

# GIVING UP ON Christmas

December 9, 2018 · Pastor Matt Davis

## Giving Up Worry (for Peace in God's Ways) Luke 2:21-38

### The human soul longs for peace

Galatians 4:4-5 – *“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”*

- An Old Testament longing - **Isaiah 9:1-7**  
*But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.*  
*The people who walk in darkness will see a great light;*  
*Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.*
- A war-wearied Israel living under Roman rule - **Matthew 2:16-18**  
*Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:*  
*“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children;*  
*and she refused to be comforted, because they were no more.”*
- Our longing today  
**Where are worry and anxiety coming from?**

### Jesus is our peace Luke 2:21-38

*“And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.” – Luke 2:25*

- Two old saints LOOKING for the Prince of Peace
  - Simeon: Jesus is the **consolation** of Israel (Luke 2:25-35)  
*“Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God. “Speak kindly to Jerusalem; and call out to her, that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity has been removed...” – Isaiah 40:1-2*
  - Anna: Jesus is the **redemption** of Jerusalem (Luke 2:36-38)  
*“Break forth, shout joyfully together, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.” – Isaiah 52:9*

**Where am I looking for PEACE that's not working?**

### Are we LOOKING to the Prince of Peace?

*“...so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.” - Hebrews 9:28*

*“Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” - 1 Peter 1:13*

*“And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war. Come, house of Jacob, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.” - Isaiah 2:4-5*



## Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

Isaiah believed God's promise that the chaos and turmoil of the world would be answered by the birth of a child. He essentially preaches, "I know things are dismal. The enemy has killed people you loved and taken your land, but listen to this. **A child will be born.** This child will make things right. You live in darkness, but take hope, for a light will soon shine. Your despair will become joy. Your oppressors will be driven away, their battle gear destroyed. This One who comes will be a Wonderful Counselor, a Mighty God—ruling in power, an Everlasting Father—caring for you, the Prince of Peace—bringing harmony to a war-torn world. His Kingdom will last forever. Peace *will come* in the child that will be born." It's such an over-the-top vision that it seems more like a fantasy than a promise. In time, one night when the world wasn't looking, the prophet's dream became flesh. In the middle of the dreariest of winters, God promised spring. He promised consolation, redemption. He promised peace.

Look at these words and bring them to God in prayer.

**Consolation:** The longings for healing and restoration from all the past losses and miseries of life. Consolation is when God comes to heal and restore and revive all that has been lost.

**Redemption:** Speaks to our need to be delivered from powers that still hold us bondage. Redemption is a work of power to save from enemies that still threaten us.

- To what degree do you find yourself worrying and full of anxiety?
- Where do you need peace in your life right now?
- Where have you sought out peace apart from Jesus and where did it leave you?
- What does it look like this Christmas season to allow Jesus to be your peace?

## In Response:

**TEACHING PASTOR CONNECTION:** Worry and anxiety are among the biggest problems facing our culture today. Come follow up today at 11:00am in the Worship Center Auditorium with Pastor Matt Davis and Calvary member, Anny Ganahl, as we look at the source of our longings for peace and relief from a life filled with anxiety. This will also be a preview for an upcoming Wednesday night series in 2019, from February 20 to March 13, that Anny will be leading called, "Anxiety Breaker," where we will explore a biblical perspective on how to reduce anxiety and live life more fully, enjoying the present.

**GIVING:** The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or [calvarylife.org/give](http://calvarylife.org/give)

**PRAYER POINTS:** These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you today after the service. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

**PRAYER ROOM:** The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.