

E-DEVOTION FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27,

**Advent 2020**

I hope you had a happy and worry-free Thanksgiving. I remember when today was best known for starting to decorate for Christmas, not for being a major shopping day. In my recent ventures out, I noticed that decorating happens earlier each year. So, I think it is fine for us to start preparing for Christmas as well. For Christians, that preparation is called Advent.

The church divides the year into different seasons that emphasize the life of Christ. Beginning this weekend, we will enter Advent, the season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas, and continuing to the season of Epiphany in early 2021.

The focus of Advent is two-fold. On the one hand, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came into the world as both God and man so that our sins might be forgiven. On the other hand, we anticipate the day when Jesus will return to Earth and usher in a new world – a new beginning of a new life with Christ for eternity.

We tend to focus on the first, but the second is the culmination of His mission – to bring us into a perfect union with the Father.

Advent, then, for believers, is a time for us to repent and believe. Knowing that Jesus was born to forgive our sins, we repent and believe that we are forgiven because of the death and resurrection of Jesus on our behalf. Also, knowing that Jesus is coming back, we repent and believe that when He returns, He will give us eternal life.

This weekend we will light the first Advent candle and begin to contemplate the prophecy in **Isaiah 9:6**.

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

Let us pray: Dear Lord God, awaken us, that we may be ready when your Son comes, that we may receive him with joy and serve you with pure hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Martin