
Sermon Notes

December 3, 2023

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED Wonderful Counselor Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah

- ❖ Isaiah had a prophetic ministry that lasted a bit more than 70 years and spanned the reign of 4 of Judah's kings
 - 66 chapters of judgment, justice, love and redemption
 - in chapter 7, Isaiah introduces a child
- ❖ Isaiah 9:2-7 includes timeless words that are familiar to many
 - joyful anticipation of the coming Deliverer God promised
 - written more than 700 years before Jesus is born in Bethlehem
 - Isaiah connects the One who is to come with 4 descriptive titles
 - Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
 - each title consists of a pair of words, a noun and a modifier

A Dark Time

- ❖ Isaiah's words are first addressed to a people who live in the midst of deep darkness, a time of depression

- darkness without AND within
- in the 8th century BC, Israel is an invaded and plundered land
 - in 9:4, Isaiah compares the oppression Israel faces to the weight borne by a beast of burden
 - a yoke of slavery around her neck
- the corrective discipline and chastening rod of the Lord
- the darkness Israel faces and the bondage she suffers is the consequence for her own sin
- ❖ In the midst of Israel's doom and gloom, heaviness and heartache, Isaiah sounds out a promise that this darkness will be pierced by
 - a child born (fully human)
 - a son given (fully God)

The Coming Light

- ❖ The only thing capable of dispelling darkness is light!
 - SOMEONE is coming who IS light
 - when this light comes, there will be great joy and celebration
 - the coming light will cause justice and righteousness to flourish
 - in Matthew 4:13-16, Matthew links the words of Isaiah 9 that speak of the coming light with Jesus
- ❖ We have as great a need for the light the Wonderful Counselor comes to give as were those who lived in 8th century B. C. Israel
 - we live in a world engulfed by clouds of darkness, confusion, discouragement, anger, depression and anxiety

- self-help strategies are not the answer to the darkness we face
- Christ, comes to the world to dispel the clouds of darkness that surround us
- ❖ One dimension of the way Jesus does this is by being our Wonderful Counselor

Our Wonderful Counselor

- ❖ **Wonderful** = something that is so great and so amazing that it defies description
 - Jesus is the marvel of marvels, the miracle of miracles
 - co-equal and co-eternal with both Father and Spirit
 - Creator of all things (Colossians 1:16-17) is, nevertheless born as a baby!
- ❖ **Counselor** = the One who brings wisdom, guidance and direction
 - cuts through the competing voices and babble around us to provide lasting light and real wisdom
 - doesn't just **BRING** wisdom, He **IS** wisdom! (Col 2:3)
 - omniscient
 - knows **EXACTLY** what to do in **EVERY** situation and circumstance
- ❖ The negative effects of bad counsel
 - in your life and in the cosmos
 - Proverbs 14:12, *there is a way that seems right to a man but in the end it is the way of death.*
- ❖ Jesus comes to defeat and destroy the darkness perpetrated and perpetuated by Satan's wicked, evil counsel
 - in Proverbs 8, the Lord depicts Himself as Wisdom

- this One called wisdom was with God before creation and intimately involved in the process of creation
- everything in heaven and on earth was created by, through and for Jesus, the One in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge
- the voice of Wisdom is the voice of Jesus, our Wonderful Counselor who is **wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption** (1 Corinthians 1:30)

So What?

- ❖ You may think of Jesus as your Savior, but how likely are you to think of Him as
 - wisdom from God?
 - your Wonderful Counselor?
 - someone who knows you better than you know yourself?
 - someone who knows the direction in which your life is meant to go?
- ❖ Is your Wonderful Counselor your first call when you need help of any kind?
 - DO NOT "under-use" or overlook your Wonderful Counselor!
 - who understands sadness and pain better than the One who was despised and rejected of man... who felt the weight of the world's sin crushing His soul?
- ❖ Cast your cares, worries, fears and anxieties on your Wonderful Counselor
 - listen to His voice as you meet with Him in His Word
 - reach out to Him in prayer