**Advent – The Plan.**

Over the last few Sundays, we have looked at the consideration of the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ

When we talk about Incarnation here, we are talking about the Christian belief that Jesus Christ is the God of Israel in a human body, the word incarnation comes from the Latin word incarnate and means – in the flesh.

This is a basic teaching of Christianity and is backed up in **John 1:1** which says

**John 1:1 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

**1**In the beginning [before all time] was the Word

*who is the Word* ?(Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.

We have looked at the fact that its not **just about a baby in a manger** but it has a **huge historic impact** on us today.

It can be said, that the **gift of Jesus Christ** is rooted in grief, in the heart of God. And this could follow to say that we also have a grief in our heart also.

God hears our cry in our lives and the ultimate response is to send us Jesus.

Jesus in the manger as a child is not just a birth, but also a predicted death.

Imagine the great pleasure in God’s heart to bring Jesus to us in an earthly form.

*What are some of the pleasures in your life?*

When you are young its going out with your friends, for some schooling, going to the movies, parties, tramping, biking, gaming Xbox, Playstation, and there is your first love of course, and also food, and good friends.

As you get more into your adult years there are different things like saving for and eventually owning a car, a motor bike, a scooter. A job, a career, saving for and eventually owning a house. Experiencing the birth and upbringing of your children.

In all this there are all kinds of feelings and emotions.

Some good, some bad, but in many cases these things bring us some pleasure, and our life’s focus is on this a lot.

So when we consider how God felt about His Son being born on Earth, in His heart it was about pleasure.

Lets just think about this for a bit and turn to **Isaiah 53.**

This shows us, the real love that our God shows us in giving us his Son

**Verse 10**

**Isaiah 53:10 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

**10**
Yet the Lord was [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=isaiah+53.10&version=AMP#fen-AMP-18722a)]willing
To crush Him, [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=isaiah+53.10&version=AMP#fen-AMP-18722b)]causing Him to suffer;
If [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=isaiah+53.10&version=AMP#fen-AMP-18722c)]He would give Himself as a guilt offering [an atonement for sin],
He shall see *His* [spiritual] offspring,
He shall prolong *His* days,
And the will (good pleasure) of the Lord shall succeed *and* prosper in His hand.

This is a verse we could spend a huge amount of time on, but we wont.

It firstly says – yet the Lord was willing to crush him

If you are a parent, stop and think about this.

Think of the heart that you have for your children.

Many a time you will fear for your children, you will do everything to protect them. You tell them repeatedly and lovingly, watch out for this, don’t do that, careful about this and over and over again you will warn them of danger.

And they will just roll their eyes, as they’ve heard it all before.
We do this to our children because we love them and want to keep them out of danger, we want the best for our children, we want them to succeed in life and to be safe and happy.

We would not want anything like is in this passage to happen to our children.

It makes one wonder what is going on in the heart of God to want these things to happen to His son, and to find pleasure in such things. What could be in the heart of God to allow these things to happen to his son.

**Here’s a thing.** This is talking about Love - Magnificent, faithful, joyous redeeming Love.

**Listen** – God so loved the world, God so loved the world …… God so loved the world, that He would be willing to do this radical thing - give His son.

God looked at this broken world. He looked at us, broken inside, now separated from any relationship with Him, the one thing we were created for, and God was so full of love, so full of grace, so full of compassion, He was not willing for the world and for us to stay in that state. Now that’s real, true love.

And because of the nature of sin, we were unable to help ourselves.

We were unable to escape this dilemma that grips all of our hearts.

We were unable to fix the world.

**God had to move on our behalf.**

So - God so loved the world, that He gave! ..... **No**, God doesn't find pleasure in those particular moments of the suffering of His Son;

**He finds pleasure in what that suffering would result in.**

This is the main point, a story of magnificent love,... love we could never achieve or earn or deserve, it must be **given** as a **gracious gift**.

**God loved us** this much, that He would be willing to subject His son to unthinkable things, why?

**Because that one death would give life to many;**

**There is a the plan.**

maybe you're sitting there thinking, OK, I understand this;

I've heard this before; why are you making such an emphasis of this?”

Well here's why.

