



Advent 2019 – He Will Be Called
Wk. 4 Everlasting Father
By Pastor Jody May

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Introduction:

Today we are going to focus on the third name we find in Isaiah 9:6, if you are just joining us in this series, the reason we are looking at this passage during Christmas time is that this passage talks about the coming of Jesus, more than 700 years prior to His birth. This Christ/Messiah will live out these different titles portraying God's characteristics. In order that we may know it is truly Him.

Week 1 we uncovered in chapter 7 of Isaiah to set it up the title **Immanuel**, God is with us, to show us that even though the line of Kings (Ahaz) will fail God will provide a King eventually that will do for us what the undivine kings could not, providing for His people the eternal presence of God, through the God-man Jesus.

Week 2 we talked about the **Wonderful Counselor**, how He would be a shining light of illumination into our lives and into the world, He was the first source of light in the beginning of creation, and He will continue to open our eyes, giving us the ability to see God and the path of Salvation.



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Week 3 we talked about Jesus will portray the **Might of God**. He displayed this power through creation, governance, redemption, overcoming ultimate temptation, miracles, resurrection, maintaining the eternal judgment of hell, extending grace to sinners, and then giving that power to the Apostles to start the church. No one had the power to save us but Jesus Himself alone.

Week 4 we get to this title of **Everlasting Father** and before we go any further, we need to clarify something. 1st off, this has nothing to do with the doctrine of the Trinity. This does not mean, as some other heresies teach, that God the Son (Jesus) and the Father are the same person, this verse doesn't even touch that. 2nd we need to remember the purpose of this verse which is to talk about how the Messiah will portray the characteristics of God, specifically the characteristic of Godly fatherhood.

As a matter of fact, Jesus made this point Himself in speaking to Phillip when Phillip was having a hard time believing what he was seeing in Jesus, as found in **John 14:9 ESV**

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

This title to me was best explained by Alistair Begg, by which he said if you reverse the word order of the title you get a better idea of what the text is trying to say. He is a Father Forever, meaning, that God, portrayed by Christ, will be a Father that never changes in His care for His children.

James May was 42 years old when I was born and died 3 days short of his 75th birthday, I got 33 years with him. Over the course of 33 years my dad walked through a mid-life crisis, 2 major back surgeries, cancer battles, bouts with alcoholism, from Nixon to Bush from being a democrat to a republican, and saw the murder of one of his grandchildren. During 99% of those years my dad was lost, knew not God, therefore all these events changed him, every decade it felt like I was talking to a different person. Therefore, I had trouble in finding ways to



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communicate with him about life because his views of life were constantly changing.

But Isaiah 9:6 says that Jesus will be to me a father forever, that He will not change. He is set, He is a rock, **the world does not effect Him, He effects the world** (Eph. 1:10)! Meaning, He does not change, but what does change is our perception of Him. As we grow in Faith our perceptions of Him are constantly changing because we are changing for the better all the time.

So today I want us to spend our time in an OT passage, **Psalm 103 to be specific**, which describes God as a father which Christ will portray to us, FOREVER. We should leave here today:

- Blessed because we know these things will never change about Him!
- Blessed because the more we see these fatherly characteristics it means we are becoming more like Him. (2 Cor. 3:18)

Let's start in Psalm 103 with v.13 for it tells of the main thrust of this whole chapter:

Psalm 103:13 ESV

¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

In the KJV the word that is used here is *Pitieth*, it is the Hebrew word in the OT most used for to describe Mercy. As for example:

For the Lord will have compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will set them in their own land, and sojourners will join them and will attach themselves to the house of Jacob. **Isaiah 14:1**

Compassion here, is that expression of love shown from a Father to his children whereby He will intercede, He will not allow the full weight of the choices they have made, to affect their future. We sit here today because God had compassion on His children, 'Jacob' - Israel, He kept His promise, for **when Israel**



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could not bring us to God, He came to us, still allowing His children to be a part of His sovereign plan.

This form of Mercy/this compassion/this concern for a child is also particular to His children. Just like those of us in here that are parents in this room – while we can care for those that are not our flesh and blood the bond between us and our children enable us to go another degree of care.

It is nice this morning to consider, according to what we find in Isaiah 9, that the Everlasting Father, or a Father Forever - never changes and remains unmovable in his character, He **will always have this compassion for us.** For us, He will move mountains, to ensure that our lives will accomplish His goals bringing us into His presence forevermore, that will never change!

It doesn't matter how bad you've got it right now, what you don't see is that He is in it with you, and He won't let it destroy you...

Just how great/deep/good is God's COMPASSION for us as an Everlasting Father?

1. He forgives all Sin.

Psalm 103:2-6 ESV

- ² Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
³ who **forgives** all your **iniquity**,
who heals all your diseases,
⁴ who **redeems** your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
⁵ who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
⁶ The Lord works **righteousness**
and **justice** for all who are oppressed.



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v. 3 The Lord in showing us what a great father is really like, who will forgive all our iniquity, that means He goes beyond what you are asking for you have no clue what you will do tomorrow, but He does. He heals you from the effects of the sin, as in the OT when sometimes diseases were the effects of sin, God removes even the consequences of sin.

v.4 He redeems, buys us back from where our sin has brought us. The ugly places, the places that have marred our souls, the places where like the prodigal son we have wallowed in the mud. Upon redemption he sets up a policy, that's the **crowning of steadfast love and mercy**, by which for the rest of your life will be assured that compassion and mercy will be your continual treatment.

v.5 he sets you back into a position, like an Eagle soaring, to reveal His glory

v. 6 and in that He doesn't stray from his other unchanging characteristics like perfect righteousness and perfect justice.

