

ADVENT SERIES

Andy Deane · 12/04/2022 · Hope & Peace

The word “advent” is formed from a Latin word meaning “coming” or “arrival”. It’s the celebration of the first advent of Jesus in humility and the awaiting of His second advent in glory. Advent encourages us to spend a few weeks preparing for Christmas spiritually instead of just celebrating it practically. We deny the false Christmas stories we get caught up in (individualism & consumerism), and focus on gospel themes like: hope, peace, joy, love.

Advent Theme #1: HOPE

#1 We embrace hope for today & tomorrow

Today we have hope, despite darkness, because of God’s...

- Guidance: Ps. 32:8, *I will instruct you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you*
- Goodness: Ps. 27:13, *I remain confident...I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.*
- Greatness: Mark 9:23, *“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”*

Tomorrow’s hope is based on His second coming:

- Heb. 9:28, *...he will appear a 2nd time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*
- Matt. 24:36, *...about that day or hour no one knows...*
- 1 Thess. 4:16-17, *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

#2 We have good reasons for our hope

One reason is the Bible’s fulfilled prophecy:

- Isaiah 46:10, *I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.*
- Visit www.go2cornerstone.com/prophecy to read “Does Fulfilled Prophecy Confirm the Bible?”

Another reason is the sacrificial choice God already made:

- God already did what was hardest in sending His Son, so we can trust Him!
- Romans 8:31-32, *...He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

#3 Placing hope in Jesus brings a blessing

- Romans 15:13, *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
- Your hope in God will help the hopeless: Genesis 12:3, *“all peoples on earth will be blessed...”*

Advent Theme #2: PEACE

#1 We have peace with God

- Romans 5:1, *since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- Romans 8:31, *If God is for us, who can be against us?*

#2 We have peace internally

- John 14:27, *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you...Do not let your hearts be troubled & do not be afraid.*
- Isaiah 26:3, *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust...*

#3 We can have peace with others

- Romans 12:18, *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*
- Matthew 5:9, *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*