

→ Advent

What is Advent?

Advent is a four-week season dedicated to reflective preparation for the arrival, "advent", of Jesus Christ's Nativity at Christmas time and Christ's expected return in the Second Coming. During this important event on the church calendar, each week of Advent focuses on a different theme - hope, peace, joy, and love. All focus on the anticipation of waiting for the arrival of Jesus.

1. The Savior's Prophecies

Isa 9:6 For 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,

More than 700 years before Jesus was born, it was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah. Jesus was born into this world by the will of God the Father as "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

2. Peace

Luke 2:13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and **on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.**"

- 1) Jesus came to this earth to bring peace.
 - a) Everyone was walking against God.

Eph 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

- ① We were dead in our transgressions and sins.
 - ② We were following our desires and thoughts.
 - ③ We were by nature deserving of wrath.
- b) The works at the cross

II Cor 5:19 that God was **reconciling the world to himself in Christ**, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: **Be reconciled to God.** ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin[a] for us, so that in him we might **become the righteousness of God.**

- ④ Jesus took our sins on the cross.
- ⑤ God reconciled us through Jesus Christ.

⑥ God make us righteousness of God through Jesus Christ.

2) **On earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”**

➔ How can we be saved?

Rom 10: 9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved.** 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

① Believe with your heart that God raised him from the dead.

② Confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’

➔ How to keep our peace in our life? Walk by faith

Rom 1:17 For in the gospel **the righteousness of God** is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: **“The righteous will live by faith**

Psalm 85:10 Love and faithfulness meet together; **righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

➔ Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, until we see Jesus again

Matt 6:31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 **For the pagans run after all these things,** and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

➔ A life that seeks first the kingdom of God and His righteousness

Transformed from a life pursuing one's own flesh and desires to one who seeks God's righteousness. Free from the anxieties of this world, God's peace is given.

The Gentiles are people who do not honor God, people who worship idols. They are filled with the anxieties of this world.

➔ “Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

In daily life, unpleasant, painful, and bad things are more than enough.

➔ There is no need to worry about tomorrow.

Let us face the bad, unpleasant, and painful things that come each day by seeking God's righteousness.

Application

1 Christmas Eve is approaching. Let us remember with gratitude that Jesus came to earth, and eagerly await His return **【Phil 3:20】**

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ

2 God has declared us righteous and given us His peace. Let us live in a way that preserves this peace.

• Why are you worried? Why are you anxious? Why are you irritable?

• Why can't you forgive?

3. “The righteous will live by faith. **【Rom 1 : 17】**

For every anxiety, irritation, worry, and problem, let us walk according to the words of Jesus.

By entrusting your worries and problems to Jesus, forgiving those you cannot forgive, and holding fast to faith, you will be filled with perfect peace.