

**December 2, 2018 – Elmont Baptist Church**  
**Message Series: Advent 2018 – Enjoying the Wait**  
**Week 1: Introduction to Advent**  
**Text: Romans 6:23; John 3:16**

Advent begins the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Christmas Day. This year that will be December 3. Advent means “waiting” or “arrival”, and it is a deliberate slowing down to appreciate the first coming of Jesus in His birth and a looking ahead to His coming again. We’re going begin today like we did last year and work to see why it’s important for us to take in this long-celebrated church tradition as part of our Christmas experience.

### **Celebrating Advent Can Help Us...**

#### ✓ **Understand...**

- **Why God Sent Jesus** – Romans 6:23; John 3:16; 1 Cor 15:22
- **Jesus is Coming Again** – Luke 21:25-28 (Matt 25; 1 Thess 1)

How quickly our fast pace and franticness can distract us from the problem facing every person that has ever lived. God is Holy, man is sinful, all need a Savior, there is only One, and His name is Jesus. And if you are a Christ-follower, there needs to be intentional time given to think about the fact that Jesus is coming again. Maybe not in your lifetime, but the promise is true and He will make all things new.

#### ✓ **Slow Down...**

- **And Appreciate that Jesus Came** – Luke 2:9-11
- **And Deliberately Make this About Him** – Ps 46:10

We get the first hint of the promise of a Redeemer coming to heal sin-sickness in Genesis 3:15, just moments into the fall of humanity. It would be at least 4,000 yrs before that promise would be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. All the pictures of redemption and all the prophets of the Old Testament for thousands of years told of a coming Savior. We believe this story and say it’s the meaning of Christmas, but if we are not incredibly careful we will make these next few weeks so miserably void of Jesus, our “Christmas” will be “Christ-less”.

#### ✓ **Respond...**

- **With Gratitude** – Humility – attitude – Eph 5:4; 2 Tm 3:1-2  
*“So, it seems that gratitude, thankfulness, is the opposite of ugliness and violence.” – John Piper*
- **With Obedience** – Worship – Action – Matt 5:16  
The key for spiritual growth – Heb 5:14 – at some level is obedience in some areas of life that we are compromising in. Jesus came to reverse the curse of sin by fulfilling the promise of salvation through the forgiveness of sin. To do for us what we could never do, and to be for us what we could never become. We have a commission, and mandate. We are to advance the Kingdom of our Great Savior. We need to be involved in pushing back the darkness in our culture. It’s time we take off the blinders and see that everything is not good around us, that sin is increasing, and we have a responsibility in the midst of it. You can’t make a difference everywhere, but you have to make a difference somewhere. And one of the first keys to making a difference is that the reality of knowing and loving God through faith in Jesus changes you. That you have the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to tell you what’s right and wrong and you strive to walk in obedience to those things, and as you do, you train your powers of discernment by constant practice, which is maturity, and digest more of the solid food of the Word.  
You have the opportunity to gossip and you don’t.  
You have the opportunity to encourage and you do.  
You have the opportunity to be critical and you don’t.  
You have the opportunity to be generous and you do.  
You have the opportunity to hate and you don’t.  
You have the opportunity to love and you do.

#### **Thinking it Through...**

- ✓ **Will you ask God to help you better understand why Jesus had to come for your sin and the sin of the world?**
- ✓ **How can you intentionally slow down and take in the magnitude of Jesus’ birth?**
- ✓ **Are you striving to be obedient to the things you read and know the Word of God says?**

**1 Corinthians 15:22**

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

**Luke 21:25-28**

"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

**Matt 25:31-32**

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

**1 Thess 1:10**

and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

**Luke 2:9-11**

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**Psalms 46:10**

"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

**Ephesians 5:4**

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

**2 Timothy 3:1-2**

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

**Matthew 5:16**

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**Hebrews 5:14**

"But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil."