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On Christmas evening, God took off His mask. He revealed Himself to us and allowed us to see Him as He really is. When we see Jesus Christ, we are seeing the very image of Almighty God. “No one has seen God at any time,” says John 1:18. “The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” I once read of a great European cathedral whose ceiling was adorned with a painting of God, drawn in brilliant colors. But the ceiling was so high and the cathedral so narrow that it hurt visitors to crane their necks to view the painting. The ingenious rector placed a mirror at ground level, tilted so that worshipers, by looking in the mirror, could study the image of the painting above.

Hebrews 1 says that Jesus Christ is the “express image” of God’s person. Colossians 1:17 calls the Christ-child, “the image of the invisible God.” Colossians 2:9 adds, “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

Christmas Discussion Questions

- 1) What is your favorite part of Christmas? What does your family do to keep Christ at the center of your celebration? What do you love about Jesus right now in your life?
- 2) Read through Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 2:8-14 and talk about how you have experienced Jesus as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. What other titles of Jesus stir deep adoration of Him in you?
- 3) Renew the seven gifts that come to us through the name of Jesus. Share how you’ve experienced the power of calling on His name. Who could you invite to our weekend services this Christmas that needs to call on the name of Jesus?

SERMON NOTES: WEEK ONE

JESUS is Christmas



A Christmas Story

Black and white television was just taking off in the Tennessee mountains when I was born in the early 1950s, and I cut my teeth on some of the locally produced children’s shows that were broadcast live from a nearby station. One show was hosted by a cowboy wearing a mask like the Lone Ranger’s. He teased us about his true identity, and you can imagine our excitement when he announced one Monday that on Friday’s program he would remove his mask.

Ratings must have soared that week, because all of us tuned in excitedly, waiting for the dramatic moment when our cowboy host would unmask and reveal himself. What did he really look like? Who was he in real life?

The day came, then the hour, then the moment. Reaching behind his head, he untied his mask. But to our consternation, just as the mask came off he turned his back to the camera, and we were left no wiser than before.

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Adoring Jesus for Who He Is

December 6/7, 2008

God wants Christmas to be a celebration of His greatest gift—His Son. It was a celebration the night Jesus was born and God wants it to be that way every year for all who believe in Him. *Luke 2:8-14*

Christmas should be a yearly birthday party for Jesus not an exhausting commercial holiday. It's His birthday not our holiday! Why?

No Jesus –No Christmas-- Jesus is Christmas!

Jesus is worth celebrating and the more time you spend adoring Him the better your Christmas is! Focusing on Him fills your heart with wonder and worship instead of draining your life trying to fulfill everyone's holiday expectations. This Christmas we invite you to "Come and Adore Him!" This year let's get filled up by worshipping Jesus!

Adoring Jesus for Who He Is!

Isaiah 9:6-7 - For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

1) Wonderful Counselor

Colossians 2:2-3 - In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. *1 Corinthians 1:23-24*

2) Mighty God - *Colossians 1:15-17*

Deuteronomy 10:17 - "For the Lord your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the great God, the mighty and awesome God, who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed.

Psalms 95:3 - For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods.

3) Everlasting Father - *John 14:8-9, Hebrews 1:3* - The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.

4) Prince of Peace - *Ephesians 2:13-14*

There are 184 titles and names for Jesus Christ in the Bible! Each highlights another dimension of His greatness and awesome character! Lord of All, Lord of Glory, Messiah, Mediator, Master, Life, Light of the World, Lamb of God, Shepherd, Righteous Judge; Savior; True God, The Way.

Truly His Name is the Above Every Name and everything that we want and need the most comes through believing and calling on His Name.

1) Salvation

Acts 4:12 - There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

Acts 2:21 - But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

2) Healing

James 5:14 - Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord.

3) Protection and Deliverance - *John 17:11-12* - ...Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are.

4) Life - *John 20:31* - But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life.

5) Answered Prayer

John 14:13, John 16:23-24 - At that time you won't need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

6) Power to Do Miracles - *Acts 3:6, Acts 3:16* - The name of Jesus has healed this man--and you know how lame he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has caused this healing before your very eyes.

7) Grace to Suffer - *Acts 5:41* - The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Jesus.

Oh, the wonder working power of the name of Jesus! Want this to be the best Christmas ever for you and your family? Celebrate Jesus! Jesus is Christmas!