

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Christmas is About Christ

Scripture: **Isaiah 9:6–7**

Series: **Advent**

Sunday, December 15, 2019

OVERVIEW

However you measure it, it's clear that we don't live up to our full potential. Worse, because of the original sin of our representative Adam, all of us have been thrust into thick darkness, distress, gloom and anguish. We often distract ourselves from this present reality, but the anxiety we experience is a reminder of our fallen condition. This week's passage proclaims a salvation freely given by God for His people. While resting in this hope, we also participate in our sanctification that sets us apart and increasingly conforms us to His image. **The birth of Christ gives you hope and calls you to holiness.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Isaiah 8:22–9:5; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you often feel anxious? Share some of the rational and irrational causes of anxiety that you may experience.
2. Isaiah sets up a great contrast between darkness and light in 8:22–9:2. Can you relate to "...distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish" and being "...thrust into thick darkness" mentioned in Isaiah 8:22? What historical situation were these words originally describing? Is there a more spiritual, ultimate meaning?
3. Re-read Isaiah 9:2–7 and share what aspects of this prophecy give you hope. What aspects are a mystery to you? What aspects give you pause or concern? Why?
4. Read Ephesians 5:1–21. Do you regularly feel the responsibility to walk as children of light? What are some of the reasons and motivations that Paul provides for working with God in the killing of sin in your life?
5. In what means of grace can you be more intentional about partaking this Christmas season and into the New Year?