

# The Peace and Justice You Long For

Wonderful Counselor

Isaiah 9:2-6

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Dec. 6, 2020

**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.”

“Wonderful Counselor” in its original language is “Pele Yoetz” which means “a wonder of counsel or wisdom.”

Why did God think He needed to send us a “Wonder of Wisdom” embodied in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ?

## I. The Birth of Jesus Confronts the Absolute Failure of Our Own Wisdom

God took on flesh and stepped down into our world because the wisdom of man could never penetrate the darkness of this world or of our own hearts.

**Isaiah 9:2** “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them a light has shined.”

Christmas and the incarnation of Jesus is all about God being *with* us, not shouting down at us.

What God did for us looks like foolishness to us because it doesn't match what we think it should look like or fit our human reasoning.

**[Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-32]**

IQ or intelligence has nothing to do with wisdom and sometimes even gets in the way.

“Intelligence is like four-wheel drive. It allows you to get stuck in more remote places.”

~ Garrison Keillor

“The vast accumulation of knowledge or at least information [is]...responsible for an equally vast ignorance...when everyone knows a little about a great many things, it becomes increasingly difficult for anyone to know whether he knows what he is talking about or not. And when we do not know, or when we do not know enough, we tend to substitute emotions for thoughts.”

~ T.S. Eliot, *The Perfect Critic*

## II. The Words of Jesus Often Contradict and Offend Us

**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.”

This is like no other religion that exists in the world! God does for us what we could never do for ourselves.

Sometimes when we hear something we didn't expect, we reject it and push back. If it doesn't match our first thoughts, we think “That can't be right. There's no way.”

Jesus as the “Wonder of Wisdom” will say some things that surprise you and challenge your thinking.

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

## III. The Rest You Long for Can Only Be Found by Rejecting Your Own Wisdom and Submitting to Jesus

**[Read Matthew 11:25-30]**

On our own, we don't have what we need to go through this life with real joy, peace, and rest in the midst of chaos and confusion.

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

This “labor” is referring to the hours we spend—internally and externally—trying to justify ourselves and cover up what we know is not right.

Being “heavy laden” refers to the weight of our own sin, the weight of others who have sinned against us, and the weight of sorrows and suffering that are piled onto us.

Despite the kaleidoscope of diversity and complexity from one person to another, Jesus gives one simple invitation and makes one universal promise: “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

To come to Jesus means to believe in who He says He is and what He says He can do for you.

Jesus tells us to put on His yoke. This invitation is to yoke up *with* Jesus so that you no longer bear the load of life alone! Whatever you go through, you go through it with Him and His unlimited resources. You have access to His wisdom, strength, and power.

**Philippians 4:13** “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”