

The Advent Hope of Jesus Coming Now

I. Jesus approaches us with an invitation (Matthew 11:27-30; 16:24-25).

²⁷ "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*. ²⁸ "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS**. ³⁰ "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:27-30 (NASB)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵ "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Matthew 16:24-25 (NASB)

II. When we accept that invitation and receive Jesus we become children of God (John 1:10-12).

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, John 1:10-12 (NASB)

III. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, comes to live within us (Eph. 3:14-19; Rom. 8:9-11).

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:14-19 (NASB)

⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:9-11 (NASB)

IV. We are repeatedly invited to fellowship with Jesus (Rev. 3:19-20; Heb. 4:14-16).

¹⁹ ~'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰ ~'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet without sin.* ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16 (NASB)

Life Group Lessons Hope of Jesus Coming Now

1. What kind of “rest” have you received from Jesus? How did your life change when you were saved?
2. What things have you had to “deny” in coming to Jesus?
3. How have you suffered for following Jesus?
4. How do you feel, knowing that you are a child of God?
5. What are some of the ways the Holy Spirit has led you in your life?
6. When was a time you felt especially close to Christ?
7. What is the importance of Jesus having been tempted in all things as we are?
8. What does it mean for Jesus to be your Great High Priest?