

Dec. 28, 2014

Blessed Be the Name of the Lord-2
Isaiah 9:6

All Stand and Read Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:21-30

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶ For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no man may boast before God. ³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

Prayer

INTRODUCTION:

Many prophecies in the Old Testament proclaimed the birth of Christ, the Messiah. It was an event that had been planned by God even before creation. He knew that man was going to sin and would need a savior.

Isaiah 9:6

King James Version (KJV)

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:

Remember how these two phrases seemed repetitive? They actually revealed the **two-fold nature** of the Messiah: His **humanity (For unto us a child is born)** and His **deity (unto us a son is given)**.

and the government shall be upon his shoulder

What was upon his shoulder? It was the cross! The government of God is now operated in this day under the authority and precepts of Calvary. I sinned and offended the Lord, but Christ took my sins in Himself on the cross and imparted His righteousness unto me. **Christ became my Redeemer**. Now, I can stand before the high court of God hidden behind the cross. The government borne on the shoulder of the Savior gives mercy to my soul. Thank God for the Cross!!!!

The second half is **God's five-fold title** of the Messiah. Just as the two-fold nature of the Messiah is not repetitive, the five-fold title of the Messiah is not repetitive. It describes some of the many characteristics of Christ.

and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

By studying the different names of Christ, we can gain a greater knowledge of who Christ actually is.

It is a clear lesson that should remind us of our need of carefully studying and rightly understanding the person of Jesus Christ. Everything revolves around who He is. It is "Who He is" that gives credence as to His work on Calvary. It is because Jesus is the eternal Son of God and yet the Son of man that we have the guarantee of redemption and our salvation.

Last week, we learned that the wonder of His birth was only wonderful because of the wonder of His death. He was born to die and the whole point of redemption. As wonderful as the birth of Christ was, it more wonderful to realize, that God would be willing to curse His only Son to impute our sin to Him. Our sin has been transferred to Jesus Christ. He has now become "guilty" for crimes that He never committed. God broke fellowship with His son because He became a curse for us. Can you imagine what that would be like? God nor Christ had ever experienced that separation. We think in time. I cannot imagine how someone who has always been, and has never had a beginning, and has always had a fellowship with each other, could sever that

relationship for something He did not do. They had had perfect harmony and a perfect love. God must pour out His wrath on His Son who is innocent, who committed no crime, to be a “sin bearer” of His people. You must wonder, why would He do that for us?. Why would He do that for sinners? I am filled with wonder. His name is rightly called “Wonderful”.

BODY:

Counselor.

The second name given to the Messiah by God is **Counselor**.

When we have Christ as our redeemer, we have at our disposal, at any time, or any place, “The Counselor”. Christ is our source of wisdom. That is why one of His names is **Counselor**. In Christ there is perfect wisdom.

1 Corinthians 1:21 & 30

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to know* God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

As our Redeemer, not only does He have a perfect knowledge of everything, He also has a perfect plan to bring about His perfect will. That is the Counselor that I am referring to this morning.

Our best laid plans often go awry. Our “best laid plans of mice and men” often seem like the logical solution, but frequently turn out wrong. When we turn to our Counselor, His plans, and His purposes will never fail, because He is The Counselor with perfect knowledge and perfect wisdom.

A man without a counselor will, of necessity, go wrong. Solomon says “where no counsel is, the people fall.” As humans, without the knowledge of Christ, we have to depend upon our own wisdom. Usually it ends up being the wrong way. When man depends on his own wisdom, he is depending on the wisdom of man. If we want to make the correct decisions in life, go to the true Counselor, Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 3:5-8

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.
⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.
⁸ It will be healing to your body
And refreshment to your bones.

We are to trust in the Lord with all of our heart. We are not to make decisions in life based only upon our own understanding. In everything we do, in everything we say, in every decision we make, we are to acknowledge Christ. In other words, with every path that we take in life, we should bring Christ into that situation. The scriptures say that only from Christ's wisdom will we have a straight path or perfect contentment. "It will be a healing to your body and refreshment to your bones". **I hope everyone here will feel their need for a counselor.**

We are at the beginning of a new year. Many of us may have already made a New Year's resolution. Maybe, for some of us, we have already broken that resolution. Consider this! Was that resolution for worldly things or was it made acknowledging Christ?

Matthew 6:19-21

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Would your resolution store up treasures in Heaven? How do we know what those treasures are? It is from the wisdom of Christ. Trust in the Lord with all of your heart "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also".

In everything we do, in everything we say, in every decision we make, we are to acknowledge Christ.

Mark this in your mind with indelible ink!

In everything we do, in everything we say, in every decision we make, we are to acknowledge Christ. If you want a perfect resolution, seek to put into practice every day, the acknowledgement of Christ into everything that you do. In all of the paths, all of the decisions, all of the things that you must do, God says you are to bring Christ into them. Acknowledge that He is the Counselor. He is the One who knows best. He has the perfect wisdom. Trust in Him and the promise in the scripture is that He will direct your paths.

We make a mess of things when we ignore the wisdom of the Counselor. All of our so called wisdom is no more than the wisdom of man. The Word of God says the wisdom of man is foolishness. Therefore, we need someone to come along and teach us. No matter how smart you are, you need someone to teach you. I don't care how old you are ([and some of us could really bank on that one](#)). I don't care how much you know. You constantly need someone to teach you how to store up treasures in heaven. We need wisdom. We all have a "boat load" of ignorance. The flesh does not like to hear that. We want to be patted on the back. We want people to think highly of our intelligence. We do not want to be thought of as "dummies", but I assure you that when it comes to knowing perfect wisdom, the wisdom that creates heavenly treasures, we are dummies. We need the Counselor to impart to us perfect wisdom to dispel all of that ignorance. We need to **resolve** that we will daily seek the Counselor's wisdom for everything we face in life!

