**A Thrill of Hope (part #2)**

**Hope In Our Hands!**

**Isaiah 8:19-22**

“When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? **20**Consult God’s instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. **21**Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. **22**Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.”

**\*Are You Looking For Hope In**

**Everything But God?**

"It’s impossible to fully celebrate advent without lament. Joy, yes – but don’t feel the pressure to “be happy” all of the time. The Angels proclaim a Savior to the Shepherds – and who needs a Savior? Those who are in a mess, with no way out – those who are in darkness on their own. And as we look toward the second advent, we look with hope, and also lament –

'Come, Lord Jesus!’"**—J. Todd Billings**

**Isaiah 9:1-2**

“Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—**2**The people walking in darkness  have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.”

**\*Hope Is Not From You…**

**But It Is For You!**

**Isaiah 9:6** “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,

and the government will be on his shoulders…”

**\*Hope Is Here!**

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

—**Matthew 1:22-23**

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

—**Isaiah 7:14**

**Isaiah 9:6-7** “And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7**Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

**\*Hope Is Hard!**

**It Is The Hope That You Want But**

**It’s Also The Hope That You “Don’t” Want.**

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. **16**For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. **17**The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.—**1 John 2:15-17**

**\*Christ With Us…Christ In Us…**

**Christ Through Us!**

“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”**—Colossians 1:27**

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”**—Colossians 3:23**