Maybe sometime next week or next month or sometime in the next year, you will, in some

Circumstance, some location, some relationship, be tempted to doubt the love of God.

Maybe it will be a moment of physical suffering, and you wonder why God has allowed

this pain to be your experience.

Maybe it will be in the midst of a very, very significant, relational disappointment, somebody that you love has turned their back on you, and you wonder why God has brought this into your life;

maybe it will be in a moment of financial difficulty, and you have sought to obey God; you’ve sought to be a good steward of the resources He’s given to you, but you've lost your job, and it doesn't make any sense.

Or maybe just look around at the world you live in, it looks like evil is prospering, and you

wonder,

“Where is God? Where is his love?”

This is our argument. This is the place we go to, because not only does the giving of Christ argue for the magnificence of God's love, but it argues that He will continue to love you.

Let me read for you from Romans 8;

# **Romans 8:32 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

**32**He who did not spare [even] His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?

Now here's Paul's logic. If God would do this radical thing, to offer His Son to cruel suffering and death, notice the words in

**Isaiah 53:10**,

“It pleased the Lord to crush Him, to bring Him to grief.”

Crushing has to do with the physical suffering of Christ.

Every moment of Christ’s life was physical suffering. He did not just begin to suffer on the cross;

**His whole life was one of suffering.**

The manger began His suffering; He suffered every day as He subjected Himself to the harsh realities of life in a fallen world.

But there was **emotional suffering** as well. **That's the grief word**. He was despised and rejected, and that **emotional** **suffering** reached a crescendo on the cross when He cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”...in that terrible moment where the Father turns His back on His Son.

*Remember that was the time that Jesus took on the sin of the world*

Now, Paul is arguing,

If God would subject Christ, willingly in that way to us, will He not also give us everything else we need?

It would make no sense for God to do this radical thing and turn His back on you in your moment of need.

That would make no redemptive logic whatsoever.

And so, Paul argues that your guarantee that God will be faithful to you, He will be with you and in you and for you and meet all of your needs as you walk through this life toward eternity;

**your guarantee is the cross of Jesus Christ.**

**God did this for you, God will meet all of your needs.**

Now we need to talk about this for a moment.

Most of us have a terrible problem with the **word ‘need.**’ We load all kinds of things onto our needs list that are **not** needs.

Paul is not arguing in **Romans 8** that God is going to sign your wish list.

But that your Creator **knows what you need**, and He is **totally committed to meet all of those needs**.

You do not have to be afraid; you do not have to play out all the ‘what ifs’.

You do not have to figure out the sovereignty of God.

There are moments in life when God will confuse you.

You see this spoken of in the Psalms;

# **Psalm 13 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

1. **13**How long, O Lord? Will You **forget** me forever?
How long will You **hide** Your face from me?

Sometimes it is confusing, the things that God has brought into our lives. There are things that God

will do in our lives that we will not understand.

It could be said, that the importance of believing in the sovereignty of God is not that the doctrine will make sense to you, but that the importance of believing in the sovereignty of God is precisely because life won’t make sense to you.

And so, we have a place to run; we have an argument to give in those moments when it doesn't seem like God is hearing,

when He seems distant, when we are confused about what He's brought to our lives,

when we are looking at the life of someone else, and that life seems easier, when an enemy is whispering in our ear, **“Where is your God now?”**

we have an argument to give. we open our Bible to

**Isaiah 53:10 and Romans 8:31,** and say,

“If God would do this for *us*, will He not meet all of *our* needs?”

Now, here’s the Pastoral questions.

Do you have rest in your heart? Do you? Do you live with peace, even in moments when you're not in peaceful circumstances? Do you have a stability and a security that's not related to the issue of the moment? Do you torment yourself with an endless list of questions that you are not able to answer? Do you wish that you had more control than you'll ever have?

Perhaps you have not understood the full implications of this season we’re now celebrating.

It is the ultimate demonstration of faithful love, and **if God would give His Son in this way, will He not also deliver everything we need?**

This is the place **where rest of heart** can be found, and you know there are some of you, as I asked that

question, your honest confession would have to be, “I don't have that rest.” This is your place of rest.

