

Morning Sermon December 2, 2018
"Wonderful Counselor" Isaiah 9:6-7

I. Christ is wonderful in His personhood and natures;
therefore, we should worship Him –

⁶ For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful ... (Isaiah 9:6-7 A NKJ)

1. Christ's two natures and unique personhood are hinted at in these verses –

A. "A child is born" refers to Christ's human nature which is born in time just as each of us have been –

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, ... (Hebrews 2:14 NKJ)

¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, ... (Hebrews 2:17 NKJ)

B. "a Son is given" – refers to the fact the eternal Son of God was given to us –

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16 NKJ)

2. The eternal Word, Son of God became flesh (human) –

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:1-3 NKJ)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 NKJ)

W. S. C. Question 22 How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

Answer: Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body, (Hebrews 2:14,16, & 10:5) and a reasonable soul, (Matthew 26:38) being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb

of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, (Luke 1:27,31,35,42, Galatians 4:4) yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15, & 7:26)

3. The Hebrew word translated "wonderful" here פֶּלִי' pele' {peh'-leh} implies Jesus is God -

Meaning: 1) wonder, marvel 1a) wonder extraordinary, hard to understand thing) 1b) wonder (of God's acts of judgment and redemption)

"To designate Christ with the word pele' is to make the clearest attestation of His Deity." Edward J. Young

II. Christ is wonderful in His works; therefore, we should trust Him –

And His name will be called Wonderful ... (Isaiah 9:6-7 B NKJ)

1. The word פֶּלִי' pele' used here as a Name of Christ, is usually used in Scripture to describe God's miracles –

12 He wrought wonders (same Hebrew word פֶּלִי' pele') before their Fathers. In the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. **13 He divided the sea and caused them to pass through, And He made the waters stand up like a heap. 14 Then He led them with the cloud by day And all the night with a light of fire. 15 He split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them abundant drink like the ocean depths. 16 He brought forth streams also from the rock and caused waters to run down like rivers. Psalm 78:12-16**

2. Moses made water into blood, Jesus turned water into wine, Jesus' miracles were more than Moses' and merciful rather than miracles of judgment -

And truly Jesus did many other signs (signs here means miracles, wonders) in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31 NKJ)

¹¹ "**Believe Me** that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. (John 14:11 NKJ)

3. Jesus' wonderful works includes His work on the cross – **Isaiah 53, 1 Corinthians 1:18**

III. Christ is wonderful as a counselor; therefore, we should listen to Him! We should obey Him! –

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6 NKJ)

Note the difference in punctuation -

6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 NASB

Some, including myself, believe Wonderful Counselor, the two words, adjective and job description are meant to be together, just like Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace are meant to be put together. Of course, Wonder or Wonderful describes Christ by itself, my first two points display that. Yet, Wonderful Counselor is definitely an accurate description of Christ as well.

1. *Christ is a wonderful counselor because His counsel, is different, holy, higher, above us –*

⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:9 NKJ)

We see this in parts of Christ's teaching / counsel that may seem strange to us –

A. *The beatitudes give us an excellent example of this -*
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:3-5 NKJ)

B. *These words could be translated, happy are the severely depressed or spiritually bankrupt; happy are those who are wailing with loud, extremely sad crying and happy are the meek, because they will gain what the aggressive go-getters, won't be able to attain!*

C. *There are explanations for each of the beatitudes:*

**Poor in spirit = a right evaluation of ourselves, as we have nothing apart from God's grace*

**Blessed mourning refers to mourning over sin, as such a person has a right understanding of sin's destructive nature*

Meekness about the earth is consistent with seeking first God's Kingdom, and setting our affections on things above – **Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:1-3*

2. *Christ is also a wonderful counselor because He always tells us the truth, even the hard truth –*

A. *Truth about ourselves, our sin -*

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, `These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ "Because you say, `I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- (Revelation. 3:14-17 NKJ)

B. *Truth about how to repent, to get right again -*

"I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. (Revelation 3:18 NKJ)

C. *Truth motivated by love –*

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. (Revelation 3:19 NKJ)

3. *Christ is a wonderful counselor because His Words / The Word comes with spiritual power –*

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life. (John 6:63 NKJ)

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17 NKJ)

Christ is a wonderful counselor: listen, obey, -

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (Revelation 3:22 NKJ)

Psalm 1

Arnold A. Brevick