

Christmas 2

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December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017

**Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3** <sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, And as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. <sup>NKJ</sup> **Isaiah 62:1** For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp *that* burns. <sup>2</sup> The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name. <sup>3</sup> You shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the LORD, And a royal diadem In the hand of your God.

### **The Savior Comes to Give the Name of Righteous One**

<sup>10</sup> **I will greatly rejoice**

How can we rejoice now that the tree is down and the lights are off, the gifts are opened, the Christmas cookies are all gone?

Do we still rejoice in our savior? Just because we are not jumping up and down with joy doesn't mean that we aren't rejoicing. Joy in our savior doesn't mean we are always thinking about Him and always feeling joyful.

Sometimes we don't appreciate what we have until it's gone. But sometimes we do appreciate it and rejoice in it. It's just that it's such an integral part of our life that we don't even realize how much happier we are with it there. That love we have for our family, and yes even that joy we have in our savior is so common that it becomes the normal

**the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.**

This is why we continue to rejoice even though the Christmas ornaments are down. Because the Lord will cause righteousness to spring up as green things spring up in the earth.

What a difference that would be. Normally its nothing but evil and wickedness that spring up everywhere. But the LORD will tend his people like a gardener; He will cause righteousness to grow.

This is primarily a reference to the coming of the Messiah. It is through Him and Him alone that we become righteous.

### **For Zion's sake - for Jerusalem's sake**

This is something every true preacher of the gospel has to deal with. Whether a pastor like me or even a normal member, who simply wants to share the good news with others.

The unbeliever, and even many believers makes life miserable for the preacher. Why should I keep preaching, when no one listens and no one appreciates it.

Luther talked about there are cities where they do not support even a single pastor, so the pastor goes hungry while the lords and even the common people have plenty.

Zion and Jerusalem are clearly meant in a spiritual way here. But for the sake of Zion, for the sake of the remnant, for the sake of the few that do listen, for the few that do believe. Isaiah says I will keep preaching even though everyone stands against me. For the sake of the few who do listen.

I will keep going against all the anger and hatred, until . . .

### **Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness**

The righteousness of Jerusalem is the Christ. The preacher will not stop until he is proven right. He is vindicated by the coming of the Messiah

When we know something is right we often have to stick to our guns, through some difficult times. President Regan wanted to lower taxes, everyone kept telling him he can't do that.

We stick to the Word of God because we know it is truth. The prophet will stick to his guns he will keep preaching until the Messiah appears then he will be vindicated

### **You shall be called by a new name**

At that time the gentiles will see this righteousness, ie they will see the Christ

And the believers will be called by a new name. A new name indicates a major shift a major change in at least the outward appearance in some ones life, like for example when one gets married.

Before they were Israel. They were a nation. They were gathered in one spot. They were kept separate from the gentiles.

Now we are the church. We are scattered among the nations.

Most importantly we are no longer sinners but now a diadem in the hand of the Lord. We who were sinners have now received His righteousness.