

Why We Need Christmas

“We Need the Stability of God”

Part 3

Intro: Here is a fact of life: Nothing lasts forever. A couple of years ago Lisa had a great aunt who died and she had the opportunity to go through some boxes of stuff to see if she wanted anything. She ended up with some novelty items. (Show old rotary phone and old cameras.) These things used to represent the cutting edge of technology. Now they make us laugh.

- Sometimes I think about how much has changed even since we started Foothills 20 years ago.
 - 20 years ago we had an overhead to put words up on a screen
 - Think about phones 20 years ago...the iphone wasn't unveiled until 2007
 - Even our sound system can be controlled by an ipad.
 - Geography – The world map has changed, We've seen countries rise and fall.

What all this change does is rob us from a sense of stability. Is there anything stable and unchanging in my life?

*Is. 9:6 “For a child is born to us, a son is given to us... And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, **Everlasting Father**, Prince of Peace.” (NLT)*

We all need something...someone who is everlasting in our lives because we all need the stability that Jesus brings.

How do we experience Jesus as our Everlasting Father?

Know the significance of this term, Everlasting. When we understand how Jesus being everlasting impacts us, we end up living a life with incredible stability. The world may constantly change around us, but we have an everlasting God.

- Let me share with you 5 reasons why this is so significant to us.

1. Everlasting means God will always last

*Ps. 90:2 “Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from **everlasting to everlasting**, You are God.” (NASB)*

*Ps. 93:2 “Your throne is established from of old; You are from **everlasting**.” (NASB)*

- Everything in our existence is temporary. Everything! Nothing lasts forever. Even when your life is going great there is this nagging question in the back of your mind thinking; “I wonder how long this is going to last?” This is not being pessimistic...it's living in reality.
- Everything in our lives is constantly changing. In fact one of the defining qualities of humanity is loss. Not to be depressing, but think about this: We lose people / we lose our health / we lose joy / we lose jobs / we lose money / we lose hope / we lose friends

Listen to this message at foothillsonline.com

Page 1

- Everything about our existence is temporary. Everything you have today you will someday lose. There's nothing in this life you get to take with you. You're going to lose it all.
- OK...enough bad news. The good news is Jesus is everlasting. He is from eternity past to eternity future. In a life that is defined by loss, we follow a God who is defined by eternity. He will have no end.
- My relationship with God is everlasting like He is. This world may be defined by loss but we have an unshakable stability knowing our God who is everlasting.
- This is why Jesus came. He came so that our lives would not be defined by loss but by Him. This is why we need a relationship with Jesus. We need something eternally good in our life that we can never lose.
- In a world defined by loss, we follow someone eternal.

2. Everlasting means God's love will always last

*Ps. 100:5 "For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is **everlasting** And His faithfulness to all generations."* (NASB)

*Ps. 107:1 "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is **everlasting**."* (NASB) The most referenced eternal quality in the bible is about God's love. God's love has no end. God's love is eternal like He is

- God's love for you will always last. His love for you will never run out. God is never going to get to the end of His rope with you. You can never be bad enough to make God stop loving you. In fact, even if you hate God He will keep on loving you.
- Since our lives are defined by loss we know you can lose love. Love can grow cold. Feelings can change. Therefore, we think God loves like this. Not so! His love is eternal like He is.
- This provides us with such relational stability. No matter what you've done there is always a road back to God. You can't burn your relational bridges with God. Every time you may think you've burned that bridge with God, His love will build it right back.
- His love for you is everlasting. God is eternally relentless in His love for you. He will never stop, never alter, never get weary in loving you. His love for you is eternal.

Therefore...

- Please stop trying to earn God's love. Some of you are knocking yourselves out trying to be acceptable to God so He will love you. (explain) God's love is not based upon your performance. It is based upon His character.
- Others are running away from God...resisting God...denying God. Please know He will never stop chasing after you. You might as well just give up and give in to His love. His love is eternal. He'll outlast you!

3. Everlasting means God's truth will always last

Listen to this message at foothillsonline.com

Page 2

*Ps. 117:2 “For His lovingkindness is great toward us, And the truth of the Lord is **everlasting**. Praise the Lord!” (NASB)*

*Ps. 119:160 “The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is **everlasting**.” (NASB)*

