

~The First Sunday of Advent~ Sunday, November 29th, 2009



Hope

Today is the First Sunday of Advent and we light the first candle to remind us of Hope at Christmas.

These have been hard times for many people. People have lost jobs, savings, homes, and their sense of security. Some families have fallen apart under the stress of it all, and yet here comes Christmas.

Where do we find Hope this Christmas?

We find it in the only place we have always found it in God, who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He never changes. He never walks away (Deuteronomy 31:8). He always loves us and always forgives (Hebrews 8:12) . He is the only thing in our lives we know without any doubt we can count on through it all.

We find hope in Jesus Christ whose unconditional love was shown to us in His willingness to die in our place and rise again (1 Peter 3:1) to defeat Satan and sin, a moment in time, a moment that changed our future. We now know that no matter what happens on earth we will get through it (Isaiah 54:10, Isaiah 43:2). We will rise above it we cannot be defeated (2 Corinthians 4:8-10) but will experience Gods promise that one day we will be in heaven with Him were there will be no more tears or heartache (Revelation 21:3-5).

His love has shown us the way to overcome any problem or circumstance. This First Sunday of Advent we light the first candle to Praise God for the Hope He gives us all year round, not just at Christmas.

Let us light the candle of Hope.

Monday – Psalm 33 Monday, November 30th, 2009



“Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, he purposes of his heart through all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth- he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. No king is saved

by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.” ~ Psalm 33

Thought: There is nothing God can't do; from speaking the world into existence, to finding you the money to buy milk and anything else that you need. When everything looks bleak, remember: no problem is too big or too small for God to care about or to solve. He doesn't always solve it in our timing, but wait in Hope and trust and you will see the unique way that God comes through. Let's wait in Hope this Christmas season

Tuesday- Isaiah 40:31 Tuesday, December 01st, 2009



“But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” ~ Isaiah 40:31

Thought: If we put our hope in God and trust Him with what will happen we will spend a lot less energy on worrying and have more energy for the important things in life. Without all that stress we will feel lighter and freer. We will feel like we are soaring with the eagles. What can you put in God’s hands today so you no longer have to worry about it and can be free?

Wednesday-Psalm 119:114 Wednesday, December 02nd, 2009



“You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.” ~ Psalm 119:114

Thought: When you read the promises of God in the Bible do you ever put your name in the place of the person receiving the promise? This helps you to see the promises are for you. God never changes

He is the same yesterday today and forever (Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever”). So if He promised to help people in the Bible He will keep those same promises for you. What promise in the Bible will you claim for yourself this season? Will you put your hope in the word of God?

Thursday- 1 Timothy 5:5 Thursday, December 03rd, 2009



“The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.” ~ 1 Timothy 5:5

Thought: Are feeling all alone? Are you wondering how you can make it through? Do you see no light at the end of the tunnel? Put your hope in Jesus, pray and ask Him to help you. He will quickly show you that He is the greatest friend you could ever have and He will supply you with everything you need.

Friday – Psalm 147:10-12 Friday, December 04th, 2009



“His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.” ~ Psalm 147:10-12

Thought: God doesn't judge us like people do He doesn't look at our outward appearances or strength. He looks at our hearts. The word “fear” in this passage doesn't mean “afraid of”, it means “respect for.” God's delight is those who respect Him, obey Him, and put their hopes in Him, knowing that He will help them through whatever happens because of His unfailing love.

Saturday-1 Thessalonians 4:13 Saturday, December 05th, 2009



“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.” ~ 1 Thessalonians 4:13

Thought: Are you grieving over the loss of a loved one? The pain can be great but if we know God, we don't have to grieve anymore. Yes, it's true that we miss them but they are not really dead. Their bodies are gone but their spirit is alive and well in heaven. We will see them again when we have finished what God wants us to do here. So dry your tears and be filled with the hope of seeing them again

~The Second Sunday of Advent~ Sunday, December 06th, 2009



Love

Today is the second Sunday of Advent and we light the second candle to remind us of God's Love at Christmas.