Now, back to

**Isaiah 53**..

.“Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush Him, He has put Him to grief, when His soul makes an offering for sin.” **That's the plan**. The plan was that a **second Adam** had to come; the first Adam failed the test, and a **second Adam had to come.**

**Jesus was that second Adam**, and He had to be willing to live in the middle of the harsh realities and the temptations of life in a **fallen world**.

But He had to be **willing to be obedient** in every way, in **every thought**, in **every desire**, in **every word**, and **every action.** He must be **obedient** so as He goes to the cross, He is the perfect Lamb of God who can now carry **our sins**, satisfy the anger of God so that **we** would receive **forgivenes**s, **acceptance** into the **family of God**, **righteousness** given to us through **Christ**, and **eternal life**. That's the plan.

We had a problem that we could not solve. It's called **sin.** You can't escape it in yourself. You can't defeat it.

You can't redeem the world from its **fallenness**. We needed to **be rescued**. That's why the promise of a Savior is so precious.

And so, **from day one**, that little baby **was destined to die.**

**Listen!** The cross isn't a moment of defeat; the cross is not an interruption; the cross of Jesus Christ was the plan. He came to be the Lamb; He came to be the offering that would finally satisfy God’s anger. “For this result, He shall see His offspring, and He shall prolong His days.” That in that one cruel death, **life would be given to many**, that

there would be a great world-wide family of every language group, and every location of the globe, of every period of history, who would be given new life through the death of His Son, that He would have **offspring like the sands of the sea.**

**What a plan!** One death! Innumerable lives being given! “And He shall prolong His days,” to a Hebrew person, long life was a sure a sign of **blessing**. And this little phrase, “He shall prolong His days,” is a hint that the death of Jesus wasn't the end of the story, that **He, Jesus, would live on**.

Surely not only a prediction of His resurrection, but a prediction of another thing, that Jesus would live on in the hearts of many, that He is new life, new life as a person.

Paul says, “It's no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” He gives life to many.

And then, it finally says, “The will of the Lord shall prosper in His hand;” what a great phrase. When God placed this mission in the hands of Christ, He put it in good hands.

Jesus would be faithful; He would do everything that the Father asked Him to do, and in so doing, would provide for us not only eternal life, but eternal hope. Jesus was faithful.

He was willing; never for even a brief moment was His heart fickle; never for a brief moment did He reconsider.

He accepted this severe job description with **joy,** and through Him, **God's work prospers**.

Now, I don't know, all the things that you brought into this place this morning. I don't know the hardships that you're facing. I don't know the grief that is in your heart. I don't know the temptations that you struggle with,

but I do know that **you will be tempted to wonder where God is and what He's doing.**

I do know that **there's an enemy who would whisper in your ear, “Where is your God now?**

Where is that thing called grace? Where is His power?”

**Isaiah 53:10** can arm you in those moments. God's love **is magnificent and faithful**, so powerful, so willing, that He would be pleased to give His Son to cruel suffering and cruel death so that **we** would know **life**, and if He would do such a thing, is it conceivable that He would abandon you in your moment of need? **No, He will not!**

Rest won’t be found in understanding. **Rest is found in the pleasure of the Father** and in **the willingness of His Son,** the Lord Jesus.

There is no more clear-pointed, rest-giving demonstration of the love of God for you than the gift of His Son.

**Listen**, in your **moment of doubt or fear or hurt or discouragement, don't run from this One, run**

**to Him, run towards that Love. Run to Jesus.**

**Let’s Pray**:

Lord, in this world of darkness and sin, where things don't operate the way You intended as Creator, there are moments of confusion for us, moments where it doesn't feel like we’re experiencing Your promises, moments where we wonder if You are present, moments where it seems like we’re outside of the span of Your grace. Lord, in

those moments of confusion, often the enemy comes to us to whisper words of deeper doubt into our ears.

We pray Father, that, in those moments, we would be strong in our belief, in the power and faithfulness of Your love, that if You gave Your Son to be crushed, to face grief for us, for our redemption, it makes no sense that You would abandon us along the way. May we run to You and not from You.

**We pray, in Jesus name, Amen.**