

# Advent Devotional 2011

## Week 3

*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,*

Monday, December 19

Prince of Peace

The season is beginning to take it's toll on people. Parents have had just about all the "holiday" programs they can handle for this Christmas season. Shoppers are starting to settle on just about anything just to get it done. Internet sales are skyrocketing because people can't bear to get pushed around by another angry mob of holiday shoppers jostling for the last parking space. Needless to say, what starts out as a "Season of Joy" turns into anything but an enjoyable moment. Then if you factor in the economy and all of the difficulty people have just making ends meet, the season becomes anything but joyous. The "Reason for the Season", the one who said he came to give us life (John 10:10) gets the blame for the calamity that humanity seems to think has befallen them. The Prince of Peace has come to do just that-bring peace to us. That Peace is not just the absence of war, but the very best God has!! So for the rest of the Christmas season, don't feel like you have to go to everything. Pick what will bring you the most joy, satisfaction and enjoyment. Try this, work to have everything for Christmas completed by Dec. 21, St. Thomas Day. This way you have 3 days to rest and prepare for Christmas, and if anything else comes up you are rested and better prepared to handle whatever comes your way. When the angels appeared to the shepherds, and announced "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men" Luke 2:14 that proclamation can be more than words to a song we feel forced to sing, it becomes the way we live!

Rick Oliver

Tuesday, December 20

Wonderful Counselor

*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. Philippians 4: 6,7*

One of the challenges I have faced, was about a year before I was eligible for retirement. I was told my position was "targeted". In other words, my job would be gone in a few months. I was given the option to "bump" another employee, the lowest employee in the state in the level below mine. That would result in me moving my family somewhere (anywhere) else in the state and causing the same situation for that employee. I was very concerned about this, even after a counselor told all of us "targeted" employees we should view this situation as an "opportunity". Our family and church prayed about this situation and the state decided that my position would be taken off the "targeted" list. My Counselor answered my request in a way that "transcends all understanding" and gave me "the peace of God". We all face challenges in this life. Who wouldn't prefer to take your requests to a Counselor who can promise results like this, and deliver?

~Jim Phelps

Wednesday, December 21

Everlasting Father

*"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you will also live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. John 14:18-20*

This portion of scripture explains how He is our "Everlasting Father", and because He lives we also live. These short verses also assure us of his relationship with our father and His father God. It promises us everlasting life because of Christ's resurrection and that He lives in us. This is a huge part of what we believe as Christians. As Jesus continues in verses 21, "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him". These promises are everlasting and are made by Jesus!

~Jim Phelps

Thursday, December 22

Mighty God

O Lord God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness surrounds you. Psalm 89:8

Finally, be strong in the Lord and his mighty power. Ephesians 6:10

When I think about the almighty God there are many things that come to mind. From the creation of the world, and you and I, to healing the sick, and raising the dead. What I often overlook is how our all powerful God wants to use his might and strength in every aspect of our lives. It was through His might that he sent Jesus to earth as a baby and raised him from the grave to save us. So often we fail to ask or pray to God for this power in our situation, or our everyday activities. We aren't sure if God will come through this time or it's such a small thing why bother. We know God is capable, but do we believe he will?

Every year as we get closer to Christmas, I always look forward to gathering with family and friends. It is a fun time of watching football, playing games, and enjoying lots of food and goodies. What I want to make sure I do this year is to take the time to reflect on and pray for God's mighty power and strength. We need to remember that it is by His power we are saved and we can do everything through Christ who gives us the strength. For nothing is impossible with God. Do you truly believe and trust God's Might in your life?

~Jeron Chatelain

Friday, December 23

Mighty God

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

Psalm 5:11

In 2010 I was able to take my son fishing in Alaska with the Band of Brothers. My son is 38 and this was our first real father and son trip and it was a fantastic time. In the evenings we would have worship time and Bible Study. On one particular evening we were singing a song that I cannot remember the name of but one verse was about soaring on Eagles wings. While we were singing that verse we could see five or six Eagles soaring through the tress right out the window. I will never forget that moment. That was not a coincidence, it was our Mighty God!

~Mike Hagan

Saturday, December 24

Mighty God

They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Psalms 145:11-12

In October I moved my daughter in-law from Kamloops BC to Grande Prairie AB.

This was a 10 hour drive, I was in a U-Haul and my daughter in-law and granddaughter were following me in her car. As we drove I asked God for safe travel. During that day I saw many examples of the splendor of God's kingdom. We went through Jasper Park in the Canadian Rockies and I thanked God for the beautiful scenery. I also asked God if we could see some wildlife on our trip. Not long after that a Caribou crossed the road in front of me. About an hour later there was a herd of deer beside the road. Then I asked God if I could see a Moose, it wasn't 30 minutes later and there was a Moose beside the road. The only problem is it was dead. I just started laughing; yes God does have a sense of humor! This was our Mighty God at work.

~Mike Hagan

Sunday, December 25

Everlasting Father

Our heavenly father has given me many gifts and rewards in my life, one of the most precious is the gift of children. (Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him... Psalm 127:3) They have kept me young and full of desire for life, reminding me of things I've forgotten about being a child. Now that my children have grown older it would seem that our Lord would let up just a little bit about the reminding stuff, but with his great sense of humor, he gives us grandchildren to remind us all over again about what it is to be a child of God. Our heavenly father wants us so much to be his children that he gave the ultimate gift. Remember the children in your life today. Pray for them, teach them and love them with everything that our Lord Jesus Christ has given you.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

~Rod Parker