); Genesis 28:14 and 49:10 (Tues); Jeremiah 33:14-15 (Wed); Matthew 1:1 and 1:17 (Thurs); Ephesians 3:6 (Fri).