Advent: An Introduction to the Power of God

Colossians 2:14-15

So much is talked about regarding the spiritual facets of the Gospel that little time is spent on its social dimensions. The Gospel of Jesus is concerned and tells us to reach the spiritually lost. However, our spiritual rebirth is not at the exclusion of addressing the suffering and the physical needs of those who sought Jesus. Advent tells us that God is concerned about those who suffer spiritually, physically, and socially.

The season of Advent introduces both the birth and the death of Jesus Christ. The cross of Jesus comes with the birth of Jesus. One cannot be separated from the other. Advent speaks to Jesus coming to save the world from sin, death, and suffering. The resurrection is a declaration from God that the victory over sin and death has been achieved.

In the season of Advent, God tells us that He will confront the forces of evil and corruption that led to the death of His Son, Jesus. These same forces of evil and corruption continue to destroy and oppress lives all over the world.

At the heart of this corruption and the death of Jesus lies the Temple power structure. The priests and scribes orchestrated the plot to kill Jesus, with the high priest Caiaphas playing a significant role. For Jesus it was part of his mission to confront the greedy priests and scribes and prevent them from defiling the Temple. This is the same attitude of greed and corruption that plagues the world today. The moment Jesus confronted the greed and corruption within the Temple, He put His life in jeopardy, much like Martin Luther King Jr. did when he spoke out against the injustice, hypocrisy, and oppression of the Vietnam War, challenging the religious and political authorities of his time. Jesus' teachings and actions threatened the status quo and exposed the darkness that resided in the hearts of men. Despite this, Jesus did not run away from His mission. He willingly faced persecution, betrayal, and, ultimately death, on the cross.

The story of Advent reminds us that even in the face of evil and corruption, God's truth and justice will prevail. Jesus' coming placed Him on a collision course with the forces of darkness. His coming showed us that evil will be confronted, even at the cost of life itself. His resurrection shouts the victory over good and evil; life over death has been won. By rising from the dead, Jesus demonstrated that death does not have the final word. Jesus triumphed over sin and death, offering hope and redemption to all who believe in Him.

Advent announces to the world that the lost and the lonely are comforted by Jesus. Advent is a testament that the have-nots and the marginal are not forgotten. Advent declares with a loud voice the abused have a champion who will fight their battles in the person of Jesus. Jesus' coming reminds us that God is actively engaged in this world, working to bring about justice and righteousness. It serves as a reminder that evil will never write the final chapter of God's story. The resurrection of Jesus is a powerful proclamation that evil may seem to triumph in the short term, but ultimately it will be overcome.

Furthermore, Advent challenges us to confront evil and corruption in our own lives and in society. Just as Jesus fearlessly confronted these forces during His earthly ministry, we are called to do the same. Advent beckons us to stand up against injustice, to speak out against corruption, and to work towards a world where love, compassion, and righteousness prevail. Ultimately, Advent reminds us that no matter how dark or hopeless the world may seem, there is always hope.

The coming of Jesus is a beacon of light in a world shrouded in darkness. It speaks to the resilience of the human spirit and our ability to overcome even the most challenging circumstances. In Advent, we are reminded that God is with us, guiding us through the darkness toward a future filled with hope, justice, and peace.

So, as we journey through Advent, let us take the time to reflect on the significance of Jesus's coming and His ultimate triumph. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive Him anew, allowing His love and truth to transform us from within. And let us go forth into the world, empowered by the hope and light of Advent, ready to confront evil and corruption with unwavering faith and determination.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool