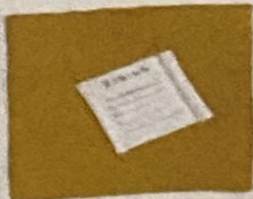




Looking Forward to Glory

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History of Advent

- Latin adventus - translation of Gk "Parousia" which means the coming or arrival, often of a great ruler returning from victory
- Originally had NOTHING to do with the birth of Jesus
- First associated (380 AD) with getting candidates prepared for baptism after 3 years of instruction and 40 days of fasting leading up to December 25
- By 600 AD, church adopted it as a time of fasting and prayer for everyone



But Check This Out

- The emphasis was primarily on praying for, looking forward to, and getting ready for the **SECOND COMING OF JESUS** when He will bring in His Kingdom
- There was also an emphasis on the coming of Christ into the believer's life
- Not until 1000 AD do we see any evidence on the birth of Jesus, primarily toward the end of the fast days
- Advent was about fasting and preparation until well into the Middle Ages



At Which Point ...

- It became more about parties and feasting and occasionally gift giving from the end of November all the way through January 6
- People were still required to go to church and observe the rituals, but the shift from the second coming to the first coming made it easier to transform it into a set of holidays instead of Holy Days
- And starting on December 25, all the fasting and penitence was over and it became 12 days of often outrageous consumption



I Am Not the Grinch!

- I don't think it is wrong to celebrate Christmas ... wonderful and beautiful way to honor Jesus, love others, and bless families
- But I do think it is deeply troubling that the original purpose of Advent has been lost to the ages, because it was and still is profoundly important
- Recovering this focus would be transformative!



Look At Four Passages

- 2 Timothy 4:7-8 - ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; ⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, **but also to all who have loved His appearing.**
- **Not His first appearing, but His SECOND**
- **Hoping and Yearning and Waiting for His return**



Purifying Hope

1 John 3: 1-3 - See [a]how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such **we are***. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, **now** we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. **We know that when He appears, we will be like Him**, because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And everyone who has this **hope fixed on Him** purifies himself, **just as He is pure.** (????)



Big AHA Moment Matthew 6

- Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
10`Your kingdom come.
Your will be done, On earth as it is in
heaven.
- Lord, PLEASE MANIFEST YOUR KINGDOM
ON THE EARTH AND IN MY HEART **AND**
DO IT NOW!!!!!!
- True meaning of Advent



Looking Forward to Glory

- 3 Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth, 3 for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 **When Christ (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him.**
- **Incarnation vs Manifestation and Demonstration and Culmination \o/**



Merry Christmas, YOU ARE

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY
- **WHAT A WONDERFUL LIFE!!! \O/**