We wander around store after store, trying to find the perfect gift for our friends and family. We usually pay more for it than we can afford, trying to make this Christmas the perfect Christmas. What we have to understand is that we have already received the perfect gift. There can be none better. God gave us the first Christmas present; a gift that cost Him more than most of us could even imagine. He gave us His love. He showed us this gift of love by sending His Son Jesus that first Christmas Morn to die in our place, save us from our sins and restore our relationship with Him (1 John 4:8-10).

We can't top it, so don't bother trying. This Christmas, instead of focusing on gifts we can buy for each other, let's focus on the greatest gift of all: the gift of Love. This second Sunday of Advent, we light the second candle to Praise God for the gift of Love He gave us that first Christmas morn, and He continues to give us throughout the year.

Let us light the candle of Love.

Monday- Romans 8:38-39 Monday, December 07th, 2009



“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” ~ Romans 8:38-39

Thought: Have you ever felt that God doesn't love you anymore? That what you have done is too much for Him to forgive, or maybe that you just aren't good enough? Well it's not true, as this verse says so clearly. Nothing can separate you from that love. If you are feeling like you can't find God, it is not because God left, but because either you have walked away from Him through disobedience, or because Satan has convinced you that God moved. Which, of course, according to this verse, is not true. All you need to do is confess your sin to God, ask Him for His forgiveness, and tell Satan to take a hike, then ask God to reveal His love to you again. He will, because there is nothing He would rather do than show you how precious you are to Him.

Tuesday- 1 John 3:16, 1 John 4:9-11 Tuesday, December 08th, 2009



“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” ~ 1 John 3:16

“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” ~ 1 John 4:9-11

Thought: How do we show love? By putting others first. It hard I know, but if you are willing to do this you can then trust that God will make sure you get all you need for yourself as well. They will come if you put your trust Him. After all He was willing to die for you, do you think He would miss out on giving you the little things you need?

Wednesday – 1 John 4:16 Wednesday, December 09th, 2009



“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him“ ~ 1 John 4:16

Thought: God loves us so much that because He lives in us His love bubbles out of us to all who are around us

Thursday – Isaiah 54:10 Thursday, December 10th, 2009



“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you”. ~ Isaiah 54:10

Thought: Even though your world may be shaken you can trust that God is still in charge and His love for you will not be shaken it will be strong and unchanging. You can hang on to this fact and be filled with peace.

Friday – Psalm 23:6 Friday, December 11th, 2009



“Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever”. ~ Psalm 23:6

Thought: Wow What great news If we follow God we will have goodness and love all our lives and even more then that we will get to live with Him for eternity The good life here, and a even better life there. You can't beat that with any presents you can find under the tree.

Saturday – Psalm 25:7 Saturday, December 12th, 2009



“Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.” ~ Psalm 25:7

Thought: We have all made mistakes in the past said things we’ve regretted, and done things we shouldn’t have but because of God’s great love for us He has forgiven us and all those sins are forgotten we can let them go and start fresh. What a Great God we have

~The Third Sunday of Advent~



Joy

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we light the third candle to remind us of Joy of Christmas

Joy to the World the Lord has Come Let earth receive her King!!!! This line from a much loved Christmas carol reminds us of the gift of joy at Christmas. This Joy is not based on things it’s based on

the excitement of the coming of the King, Jesus Christ The Joy we have Knowing that God has supplied us with a way to have our relationship with Him restored(For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,~1 Peter 3:18) What a Gift! What a reason to celebrate! The wall preventing us from reaching our precious God has been torn down! What a reason to Shout for Joy! This third Sunday of Advent we light the Third candle to Praise God for the gift of Joy, Let us light the candle of Joy

Monday- Psalm 28:7 Monday, December 14th, 2009



“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.” ~ Psalm 28:7

Thought: We are safe with God. How could we not be filled with Joy knowing we can trust Him to care for us through whatever we go through we know we are safely in His hands. Let thank Him and sing a song of Joy

Tuesday-John 16:24 Tuesday, December 15th, 2009



“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” ~ John 16:24

Thought: Like a loving parent God wants to give us what we want He loves to see the look of joy on our faces as we unwrap the gifts He gives us. If we ask for things that are in His will you can trust that you will receive it. What will you ask and trust God for this Christmas?

