

# ADVENT

{2<sup>nd</sup> Week – Sunday, December 4, 2016 A.D.}

Themes: (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/distractions 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

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## 1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,<sup>4</sup> to *obtain* an inheritance *which is*

imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

<sup>5</sup> who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

<sup>7</sup> so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

<sup>8</sup> and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,<sup>9</sup> obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

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## 1 Peter 1:17-23

<sup>17</sup> If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *on earth*;

<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold

from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

<sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.<sup>20</sup> For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you<sup>21</sup> who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

<sup>23</sup> for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

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ALL SCRIPTURE REFERENCES ARE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, 1995 UPDATE, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

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