

THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS
“UNSUSPECTING HOPE”
SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 9
SPEAKER: PASTOR SHANE CARROLL
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INTRODUCTION

- Christmas should equal anticipation. But anticipation creates tension.
- The true tension of Christmas is spiritual, and it comes in the waiting.
- Christmas is built on an anticipation that Hope has and will come.
- Matthew 4:16, “The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light...”

I. IN THE DARK

- Isaiah 9:2,5-7, “The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine...⁶For a child is born to us, a son is given to us...He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His government and its peace will never end.”
- Key: It isn't that the world was dark. It is that the world is dark.
- Darkness = evil, suffering
- Isaiah 8:19-22, “...there will be trouble and anguish and dark despair...”

II. HOPE IN THE LIGHT

- Our love of Christmas is the product of our anticipation of Hope.
- John 1:9-13, “...to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God...”

- Hope is usually realized when we pursue bringing our best to this life.
- We make our Heavenly Father and others priority ahead of ourselves, just like Jesus!
- Light reveals life, truth, and beauty.

III. THE LIGHT HAS A NAME

- The biggest “AHA” of Isaiah isn't that light would come, but light would not be a warrior or king, but a baby.
- Isaiah 9:6b, “A child is born...His is called...Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
- Four titles that belong to God!

IV. UNSUSPECTING HOPE: THE GIFT OF LIGHT

- Isaiah 9:6a - Starts with: “For a child is born to us...”
 - Continues with: “A son is given to us.”
- He is/was a gift to all people!
- Gift's require a recipient!
- What keeps us from receiving?
 - Pride, insecurity, sense of failure
- A true gift: Something not earned.
- Isaiah 9:5 - The greatest victory, over evil and darkness, won't require our strength!!
- Our Father doesn't need our human efforts to overcome darkness. He just sent a baby!

CLOSE

- Matthew 27:45, “At noon, darkness fell across the whole land...”
- The true Hope of Christmas is that the Light descended into darkness...to overcome it.
- 1 Peter 2:9, “...He called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light...you are God's people...you have received God's mercy.”