- In our existence, truth is always changing. Just think about how much information medically we were told a decade ago only to be told now that it wasn't true. What was once good for you is now bad for you. Some things they said were once bad now aren't so bad anymore. (give examples) National geographic magazine on coffee.
- Let's not forget the media in this discussion. Truth is whatever spin the network your watching wants you to hear. Do we ever get the complete story on anything, or do we simply get the narrative they want us to believe? It's no wonder we have a world that is cynical towards truth.
- In a world where the truth is constantly changing...in a world where truth is relative, God has given us His truth and His truth is unchanging and everlasting. God has given us the stability of His unchanging eternal truth.
- Why does this give us stability? Because the word of God is like a compass. It operates like a life GPS. It's like the Polaris star...the north star. In a night sky that is constantly moving, it is the one point of reference you can always navigate by.
- I know that people really struggle with the issue of absolute truth. BUT, if this book did come from an eternal God then it makes sense that what He said would be eternal like His is. Why would God give us an untrustworthy navigational tool? It would be like the north star...unchanging.
- In a world that constantly changes the narrative, we have eternally stable truths we can follow in this life. (I have put these truths to the test for over 30 years...share)

4. Everlasting means God's Kingdom will always last

*Ps. 145:13 “Your kingdom is an **everlasting** kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.” (NASB)*

- There is an eternal Kingdom we get to look forward to someday. It is an eternal Kingdom that we all get to be a part of as followers of Jesus. In a world where kingdoms rise and fall, God's Kingdom is everlasting.
- We get to be a part of God's Kingdom now as we follow Him making a difference in this life. We represent His Kingdom on planet earth. HOW?
 - When we love people by meeting tangible needs – (Christmas boxes / feeding kids / Resource center / Adult Center / LHP / Counseling /
 - When we share the message of the Kingdom by sharing Jesus with others – We are ambassadors of this Kingdom - inviting people to Foothills / sharing your own story how Jesus makes a difference in your life /

Listen to this message at foothillsonline.com

Page 3

- When we follow Jesus into new areas of Kingdom influence- This is why we are following Jesus to Beavercreek. We are going to establish another campus so there is Kingdom influence in Beavercreek. God advances His Kingdom.

- We get to look forward to being a part of His Kingdom eternally someday. I always love any place where the bible talks about heaven. There are many places where the bible gives us snapshots of what to look forward to. Heb. 12 is one of these passages that talks about God's eternal Kingdom someday. The instability of this world will be replaced by an unshakable eternal Kingdom.

Heb. 12:22-24 "No, you have come to ...to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. ²³ You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. You have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect. ²⁴ You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people..." (NLT)

- This is what we get to look forward to someday. I think so often heaven is misrepresented to such an extent we don't even look forward to it. It is often represented in such a boring, uninspiring fashion that who would want to go there?
- I know this isn't a lesson on heaven but it is not about sitting on a cloud being bored out of your mind. Heaven is where relationships last forever / reunions happen / where we continue on and learn and grow / where we still have purpose / where God still has things for us to do / there is no more brokenness / sorrow / sickness / pain.
- This is the Kingdom that will never end. We will someday leave this broken temporary kingdom for an eternal Kingdom that will never end.

5. Everlasting means God's resources will always last

*Is. 26:4 "Trust in the Lord forever, For in God the Lord, we have an **everlasting** Rock. (NASB)*

I just love the imagery of this. God is our everlasting Rock. He is the place we go for the stability we need in this stormy life. He will always be enough for us!

Is. 40:28-29 "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.²⁹ He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power." (NASB)

- Our resources always run out. This world has a way of making us feel overwhelmed / exhausted / even crushed beneath the weight of life and responsibilities. For many of you today, this is how you feel. Where do we go when we don't have enough? You go to the everlasting Rock.
- God is your everlasting Rock who will never run out of resources to help you through the storms of this life.

Listen to this message at foothillsonline.com

Page 4

- In our human experience, there is a limit to all resources whether they be physical / emotional / financial resources / people resources / knowledge / Everything has limitations. There's only so much.
- BUT, because God is eternal so are His resources. This is why I constantly say there is no shortage of resources in the Kingdom of God. God doesn't get weary / tired / depleted / or overwhelmed by what is needed. There is no resource shortage in His Kingdom.
- Why does this matter? Because He is enough for you. He is enough for whatever you're going through. He has all the resources you need for whatever is overwhelming you right now.
- This is why Jesus came. He came to be enough for us. He didn't just show up so that we could look forward to heaven someday. He came and brought us the resources of the eternal God now! He came to bring stability to our lives now, not someday.

HOW?

Choose your King and Kingdom every day

God's eternal resources are connected to Him and His Kingdom. As long as your loyalties are to yourself or to this world, you will be limited to the resources you and this world can provide.

Choose Jesus and His Kingdom and you open up your life to His eternal resources...and to a stability this world can never give you.

Today could be the time to leave the world of instability to one defined by your eternal Rock. Jesus came to be your Everlasting stability.

Listen to this message at foothillsonline.com

Page 5