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Wonderful Counselor

Isaiah 9:6



Background:

Welcome to Advent 2022 at PBCC! Our Advent sermon series this year is titled “What Child Is This?” and will focus on the four names given to the child of Isaiah 9. This week we will focus on the name Wonderful Counselor, by asking the question, where do you go to find wise counsel in your life? However you answer that question, Isaiah promises something better. He promises that a future child will know God so thoroughly and intimately, he will counsel people in God’s wonderful plans and God’s wonderful ways. Join us this Sunday as we kickoff the Advent season.

Sermon Text (ESV):

Isaiah 9:1-7

1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

- 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called **Wonderful Counselor**, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
 - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
 - Currently, where do you go to find wise counsel in your life?
 - Do you go to the same place when you feel like things are unraveling? Why or why not?
 - What sources of “wise” counsel may need to be pruned from your life? As Shawn said, “true wisdom cannot be found in humankind”.
 - We might define wisdom as *the ability to navigate life well and avoid real world pitfalls*. But Scripture describes wisdom a bit differently: as the fear – or awe or trust – of the Lord. How are these definitions/concepts of wisdom related? How are they different?
 - In what areas of your life does Jesus *not yet* have the last word / complete authority? Will you surrender these areas to him, too?
 - Especially during this season, how can you keep your eyes fixed on this child? One way is to *make space* to get to know him through following PBCC’s Advent readings or reading the gospel(s). How else can you make space this Advent season?