

ADVENT

{2nd Week – Sunday December 9, 2012 A.D.}

Themes: (Purple – *personal preparation, repentance, godly conduct & spiritual discipline*)

- **Personal preparation** – deliberate, significant effort to achieve personal time for intimacy with God for the setting of our thinking, our heart's attitudes, our values, priorities and loves -- all toward God!!!!
 - Realization of how it is both easy and common for Christians to allow the holiday activities to choke out virtually all of the time that should be given to God -- John 1:11 **He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.**
 - Welcome Christ into our lives/our homes/our world -- John 1:9 **There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.**
- **Repentance** – I John 1:9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
 - John 2:1-11. In preparation for Christ's second and final coming. Penitent, yet joyfully expectant of the Great Marriage/Great Banquet Celebration of the Lamb and the Bride of Christ, where the New Wine in the Kingdom of God will be the best reserved for the last (now/eternity).
 - **Reconciliation** is what God does. It is God who forgives sins. And God forgives us the very moment that He brings us to the place where we realize that we need forgiveness (which itself comes through God's grace). At that moment, we feel sorrow and a desire for forgiveness and healing. At that moment we have full confidence in Scripture, in God and in the sufficiency and satisfaction of the finished work of the Cross of Christ. In that moment, we are regenerated unto spiritual life in Christ/born again/reconciled to God.
 - the ending of conflict or renewing of a friendly relationship between disputing people or groups
 - the making of two or more apparently conflicting things consistent or compatible -- to bring into agreement or harmony
- **Godly conduct** – Following Christ's example, the selfless giving of ourselves first and good gifts second to God then to others, especially those who can never return/repay the kindness.
- **Spiritual discipline** – what is practiced, what is refrained from, safeguards and reflection in the Scriptures/prayer/fasting

{Isaiah 53:1-12, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, 1 Peter 1:18-23}

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NASB95)

⁵ For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time.

Psalms 51:1-19 (NASB95)

For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

¹ Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. ⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit.

¹³ *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You. ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; *Then* my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise. ¹⁶ For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

¹⁸ By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.

