



Into the Word:

This week, Jeremy challenged us concerning our expectancy at Christmas. He said, “This season is a season of expectancy, of waiting, and it’s not just waiting for a day, it is waiting for something so much greater.”

So, what are you expecting? We know that before that first Christmas, the people of God were expecting a Savior. Emmanuel. God, Himself, to come to Earth. A Holy Expectancy of a baby that would be born that would change the world forever. A child that would save the world. A child that would become king. What does that mean for us today after that child came?

Years ago, a book called If, or History Rewritten asked a number of intriguing questions, such as: What if the Moors had won in Spain? What if Louis XVI had been a strong, firm king? What if Lee had won at Gettysburg? What if Booth had missed Lincoln? But an even more important question is: What if Jesus had never been born? What if there was still an expectation of a promise unfulfilled.

How would your expectations be different today if Christ had never been born?

How would your celebration of a holiday at this time of year be different?

Read John 10:30 and John 14:9.

One thing that Christmas brought is an answer to “What is God like?” From the beginning of human history, we’ve been hungry to know who God is, and God revealed what He is like by sending His Son. That’s why Isaiah wrote that God became “Immanuel, God with us.” Otherwise, God would have no face, no ears, no heart that we could understand.

What is revealed to you about God from the life of Christ that you would not have known if He had not come to Earth and walked with us?

How has that revelation changed your perception of God? How can we reveal to a non-believers that same revelation?

Reread Isaiah 9: 6-7

Another gift of Christmas is that we have a new expectancy that we would not have if Christ had not been born. We no longer wait for the Child to be born but we wait for the promise of Isaiah 9:6-7. We look around and see despots and rulers and military regimes. We see injustice and poverty and wonder, “Will it ever be made right?” This promise tells us it hasn’t happened yet, but it will. Because Christ was born, lived, died, and was raised from the dead we have a new expectancy of a world remade in His love.

Which of the names (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace) given to Christ by Isaiah has the most meaning for you and why?

What part of a world based on verse 7 do you look most forward to?

Apply the Word

This Christmas season, we can celebrate the fulfillment of one expectation and be thankful for the promise that creates a new expectation.

Jeremy challenged us to re-focus on the main thing this Christmas- Christ. The shepherds near Bethlehem (in Luke 2) may have been watching sheep that were to be taken to Jerusalem to be offered as sacrifices to God. So while the Lamb of God was being born in a manger, lambs were being prepared as a sacrifice for the sins of the people of Israel. Because of that baby fulfilling a holy expectancy, we have salvation from sin.

What can you do different this year to focus on celebrating the kept promises of God and those that we are still expecting?