

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Rediscover Christmas

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020



Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7 Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory. ²The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine... ⁶For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: **Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** ⁷ His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

- **Because Jesus is our Wonderful Counsellor we have hope in our uncertainty.**

John 15:16-21 "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. ¹⁸ No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you."

- **Because Jesus is our Mighty God we have joy in our discouragement.**

Luke 1:49-51 "For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. ⁵⁰ He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him. ⁵¹ His mighty arm has done tremendous things!"

- **Because Jesus is our Everlasting Father we have love in our differences.**

1 John 4:9-12 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

- **Because Jesus is our Prince of Peace we have peace in our struggles.**

Colossians 1:19-22 (NLT) For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. ²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

Revelation 5:9-12 (NLT) And they sang a new song with these words: "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth." ¹¹ Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. ¹² And they sang in a mighty chorus: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered—to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing."

Revelation 15:3-4 And they were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvellous are your works, O Lord God, the Almighty. Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations. ⁴ Who will not fear you, Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous deeds have been revealed."

Big Idea: Seek the Giver more than the gifts this Christmas.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Rediscover Christmas

#5 of 5 - December 24, 2020

1) Which "promise" from the 100 Days of Impact was most significant for you this week and why? Where have you seen God working as you engage with the weekly Missional Challenges?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

3) Read Isaiah 9:1-7. What does this reveal to you about the foretold Messiah? How does Christ fulfill this prophecy written 800 years before His birth?

4) Read John 15:16-21. How does the Holy Spirit give us hope in our uncertainty? What uncertain things do you need God's guidance in today?

5) Read 1 John 4:9-12. What does it mean "not that we loved God, but He loved us..." and how does this make you feel? How does this truth impact the way we live with one another?

6) Read Colossians 1:19-22. What are the implications of the cross for us and all creation? How does this change our standing before God and bring peace into our lives? In what way does this encourage us as we deal with personal struggles?

7) Read and reflect on Revelation 5:9-12, and 15:3-4. How do these passages illuminate that Christ is worthy of all worship? What next step can you take to make Jesus the centre of your life?

8) How will you seek the Giver more than the gifts this Christmas? What is God asking you to do in this regard? Take some time to reflect and pray into this.

This Week's Missional Challenge: Read the Nativity Story at Christmas (Luke 2) / Have a Birthday Party for Jesus.



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