

Living A Life Of Advent-ure

Long Beach Alliance Church • December 6, 2015 • Advent Week Two • Pastor Chris Lankford

***O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work,
O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the
midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.***

~Habakkuk 3:1

1) The Wickedness Of A Violent World

- A) Today marks the second Sunday of Advent, the season of anticipating the “arrival” or “coming” of the Messiah, which culminates in Christmas. God’s beloved people, the Jews, lived in anticipation of the Messiah for centuries (Psalm 13:1-2). But, like the Jews did, we also wonder why God waits to return in such a wicked and violent world (Habakkuk 1:2-4).

- B) As our culture extravagantly celebrates Christmas, we (followers of Christ) simultaneously long for the second coming/arrival of Christ (James 5:7-8). An “Advent lifestyle” (anticipating Christ’s return) can be easily obscured by well-intended Christmas celebrating, and even lost in the “haunt” of memories of loss and tragedy; but still Christ comes (Habakkuk 3:2-4).

2) Finding Purpose While Responding In Purity

- A) A lifestyle of Advent means living anticipating Christ (living Advent-ulously), instead of living embedded in the culture. This is only possible when we keep in mind the purposes of Christ (Galatians 4:4-5). The giving of the gift of Christ is not for the purpose of our deepest joy in this culture, but for the purpose of our deepest joy in Heaven and eternity (John 17:14-19)!

- B) Living Advent-ulously transforms everyday living, because we are no longer living for ourselves, but for an entirely new way of life, guided (from day one to infinity) by the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 12:1-3). This is why we live holy lives, because we have been ransomed by Christ’s blood (1 Peter 1:13-21).

- C) You cannot separate Advent, anticipating Christ’s birth, from the purpose of Christ’s life. Christ came to die. Christ came to return all glory to God by ransoming hopelessly lost people through the life-giving-blood of Christ’s death (Revelation 5:9-10). Living Advent-ulously means living holy lives; where Christ’s blood flows, life abundant reigns (Revelation 12:11).