
Sermon Notes

December 17, 2023

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED Everlasting Father Isaiah 9:2-7

Stunning Words of Hope

- ❖ Isaiah addresses a people who live in the midst of depression and deep darkness
 - an invaded and plundered people
 - a people caught up in idolatry
 - a people who look to other nations rather than to God for help
 - a people who resort to superstition and rely on occult-like practices for guidance and direction
- ❖ In the midst of all this darkness, Isaiah speaks words that are remarkable and stunning
 - words full of vivid imagery and striking contrasts
 - a forecast of a light that is coming and the hope that light brings
 - despite His people's rejection of Him and the judgment that must come as a result
 - God announces through Isaiah that One is coming who will be known as Emmanuel: God with us
- ❖ We live in as a great a danger and are just as susceptible as ancient Israel of falling prey to the same temptations and traps that snared her

False Hope

- ❖ A “Cold War” mentality
 - futile attempts at self-preservation and self-protection
 - what happens when God's people take their eyes off God and start living in fear of the external pressures that surrounded them?
 - the signs of the times cause many to live in fear
 - living as if God is not in charge
- ❖ Isaiah 8:12, *Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread.*
 - God has the final say
 - Isaiah 8:13, *The LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.*

Real Hope

- ❖ Gloom, darkness, depression, fear, and false hopes will be pierced by SOMEONE who IS light
- ❖ That SOMEONE is God's Messiah, the Everlasting Father (the Father of Eternity)
 - how can the Son of God also be identified as our Everlasting Father?
 - Jesus, who is born in the fullness of time, is also the Father of timelessness
- ❖ Consider the scope and purpose of Jesus' earthly mission and ministry
 - the baby that arrives in the manger is sent to deal with our “sin problem”
 - “cast out our sin, enter in, and be born in us today”

- ❖ None of us gets into this world without bearing the scars of sin and carrying the curse of sin (Romans 3:23, 6:23)
 - the mission for which Jesus comes to earth is to deal with our sin problem
 - Jesus is the “sin solution”
 - a solution settled on in eternity past
 - Jesus volunteers to offer His life as a sinless substitute and take upon Himself the curse and the penalty of sin
- ❖ Jesus, the Father of Eternity, is the One who fathers everlasting life for all who will believe in Him
 - Jesus is both a son given **and** a father
 - in Isaiah 53, Isaiah identifies this child born/son given as the Lord’s Suffering Servant
 - Isaiah foresees the horrors of the cross
 - *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring...* (Is 53:10)
 - when anyone trusts in Jesus, they are “born again”
 - Jesus, the only-begotten Son, begets us by His Spirit
 - Jesus is the Everlasting Father of our salvation
 - all who believe in Jesus are children who are given to Him (Heb 2:13)
 - ♦ in Christ, we find a new father, a true father, an everlasting father
 - ♦ Jesus is the Father of the great work of redemption
- ❖ The Everlasting Father puts the needs of His children first just as any good father does

- ❖ I need an Everlasting Father who
 - never gets old or runs out of power
 - never stops forgiving
 - never leaves me
 - is gentle, kind and caring
 - who has compassion on His children (Psalm 103:13)
- ❖ How should I respond to Jesus, the Everlasting Father?
 - ***But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.*** (Isa 64:8)
 - submit to Him as a loving, obedient child who longs for his/her Father's touch
- ❖ Long before you knew you needed grace, your Everlasting Father extended His mercy to you

Personal Reflection

1. Examine your life and identify issues and concerns that cause you to fear. What false hopes are you trusting in that underlie these fears? How will trusting and resting in Jesus as your Everlasting Father provide real hope for you to face of your fears with confidence?
2. What aspects of your Everlasting Father’s ministry to you do you need most during this seasons of life?
3. What can you point to in your life right now that demonstrates your willingness to trust your Everlasting Father to guide, shape, and mold your life like a potter shapes a lump of clay (*cf.* Isaiah 64:8)? What do you need to do differently in order to do this more effectively?