How to Live.

We need someone to teach us **how to live**. So many times we stand back and look at what we have done or failed to do and realize that we **have made a mess of things!** We need a Counselor to teach us **how to live**. Haven't you found yourself on your knees before God saying, *"Lord, I don't know what to do. I need answers for this problem and I don't have them. If I don't get an answer from you, if you don't give me light, if you don't give me wisdom, I will make a mess of it!"* If you have been here, you are on the correct path when you turn to Christ and acknowledge Him as your counselor and seek His wisdom. He will make your "paths straight."

How to Love.

We need someone to teach us not only **how to live**, but **how to love**. We are so inept at this. Maybe, I should speak for myself, I am so inept at this.

It is one thing to love someone who loves us back.

It is one thing to enjoy people's company who enjoy being in your company.

But, to love your enemies,

to love those who spitefully use you,

to love those who have no time for you,

to love those who have hurt you,

I need a Counselor to come along and teach me how to do that!

How to Labor.

We need someone to not only teach us **how to live**, and **how to love**, but we also need someone to teach us **how to labor**. We are in the work of God here and it has only just begun! We have a "long row to hoe" to see this work flourish and prosper and build up and go on and have an influence in the Greenwood area. I am praying to God that through this ministry, that He will teach us and give us the wisdom to accomplish this labor. We need a counselor to teach us how to do this work.

It goes beyond just attending church and being in the seat when the doors are open. There is much, much more to the work of God than this and we need the Counselor to teach us how to labor. We need Him to guide us with every step, because the path ahead is fraught with all kinds of dangers and snares and traps. Christ, our Redeemer, has been given to us to be our wisdom, to be our guide, to be our teacher, to be our light, everything that we are ever going to need by way of wisdom is going to be found and wrapped up in Christ.

PICK UP BIBLE

How foolish we are to make serious decisions without first seeking counsel from Christ until we have clear direction ([patting on the Bible](#)) from this book!

How foolish we are to live our life as if Christ was only there for emergencies to get us out of the result of wrong decisions! We need to **resolve** that we will daily seek the Counselor's wisdom for everything we face in life!

The Mighty God.

He is also called **The Mighty God**. I want you to notice the placement of this name. It is the name in the middle of the five names given by God to the Messiah. This name is the middle name, the centerpiece of the five names. It may have been placed there because it is the key name and gives weight and

worth to the other four names. It is no wonder that Satan has tried to use Jews, liberals, and apostates to retranslate this verse to remove the force of what it is saying. This is a clear statement of the deity of Christ. This is a clear reference of the Messiah, the eternal Son of God. **He is called The Mighty God.**

Christ was not born into this world **and then became** God's Son. It is **not** a title that He took upon Himself at birth. He was sent into this world as a preexisting Son, the eternal Son of the eternal God.

As **Redeemer**, Christ has to be God. Only God can affect God.

Only one who is God can impact deity. Man, as a creature, cannot impact God. There is no redemption in all the efforts of man, because he is man. No matter how great our "goodness", it does not impact God. We could never provide our own atonement for our sins, but Christ could because He was God.

If you are saved, truly "born again", a child of God, that means that you have put your trust,
your faith,
your hope for salvation,
in the person and the work of Jesus Christ.
You are depending on nothing else but Christ for redemption.

If you were asked "what is the grounds for your hope of heaven when you die," your correct answer would be that Jesus Christ died for sinners. I am a sinner. I am trusting in His death. Therefore, that is my only hope.

That is as bottom line as it gets. We are depending on Christ to save us from the wrath of God on Judgment Day.

If our hope and our trust is simply in a mere mortal, like the rest of us, if He is nothing more than just a good teacher, but not God, or a prophet, but not God, then, we truly have no hope.
Our hope is in Christ, **The Mighty God.**

God was not satisfied that He would be called just God, but that He would be called "**The Mighty God**". That is good because we have some mighty enemies. We have Satan, who is mighty in his opposition to us. In fact, Luther says that "on earth, he has no equal", as far as man is concerned. Sin is mighty. Sin has tremendous power. Sin has tremendous power to deceive people. It makes them **think** that all is well with their souls, when all is NOT well. Sin is a powerful enemy and it lurks within us. It is there, it is alive, and it is well. It has not been abolished yet. But, I have Christ, and He is a **Mighty God**. He is mightier than Satan, He is mightier than my sin and all of the allurements in this world that can come against me.

CONCLUSION:

Christ is our **Redeemer**, our **Counselor**, and our **Almighty God**.

The good news is that Christ's death on the cross provided a way for us to have our sins forgiven. He died on the cross for our sins. Once we have sincerely asked for forgiveness of our sins, Christ has provided the way for our spiritual life to be made whole, without sin. Christ took the wrath that God should put on all sinners for our sins and put it on Jesus Christ. Jesus paid the penalty and rose from the dead proving that He had the power to save sinners like us. We must believe in God's son, repent of our sins, be baptized by immersed in water as a likeness of His death and resurrection, and live a new life in Christ to become children of God.

If you would want a perfect New Year's resolution, it might be:

"In everything I do, in everything I say, in every decision I make, let my wisdom come from my Counselor, Jesus Christ."

All of the paths, all of the decisions, all of the things that you must do, God says you are to bring Christ into them. Acknowledge that He is the Counselor. Pray and study His Word. He is the One who knows best. He has the perfect wisdom. Trust in Him and the promise in the scripture is that He will direct your paths.

Pray that we learn how to live, how to love, and how to labor through the Counselor's wisdom and that through this ministry we can see this work flourish and prosper and build up and go on and have an influence in the Greenwood area.

The Family of God

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.