

Christmas: The Reason for Our Hope

Isaiah 9:6-7
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
December 21, 2008

We can have hope this Christmas because the baby in the manger is...

- 1. The Wonderful Counselor.**
- 2. The Mighty God.**

“God became man; the divine Son became a Jew; the Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. And there was no illusion or deception in this: the babyhood of the Son of God was a reality. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as is this truth of the Incarnation.”

J.I.Packer, *Knowing God*, InterVarsity Press,
Downers Grove, Illinois, 1973, p. 53.

“He had not ceased to be God; he was no less God than before; but he had begun to be man. He was not now God *minus* some elements of his deity, but God *plus* all that he had made his own by taking manhood to himself. He who made man was now learning what it felt like to be man.”

J.I.Packer, *Knowing God*, InterVarsity Press,
Downers Grove, Illinois, 1973, p. 57.

- 3. The Everlasting Father.**

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—”

John 1:12

4. **The Prince of Peace.**

“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

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have **PEACE**. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have **PEACE** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Romans 5:1

“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. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Conclusion

“The Christmas message is that there is **hope** for a ruined humanity—**hope** of pardon, **hope** of peace with God, **hope** of glory—because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor and was born in a stable so that thirty years later he might hang on a cross. It is the most wonderful message that the world has ever heard, or will hear.”

J.I.Packer, *Knowing God*, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois, 1973, p. 63.