

CHRISTMAS GIVES US HOPE

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned... ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:2, 6 (NIV)

❖ Hope that comes from a clear DIRECTION because we have LOST our WAY:
"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light..."

Isaiah 9:2a (NIV)

1. Christmas introduces GOD'S ANSWER to a DARK WORLD.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12 (NIV)

2. Christmas reveals God's PURPOSE and PATH for our lives.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

❖ Hope that comes from wise COUNSEL we can TRUST in:
And He will be called Wonderful Counselor...

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

1. Christmas offers us the WISE COUNSEL of God.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ³⁴"Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"

Romans 11:33-34 (NIV)

2. Christmas opened a 24-HOUR HOTLINE to Heaven.

I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me.

Psalms 16:7 (NLT)

❖ Hope from our FEARS that come when DOUBTS attack us:
And He will be called ...Mighty God...

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

1. Christmas CONFIRMS the POWER of GOD.

But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the mighty power of God and the wonderful wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:24 (NLT)

2. Christmas CONNECTS us to the ALL-POWERFUL God.

"I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future,³⁹ and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!"

Romans 8:38-39 (CEV)

❖ Hope from our FEELINGS of INSIGNIFICANCE and INSECURITIES:

And He will be called...Everlasting Father...

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

1. Christmas PROVES how IMPORTANT we are to God.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1, 14 (NIV)

2. Christmas OFFERS us an ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE on life.

And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we are in God because we are in his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life.

1 John 5:20 (NLT)

❖ Hope from our TRIALS and TROUBLES that can so easily control us:

And He will be called...Prince of Peace...

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

1. Christmas is our BRIDGE to PEACE.

God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And He gave us the message of peace.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NCV)

3. Peace doesn't come CHEAP.

But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed!

Isaiah 53:5 (NLT)

4. Christmas introduces us to the PERSON of PEACE.

Christ himself is our peace...

Ephesians 2:14a (NCV)

❖ Closing Challenge: Will you accept the HOPE of CHRISTMAS?

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27 (NIV)