

# SERMON NOTES

December 24, 2013

## PARADISE UNWRAPPED

### THEY JUST GO TOGETHER

**Luke 23:43** “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in **paradise**.”

**PARADISE.** *a place in which existence is positive, harmonious and eternal. Paradise is a counter-image of the misery of humanity.*

### PARADISE UNWRAPPED IS...

① a \_\_\_\_\_ from The \_\_\_\_\_

**Isaiah 9:6-7a** “And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**. 7 Of the increase of his government and **peace** there will be no end.”

② \_\_\_\_\_ from The \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 1:76-79** “And you, my child, will be called a **prophet** of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, 79 to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet **into the path of peace**.”

③ for a \_\_\_\_\_ of people who have The \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 2:1-14 11** “Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth **peace to those on whom his favor rests**.”

### PLANNING IS HALF THE FUN

\* We’ve \_\_\_\_\_ the PEACE that was supposed to be a part of Christmas

**Revelation 2:7** *Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To those who are victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the **paradise of God**.*

### JESUS LEFT HEAVEN TO OPEN PARADISE FOR YOU

## Three Guiding Principles For Our Church

### HI 5

It is our goal to greet everyone who visits us at least 5 times as they enter and 5 times as they leave.

### 50/50

In all our ministries we endeavor to think about the people who have not yet become followers of Jesus Christ.

50/50 is meant to communicate that we will always strive to connect to Pre-Christians as well as Christians.

### Belong. Believe. Behave.

We always want to keep in mind that people need to feel a sense that they belong no matter what their background or past experience.

To us, Belonging comes before Believing and Behaving.