

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring **good news** to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound..."*

I. Christ comes to give us:

- A clear picture of God (Colossians 1:15NLT).
- Assurance of life eternal - salvation (John 3:16 1 John 5:13).
- Access to the mind and heart of God (Phil. 4:7 2 Cor.3:15)
- A transformed life (Romans 12:2 NIV 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT).
- A new peace (Luke 2:14).

II. What is the peace that Jesus brings? *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

John 14:27 NIV John 16:33 2 Thessalonians 3:16

III. What hinders us from experiencing the peace He brings?

1. Failing to access the knowledge and the power of the Bible. *Hebrews 4:12*
2. Failing to ask God for his will. *James 1:5 Jeremiah 33:3*
3. Failing to keep mature Christian friends. *Proverbs 13:20*
4. Failing to guard our thought life. *Isaiah 26:3 NLT*
5. Failing to obey what God tells us to do. *Luke 6:46 James 4:17 John 15:10 1 John 1:9 Hebrews 9:15*
6. Failing to remain humble. *James 4:6*
7. Failing to forgive others, or accepting the forgiveness God offers us. *Colossians 3:13 Hebrews 8:12*
8. Failing to trust him in all of our ways. *Proverbs 3:3-6*

IV. Scriptures to hold onto this Christmas season:

Isaiah 41:10 NASB 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Proverbs 3:5-6 NASB Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

1 Peter 5: 7 NLT Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

Matthew 1:23 NLT "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (I AM with you).

Philippians 4: 6-7 NIV Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Communion is in the back of the church, please feel free to go back during the first song after the message.