

Prepare In Purity

Long Beach Alliance Church December 7, 2014 • Pastor Chris Lankford

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

~Luke 3:4-6 (ESV)

1) Advent Communities Reveal Active Faith

- A) Anticipating the first advent of the Messiah was meant to actively move the community of God’s people to faith-filled action (Malachi 3:1-5). First, advent meant an ongoing and cyclical process of personal refinement by God (3:1-4). Second, advent meant actively defending the weak, serving those who are defenseless, and helping the broken (3:5).

2) Advent Communities Reveal Active Hope

- A) Anticipating the second advent of Jesus Christ is meant to require active hope in God’s sovereign plan for the community of God’s people (Matthew 24:36-44). Hope in God comes from experiencing the serenity of actively accepting the things we cannot know (e.g. 24:36). Placing intelligent hope in God anchors our lives (cf. Hebrews 6:17-20).

3) Advent Communities Reveal Active Alertness

- A) Anticipating the advent of Jesus Christ encourages alert and pure living while continuing to live lives filled with worthwhile distractions (Matthew 24:38, 42, 44). Readiness is not a defensive posture, but one which intentionally prepares and remains spiritually pure and vigilant!

4) Advent Communities Reveal Active Remembrance

- A) Anticipating Christ’s advent looks back and sees God foreshadowing Jesus Christ’s future arrival (24:37-39; Malachi 3:4-5). Remembering Christ is always an ancient/future advent experience of purity!