Wednesday- John 15:10-12 Friday, December 18th, 2009



“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” ~John 15:10-12

Thought: Do you want to experience the joy of the Lord? All you have to do is obey one command, Love each other as God loves you. What can you do today to show someone the love of God? Then wait and watch as His joy fills you.

Thursday- Job 6:10 Friday, December 18th, 2009



“Then I would still have this consolation— my joy in unrelenting pain— that I had not denied the words of the Holy One.” ~ Job 6:10

Thought: Sometimes following God hurts. We have to say no to things we want. Friends and family may ridicule us and may even stop wanting to have anything to do with us. But if you hang on to the word of God, His promises, and His commands you will see that God’s joy will fill you even when life hurts. I dare you to hang on to God this Christmas no matter what people say and do around you no matter what other relationships are lost and experience true joy that comes from having a relationship with an Awesome God.

Friday: Psalm 19:8 Friday, December 18th, 2009



“The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.” ~ Psalm 19:8

Thought: Are you in a situation where you are confused as to what the right thing to do is, and its weighing you down with worry? Go to the Bible, the word of God, about 90% of all the advice we will ever need is right there on its pages, written in black and white. What a joy it is be clear on how to handle almost any situation. God knew what we would need to know before we were even born, and placed it in a spot we all have access too. What a GREAT GOD!!!

Saturday- Psalm 21:6 Saturday, December 19th, 2009



“Surely you have granted him eternal blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence.” ~ Psalm 21:6

Thought: What will you be joyful about this Christmas? The Greatest joy I have is in the fact that I will

celebrate it with my God. He will be with me no matter where I celebrate it or with whom. As He always will be (Matthew 28:20). What joy that will be.

~The Fourth Sunday of Advent~

Peace

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we light the fourth candle to remind us of the Peace of Christmas.

I know you are thinking Peace at Christmas? With all that has to be done and places we have to go and people to see. We are way too busy and stressed to find peace at Christmas, aren't we? What is Christmas all about? Is it about the presents? The decorations? The events? Or is it about a child born in Bethlehem? About showing love to God and each other. If we get back to what it's really about what happens to the stress? It's gone and all that is left is Peace and love (Luke 19:38). This Fourth Sunday of Advent we light the fourth candle to Praise God for the Peace He gives us not just at Christmas but all year round.

Let us light the candle of Peace

Monday- Romans 5:1 Monday, December 21st, 2009



“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” ~Romans 5:1

Thought: Are you worried about what will happen to you or your loved ones after we die? If you all have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour there is no more need to worry. You can live in peace knowing that because of what Jesus did on the cross for us we are going to heaven and what a party that will be. So be filled with the peace of knowing all is well.

Tuesday- Philippians 4:6-8 Tuesday, December 22nd, 2009



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, 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. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Thought: Wow! Even in the most trying and stressful situations God’s peace can shine through, a peace that makes no sense to us or others but feels way better than the stress that comes with getting through it alone. So give your stresses over to God and focus on the good stuff instead and the peace of God will replace the stress of life.

Wednesday- Colossians 3:15 Wednesday, December 23rd, 2009



“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” ~ Colossians 3:15

Thought: Are you angry with someone or about something remember we have been called to be peaceful is there anything you can do to bring peace back to the situation? Why don't you pray and ask God how He would like you to show His peace to the people involved.

Thursday- John 14:27 Thursday, December 24th, 2009



“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” ~ John 14:27

Thought: Supernatural peace is a gift for you, given to you by God. It's yours for the taking all you have to do is claim it. WOW! Will you claim it this Christmas?

Friday-Luke 2:14 Friday, December 25th, 2009



“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” ~ Luke 2:14

Thought: Let’s give God the Glory for the incredible peace He has given us this year

Saturday- Romans 15:13 Saturday, December 26th, 2009



“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.” ~ Romans 15:13

Thought: This verse incorporates all the things we have been looking at this Christmas they are all yours by the power of the Holy Spirit What a GREAT way to spend this season, in hope, love joy and peace I hope that you have found all four this Christmas season.