



The Wonder of Christmas: Everlasting Father

December 17, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6, Exodus 3:11-14, Numbers 6:23-27, Ephesians 4:4-6, 1 John 3:1, John 1:12

Sermon Overview: After 40 years in the wilderness, God called Moses to free His people from Pharaoh's control. Moses asked God, "Who am I?" Instead of answering Moses' question, God answered the question that Moses should have asked: "Who are you?" More important than who we are is *whose* we are. We are God's children. More important than who we are is the identity of the God who is calling us. God is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and Everlasting Father. He is our shelter, provider, protector, and waymaker.

Sermon Series Question:

1. Who is God? Who are you?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Think back to a time when God intervened in your life. How did He overcome that obstacle or move that mountain? What obstacle or mountain are you encountering now? Consider what God has done in your life before. How has the Lord overcome a similar obstacle in the Bible? Now, knowing God is the same today, how can you speak faith to your situation?
2. The Lord puts His name upon us (Numbers 6:22-27). The Lord also has a special, unique name for each of His children (Revelation 2:17). What labels has the world put on you? What labels have other people (family, coworkers, etc) put on you? Which of these labels do you need to view as untrue? As a child of the Everlasting Father, which names of God (and characteristics of God) do you need to incorporate as a part of your identity? Imagine yourself through the lens of this new facet of your identity. What picture comes to mind?
3. Progressive revelation begins with a prophetic revelation of who the Son is. Read Isaiah 9:1-7. What do Isaiah's words reveal about God the Son? What does the revelation about the Son, likewise, reveal about the Father? How is this revelation the same/different from

who you have imagined God to be? How might this revelation encourage you to take a new step of faith?

Digging Deeper:

1. Conduct a study on the names of God. The following link lists God's names in the Old Testament: https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/misc/name_god.cfm. In what context is each name used (e.g. El Shaddai is used seven times in the Old Testament, the first being in Genesis 17 when God calls Abram)? Why do you think God uses it in that context? What does the timing and context reveal about the heart of the Father? What does that name reveal about God as your Father?

Practical Application:

- Join a group or a ministry team, or become a mission partner on January 28th!!
- Get in community by joining a January pop-up small group.