

Sunday - December 6, 2020

# God Gave His Son

Dr. Jim Cooley, First Baptist Birmingham

Today's Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed,  
As when at first He lightly esteemed  
The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
And afterward more heavily oppressed her,  
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,  
In Galilee of the Gentiles.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
Have seen a great light;  
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,  
Upon them a light has shined.

<sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of His government and peace  
There will be no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice  
From that time forward, even forever.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

## **JESUS CAME BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE TRAPPED BY DARKNESS**

- One of the most compelling images found throughout the Bible is the contrast between darkness and light

- *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep...Then God said ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” Genesis 1:1-3*
- *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God...in Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” John 1:1, 4-5*
- Throughout all of eternity, whenever God has encountered darkness, whether in the physical world or the spiritual realm, He always banishes darkness with the light
- *“the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” Isaiah 9:2*
- Jesus came to save the lost, to rescue the perishing, and to deliver people from darkness into light
- The only ones who can truly appreciate the light of Christmas are those who remember what it was like to live in the darkness

## **JESUS CAME BECAUSE WE COULD NOT SAVE OURSELVES**

- One of the amazing things about Christmas is not only that Jesus would come to save, but who Jesus came to save
- He came to save the humble and the overlooked
- *“But you Bethlehem Ephrathra, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel.” Micah 5:2*
- Jesus came to save the humble and the forgotten. Nobody was excluded from God’s divine plan
- We come to the manger because we know that God’s greatest gift is one we could never deserve, only gratefully receive

## **JESUS CAME TO SAVE THE WHOSOEVERS OF THE WORLD**

- *Isaiah said God’s promise was to “Galilee of the Gentiles.” Isaiah 9:1*
- Jesus was God’s gift that revealed that *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” John 3:16*
- The light that led Bethlehem shepherds to the manger also led wise men hundreds of miles to the city of Bethlehem so that they could worship the newborn King
- When the Christmas stories of Matthew and Luke are combined, they proclaim the greatest truth the world has ever known
- There is no person from any nation, race, tribe or tongue that Jesus did not come to seek and to save
- Just as surely as there are those around the world who need to know that Jesus saves, there are those under the sound of my voice who need a Savior as well.

- *“Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.”  
Isaiah 9:2*
- *“Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.” Isaiah 9:6*