

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

Date: 24-25 December 2018
Services: All Christmas services
Series: Christ(mas) is coming
Passage: Isaiah 9:6-7
Title: ...and peace shall reign

Outline

1. Who the child is
2. What he came to do

INTRODUCTION

- Will Christmas for you be **big** or **small** this year?
- Will Christmas lunch be a **huge** gathering or – just something **small**.... 26 people? – or just 3-4?
- have you gone a **lot** of trouble... or are have you kept it **simple**?
- Are there **loads** of presents or just a **few**?? //
- Will Christmas be **big** or **small** this year?
- Let me ask you this...
- ...is Christmas a **big** thing in your **thinking** or just something **small**??
- ... the **message** of Christmas – the **truth** of Christmas... is it **big** in your mind? Or **small**?
- Because just like some people will have a **massive** Christmas with **loads** of people and **lots** of food and a **massive** amount of presents... and others will have a **small** Christmas with a just a **small gathering** and a few presents...
- ...so for **some** – the **message** of Christmas is of **huge significance** for them in their **entire** life... while for others... it's a mere **blip** through a couple of **days** (or weeks at the most) in **December** and then – well - everything goes back to **normal**...! //
- The key to keeping it **small** in your head is to focus only on Jesus as a **baby** – and think of the **manger** and the **shepherds** and the **angels** and **wise men**.... And not to let it get any **bigger** or of greater **significance** than **that**...!
- The key to keeping it **small** is to keep it **soppy** and **sentimental**... to keep thinking it's mainly about **family** and **food** and **presents** and **holidays**... //
- ...but I take it that because you've chosen to spend some time at **church** this Christmas – that you have at least **some** desire to reflect on **more** than just a **baby** in a **manger** – **more** than just the **soppy** and **sentimental** side of Christmas...
-so let me share with you just *something* of the **big picture** of **Christmas**...
- And I want to refer you to the reading from Isaiah....
- ...and very briefly show you the answer to two important questions...
- 1. Who the **child** is
- 2. **What** he came to do
- So... first

Preaching Christ...
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

1. **Who** the child is:

- From the passage – **for** to us a child is born, to us a son is given...
- We can get that can't we...? we understand that bit...!
- But Isaiah doesn't **stop** there like **we** so often do.... **He goes on...:**
- *And the **government** will be on his shoulders and he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
- WOW!! Here is the **big** picture of **Christmas!!**
- The **big** picture is that the **child born** in the manger is **God himself... !!**
- **Wonderful counsellor** – because he has no need for any one's counsel other than his own...
- **Mighty God** – the **only** God – the **all-powerful one...**
- **Everlasting Father** – the God who **invites** us to be his **children...**
- *To us a **child** is **born**, to us a **Son** is **given...***
- Yes – God **himself!**
- The mighty **God** - in a **manger**
- The Everlasting **Father** as an utterly **dependent child...** //
- Here is the **big** picture of **who** this child is...
- Here is one of the keys to understanding just how **significant** this birth **was...**
- God was **entering** our **world...**
- God as **one of us...**
- God to **reveal** himself... **declare** himself to us – “here I am” – “I am for **real** – and I **love** you enough to step in your **world** – your **experience** – your **life...**” . ///
- How **big** will Christmas be for you this **year?**
- **Small?** – **baby Jesus** in a manger who never **grew** up and will mean very little **tomorrow...?**
- Or the **child** – the **son** – as **Wonderful Counsellor** – **Mighty God** – **Everlasting Father!** God himself visiting our planet! ///

2. **What he **came** to do...**

- If that is who the baby **was**, what did he come to **do?**
- Have a look with me – v7 - *Of the **greatness** of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever*
- The Prince of **Peace** came to establish his rightful **rule** of **peace...** and **justice** and **righteousness....**
- ...his rule where peace **reigns** and everything that is **good** and **right...** is restored. //
- By **any** standard the world is in a **mess** now.
- Around the globe – there is **oppression** and **fighting...**
- In our own **nation**, royal commissions have found **religious** institutions and **financial**

Preaching Christ...
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

institutions have been found **wanting**...

- And in our own **lives**.... Things are often not what we would have them **be**...
- But **one** day - everything will **change** - **justice** will be **done**, **wrongs righted** and **peace** will **reign**...
- For this **child** born to us - this **son given** - this **God** who **turned up** - has promised that **this** world and all the **mess** we see, is **not all there is**...! //
- ...and that **one** day - when he **returns** - there will be a **whole new world**... where **peace** and **justice reign**...! /
- This is the **big, wonderful - glorious** picture of **Christmas** - this is **Joy to the World**... !!
- Because all that breaks **our** heart and **God's** heart about this **present** world will be gone...
- And all that is **brilliant** and **wonderful** about this world now, will be **multiplied** in its **nature** and **impact**...
- And the wonderful thing is - that through relationship with God now... we're invited to experience in **this** world, a **beautiful anticipation** of the **world** that is to **come**...!
- We're invited to come and be at **peace** with God now by admitting we've mucked things up with him; and **through Jesus' death and resurrection** - claim **forgiveness** of our **sins**....
...and so to know God's peace in our **hearts** and **lives** now... so that we experience a taste of that peace which is **yet to come**...! //

-
- Will your Christmas be **small** or **big** this year?
 - **Small** because you will just focus on the baby in the manger... the shepherds and the angels... and by only remembering just Jesus the **baby** - then the impact on **tomorrow** - on next **week** - on next **year**- will be minimal...
 - Or will you have a **big** Christmas this year - because you've captured this **big picture** of who the child is and what he **came** to **do**...
 - The **mighty God** - the **Everlasting Father** - the **Prince of Peace**...
 - ...to bring a great **reign** of peace when he **returns** - which by **living with him** - **trusting him** - **turning to him** - when we know in **part** - even **now**!!