

## Community Group Questions

Saturday/Sunday

November 29/30, 2008

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*We have a bit of a “change up” this weekend regarding our topic for Community Group questions. Typically, more orthodox or liturgical church groups follow the Christian calendar especially this time of year. I’d like to focus more on this special time of year, Advent and what it means and how we as followers of Jesus (Christians) ought to react to the event.*

## Advent

Advent, defined: Webster defines the word **Advent** as follows, 1. an arrival. 2a. the coming of Christ into the world; 2b. the **penitential** period beginning four Sunday’s before Christmas, commemorating this.

[Penitential, defined: pertaining to or expressive of *penitence* or *repentance*.]

Well, here we are four Sunday’s away from Christmas and characteristically spending hundreds of billions of dollars each year in this country on gifts to all manner of men and women! But, how does giving gifts connect with **Advent** and the whole thing about penitence?

**Read:** Luke 2:1-20, **The Advent** (*arrival*) **of the Son of Man**

Note verse 10: “And the angel said to them (*the shepherds*)

‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior...”

**Isn’t it interesting that:**

**1)** We (*the people*) are indefatigable to sin. **2)** We (*the people*) would need relief from our sin and *mightily* need a Savior. **3)** That God (the One we sin against) Himself would be our Savior.

Our gifts are our expressions of our love for others as exhibited by God’s love for lowly sinners like us in the form of an advent, an arrival, of our Savior- Jesus, the Christ!

**Ok, but what about the repentance issue?**

It’s about a Savior and a Savior providing salvation. Salvation from sin. And, I might add, the result of sin being eternal death. So, simply put, a Savior providing me, lowly me, salvation from my sin(s). My response? Repentance. Not just an intellectual response to my sins. But, an outward expression that I am indeed a wretched sinner. Lost forever without Him. The Apostle Paul asks the question,

forever the question, "Who will set me free from the body of this death?" The "who" (*not what*) is Jesus, the Christ!

**Questions-**

- 1) Why is penitence so important this time of year for the Christian?
  
- 2) Why is the *expression* of penitence so important in the life of the Christian?
  
- 3) What forms might that expression take?  
Old Testament- 2 Chronicles 7:14; Proverbs 28:13  
New Testament- 1 John 1:9

As followers of Christ (Christians) our reaction to Advent ought to be to give! As a church, Morning Star has provided several opportunities for followers of Christ to give.

Those, without our help won't have a Christmas this year-

**Christmas Blessings**

There are people in our body in need of financial help-

**Morning Star Benevolence Fund.**

Homeless people in our community in need of the basics-

**Morning Star's *Under-the-Bridge* ministry.**

Cards and stamps to contact family-

**Agape Ministries**

A safe place for hurting men, women, and children-

**Simonka/Zobel House**

Disease-free water-

**Living Water International**

Hope for the lost, worldwide-

**Morning Star Missions Fund**

**How will you give this year?**

**Consider the Advent and what He gave.**