

Shopping for a Little Piece of Heaven

Isaiah 9:6

1. We are only one day away from the big day. That is right all your preparation, all of your shopping has come to the pinnacle moment. Christmas Day is tomorrow.
2. But yes, there are still a few people that have at least one more item to buy or to prepare, that finishing touch that will just take everything to the next level.
3. Here at Cicero Christian Church, we have been busying ourselves over the last few weeks with the fun task of shopping, but not shopping for just anything rather shopping for those perfect gifts. We have spent our time shopping for the real reason of the holiday season, shopping for a bit of majesty in the midst of the mundane, as well as shopping for that elusive perfect Christmas present, and today we have come to the end of our shopping list as we draw our attention to *Shopping for a Little Piece Heaven*. That present that completes the setting for the Christmas day, the last present that you choose to hand out, the present that your loved one has been longing for but yet had no idea that you even knew what it could be, the present that is the most elegantly wrapped...the centerpiece of all Christmas presents.
4. Cicero Christian Church wants to help you find the everlasting, divine centerpiece that will complete your Christmas season, the pinnacle of all Christmas presents.
5. We find the centerpiece by drawing our attention to Isaiah 9:6.
6. As we examine Isaiah 9:6 I want your focus to be upon the centerpiece that is shown before you. Last week we were shown a nativity where we saw angels, shepherds, and wise men but in that nativity there was one piece missing,; the manger with Jesus Christ in the center.
7. Today, I want your focus to be on this centerpiece. I want everything else of the nativity to fade out of your mind, the shepherds, the angels, the animals, Mary, Joseph, the wise men...Let them all fade out of your mind and may the image of only one thing be in the center of your mind...The manger, with the new born baby Jesus lying within it, the centerpiece of all creation, the centerpiece of salvation. I introduce you to the only centerpiece that will ever matter in your life.
8. **Isaiah 9:6** discusses seven elements of the divine centerpiece; seven elements that help us understand how important the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God truly is to mankind.
 - **Isaiah 9:6** – The Centerpiece of all Christmas Prophecies

Seven Elements of the Divine Centerpiece

Element #1 – Son of Man

1. Many people believe that the Christmas story began on the quiet night with a baby laid within a manger but the reality is that the Christmas story began several hundred years earlier with one OT prophecy after another foretelling of the coming Savior, the Messiah.
2. The Centerpiece of all Christmas Prophecies is Isaiah 9:6, written nearly 600 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. We find our first element describing Jesus' divinity as we lock in on these words: *For to us a child is born.*
3. These words are clearly a statement about the humanity of Jesus Christ. He began life like any other human being but unlike other men, he lived a sinless, perfect

life. Yes, he faced temptation, he felt pain, he laughed, and he cried just like any other person.

Element #1 – Son of Man

4. Yes, Jesus was born into this world, fully human so that he could be the ultimate sacrifice and die to deliver all mankind from their sin.
5. Some people want to say that in being human, it proves that he was not God. Listen to what the Scriptures say about the Son of Man.
 - **Mt. 16:13-16** – When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
 - **Mt. 12:8** – For the Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath.
6. Jesus Christ never stopped being one with the Father. He just chose to put off to the side his divine attributes for a little while so that he could carry the weight of the world on those strong shoulders. He could not experience death as God but as a human, he could die for your sin and for mine. Yes, he was fully human.

Element #2 – Son of God

1. The second element accompanies this first element as we lock in on these words: *To us a son is given*. By using the word **given**, Isaiah emphasize that this baby already existed, that Jesus already existed before He was born. He was already God before he was given to us to be our Savior.
 - **Mt. 1:21** – She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
 - This main point will focus on the words: *To us a son is given*. These words emphasize the important truth that is “**Jesus existed before His birth.**” This element combined with element #1 helps us see that Jesus was fully human yet fully divine at the same time. In order for Jesus to conquer sin and death forever then He had to be God in the flesh.

Element #3 – King of Kings

- **Zechariah 14:9** – The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.
- **Luke 17:20-21** – Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.”
- This main point will focus on the words: *The government will rest on His shoulders*. We will examine the sovereignty of Jesus Christ over all the earth and how this impacts us today in our everyday living.

Element #4 – Wonderful Counselor

- **John 7:46** – “No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards declared.
- This main point will focus on the infant and eternal wisdom of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Creator of the Universe. We will discuss how important it is for us to continue to turn to Him as a counselor today.
- The Hebrew word translated is Wonder. The child Himself will be a wonder
- Col 2:3 – All treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- He will be the Word of God. – John 1:14,18
- He will be the Wisdom of God – 1 Cor. 1:24

Element #5 – Mighty God

- **John 11:25** – Over Life and Death
- **Mt. 9:6** – Over Sin
- **Mt. 28:18** – Over all the Heavens and Earth
- God Hero, One who overcomes.
- This main point will focus on the divine element of Jesus Christ being not only the Son of God but also the Mighty God. We will examine His power over life and death, over sin, and over the heavens and earth.

Element #6 – Eternal Father

- **Mt. 1:23** – “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”
- **John 14:9** – ...Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father...
- The main point will focus our attention on the divine element of Jesus being one with the Father, making Him eternal and one part of the trinity.

Element #7 – Prince of Peace

- **Luke 2:14** – “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”
- This main point will focus on Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace, the Prince that gives Peace from God, with God, and of God.

Questions to Consider

1. What are the top three ways Jesus Christ has intervened in your life over this past year?
2. How has your relationship deepened with Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior over the last year?
3. How is Jesus Christ the centerpiece of your faith and your life? Explain.
- 4.

Application

Pray about, write down, and make a plan as to how you will accomplish the top three goals of improving your relationship with Jesus Christ in 2007.

Memory Verse:

Matthew 1:23 – “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