How's this even possible? How does He restore us to a position of glory revealing when at the same time He must administer justice for the wrongs done?

Illustration: When I was 17 my parents had graciously given me the 1979 Monte Carlo, which I broke, and they fixed, they intervened with my accusers, and never asked for a repayment.

This Christmas let us realize that we all have made a wreck of our lives, it couldn't be avoided, we were driving our lives with nothing but blind spots. The Sin we have produced has put us in debt for our sins have condemned us to an eternal death and we can't outrun it because '*vehicle of works*' doesn't work.

God sent His son as the portrayal of the everlasting Father. He intercedes for us, He will not allow God's righteousness to be marred and He upholds God's justice by insisting He pay our debts. On the cross Jesus was wrecked and we were salvaged, and we were given a new heart, not only that, but anything that we do from the point of our conversions has been paid on that cross and is covered by Him. Now we are set free to soar to reveal God's glory for our soaring above the world and its' wreckage reveals we have been released from our debts.



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His actions of a father forever full of compassion enables us to soar with our new hearts, hearts that begin to love Him more than ourselves for it can truly see Him for who He was and still is.

Jesus as the Everlasting Father, out of compassion, forgives all sin, which is the perfect Christmas gift for everyone in this room. The gift that gets better every year but yet its' always the same gift, it is because our view of His gift gets better every year! **But there is more...**

2. He knows us Perfectly & Fully.

¹⁴ For he **knows** our **frame**,

he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass;

he flourishes like a flower of the field;

¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,

and its place knows it no more.

¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,

and his righteousness to children's children,

¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

v.14 He is aware of our capacity our abilities (frame)he remembers we are dust

v.15 our days are like grass, and the good works we produce are like wild flowers in the field, short lived...

Our Father understands our timelines He sees the future and what's more He sees what we will become. We remember that the Lord has numbered our days:

- Ps. 90:12 - *teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*
- Job 14:5 - *Since his (man's) days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass.*

And it is the Father that directs our paths:

- Prov.16 - *The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.*



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- Prov. 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

I bet you are like me, besides being the enforcer or the encourager in the home your dad had no clue what you would become nor when you were gonna hit your peak in life. My dad knew how to look at my life and make simple judgments like your lazy, or your hair makes you look like a girl, or you don't know the value of money yet.

But Jesus, as a father forever, is someone who understands that not only are our physical lives temporary, but **He gets the urgency** of our lives because He is God and He knows our future. Not only that, but **He is planning our future (OUR STEPS) enabling us to produce that which we were meant to do.** That's why Jesus can say things like He does in Mat. 6 when He's like "don't worry be happy".

Now let me give us this warning this morning in case you think that Jesus is some type of benevolent Santa Claus, there is a stipulation to His care as a Father over us:

v. 17 But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,

That is those that have come to a saving faith in Him, which is shown by the actions in v.18

¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

Perhaps if you are new to Christianity you may think this sounds a lot like manipulation. But let me just point out that keeping the commandments is not conditional to get God's love but they are reflexive for people that have already discovered that God has loved them. **Covenant keeping and commandment following are obligations lived out for God out of a new heart.**



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Let me illustrate it like this: Most of us have experienced that type of love for someone where it is not always work to love them back. In our marriages, even though we wish it would last forever, that type of love never lasts long because our spouses were not meant to hold our affections that way. **But with Jesus, Because He loves us so Fully and Perfectly, He pulls out of us that type of affection towards Him that it keeps us close to Him.** Our love for Him comes out of a response to how He has loved us first. And that brings us to our last point this morning.

3. He abounds in Love.

- ⁸The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and **abounding in steadfast love.**
- ⁹He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
- ¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- ¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

The main thrust of how Jesus will love us here is that He does not treat us with how we deserve to be treated **but His anger is slow and therefore it doesn't pay us back for our sin** (we already opened that up in point 1).

I want to point out is an effect of this type of love. You see when Jesus demonstrates this love publicly in your life **others take notice.** When our children, the next generation see us sin, see the forgiveness and the grace/mercy **THE COMPASSION** of Jesus our Everlasting Father **it connects with them. They learn about their relationship with the heavenly father from your relationship with the heavenly father.** They then become desirous of this love because they are seeing it is the best thing in life.



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Right smack dab in the middle of vs. 17 look at the benefit of being a recipient of God's love:

17 But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children”.

Our Jesus as a COMPASSIONATE Everlasting Father that Forgives ALL OUR SIN, and knows us FULLY and PERFECTLY is able to affect the salvation of our children, through changing the lives of broken people, to draw them unto Him.

This father, because he does not change, he does not grow old, and is always attentive to our short lives, is able to and promises to save our future generations. **Illustration:** All I know is that I can look back as far as 11 generations in my family, and I can see God has been involved in the lives of my family even when those like Ahaz, my grandfather, had rejected Him, He went around them and saved His own. **I am here today not because my fathers were righteous but because JESUS IS and knew me before I was born, knew when I would awaken to His presence, He knew when I was ready for the call, and was going to work my life to tell you that He loves you.**

As the father forever Jesus knows the plans for your lives because HE is making them. So, this week as you take some time off respond to these truths **ENJOY** and **CELEBRATE** that **HE will NEVER CHANGE**, that He will always be **COMPASSIONATE** not only saving you but saving even saving our children through **demonstrations of His STEADFAST LOVE.**

PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that provides His firstborn that demonstrates the lengths He is prepared to go in order to save His children.

Go in the name of the Son, that was so filled with compassion for His people that He assumed the full price of our sins to bring us to our Father.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that draws the lost to the Son by the examples of compassion poured out on us.