

# THANKS!

The Science of Gratitude (Philippians 4)

Thanks!, Part 4

Bill Yaccino, Connection & Formation Pastor

November 28 & 30, 2014

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## We Exist to Do Things That Can't Be Done without God's Special, Supernatural Grace... Thank God!

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

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### MESSAGE NOTES

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ADVENT  
DEVOTIONAL

Advent is from a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival."

Sunday, November 30

Jesus brings hope! Some say that the *expectation of his coming* is strongest in the book of Isaiah. As much as any other wise man he sees the coming of a "great light." Not an ethereal, whimsical light but a *child* whose multiple titles invoke hope! Doubt and gloom are vanquished in the great light of His appearing! But often the message is watered down or distorted by those who have earthly motivations. We too are often distracted like Martha doing good things; after all Martha was serving Jesus. What have we to compare to that?!

Yet if we could carry the possibility of hope in our pocket we might constantly touch it to reassure us of the hope of Jesus appearing. The Apostle Paul tells us that the scriptures were "written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." The celebration of Advent has been valuable for centuries, through a series of lessons and themes, to help seekers restore hope in His appearing. Each Sunday before Christmas has a focus. The first is hope! Our hope as Christ followers as we gather each week is to strengthen and encourage each other in his Presence. As Peter says, "And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." Jesus is our Morning Star! In John's gospel Jesus says, "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." Jesus is Immanuel, "God with us."

Advent's custom is the Advent Wreath with a candle marking each of the four Sunday's. The candles may be purple or white depending on church tradition. One candle is usually rose colored and marks the third Sunday in Advent. The candle opposite the rose colored candle begins the Season celebration. The first candle is called the Prophecy Candle. God revealed to seers and prophets from olden times concerning the coming one. Here are a few of the high points.

NIV; Isaiah 9:1-6; Isaiah 53; John 12:46; 2 Peter 1:19; Hosea 11:1; Romans 15:4; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 42:1-9; Malachi 4:5-6; Rev 22:16

Visit our website for daily devotionals throughout advent:

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