

Turning to the Wonderful Counselor

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Dec. 9, 2012

Isaiah 9:1-7

Three Reasons why Jesus is a treasured gift and should be a wonder to you...

I. Jesus is a Wonder Because of Who He Is

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder...”

- “A Child is born”

This emphasizes His humanity. Jesus was born a man. He took on flesh. He was fully human. To take care of our sin problem God had to become a man.

John 1:14 “And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

I Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.”

Philippians 2:6–8 “⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

- “A Son is given”

Jesus is the Son of God... the emphasis here is on His pre-existence – a Son is given.

- He’s a King who will rule well

When you put it altogether you have a prophecy about a Messiah who will possess attributes of humanity... attributes of deity... and attributes of Lordship.

So He’s personal – ‘a Child will be born’... He’s perfect – the ‘Son of God’ will be given... and He’s powerful – ‘the government will be upon His shoulders.’

II. Jesus is a Wonder Because of What He Says

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

No other religion exists like this in the world! God does FOR us what we could never do for ourselves.

John 3:3 “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ You must be born again.”

Matthew 16:25 “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

Matthew 21:31 ““I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.”

Matthew 7:13–14, 21-23 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it... ²¹“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

Jesus is a wonder because of what He says that is so often unexpected; and He’s a wonder because what He says is so memorable... it sticks in your mind and haunts you!

John 14:6 “I am the way the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me.”

John 8:32 “You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.”

John 10:15,18 “... I lay down my life for the sheep... No one takes it from me... I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again”

John 19:30 hanging on the cross “... It is finished!”

Theses are memorable... haunting... unexpected... and life-changing words! And that’s what makes Him a wonder! He’s a wonder for who He is... and He’s a wonder for what He says.

III. Jesus is a Wonder Because of What He Can Do in Your Life

This prophesy in Isaiah 9:6 was given to help God’s people live with anticipation for the great gift that God was sending... but today we live on the other side of this prophecy being fulfilled. The Wonderful Counselor stepped into our world.

Think about the impact this Wonderful Counselor has had on so many lives.

- He can give you Rest

Matthew 11:28 “Come to Me all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”

In an article entitled “The Busyness Trap” Tim Kreider points out that when most people say that they’re “busy,” they aren’t talking about working multiple jobs to put food on the table or pulling back-to-back shifts in the ICU. No, the busyness being complained about is almost always self-imposed made up of work and other obligations... and classes... and activities for the kids that we’ve taken on voluntarily.

He says what lies behind this busyness isn’t simply ambition and drive... it’s also a “dread [of] what they might have to face in its absence.” That’s because “busyness serves as a kind of existential reassurance, [and] a hedge against emptiness.” *New York Times* ‘Opinionator’ blog, Tim Kreider, 2012

One of the reasons the Gospel is good news is that it says something we desperately need to hear: “You don’t have to try so hard to justify your existence... and to prove your worth. You are loved beyond imagination. The Wonderful Counselor came and gave His life for you and calls for you now.

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” -**St. Augustine**

- He can give you Security

John 10:27-28 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

When are you going to meet with the Wonderful Counselor?