

I. Introducing Advent

A. The Four Spirits of Advent

1. The Spirit of Hope - certainty of future grace
2. The Spirit of Peace - certainty of present power
3. The Spirit of Joy - certainty of past action
4. The Spirit of Love - certainty of real mercy

B. The intent of advent

1. To foster an appreciation of what God has done for the world in the gift of His Son, Jesus
2. To nurture an anticipation of the future return of Jesus and the ensuing redemption that will accompany his return

C. The opportunity of advent: to intentionally direct the mind, the will, and the heart, through the power of the Holy Spirit to align with the will of God for the glory of God

II. Hope: Redemption

A. Redemption Secured

1. By Christ in His death on the cross
 - a. **Eph 1:7** *7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*
 - b. **Gal 3:13** *13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—*
 - c. **Romans 3:23-25** *23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.*
2. Includes
 - a. Forgiveness of sins
 - (1) **Col 1:13-14** *13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*
 - b. Justification
 - (1) **Romans 3:23-25** *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*
 - c. Inclusion in the covenant
 - (1) **Hebrews 9:15** *Therefore he is the mediator of a new*

covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant

- d. Freedom to live a new life
 - (1) **Galatians 4:4-7** *4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

B. Redemption Received

- 1. **Romans 8:19-25** *19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*
- 2. Redemption = Freeing of the body from earthbound limitations including death
- 3. Redemption = Freeing of spirit into eternal joy
- 4. Redemption = Freeing of personal experience into corporate peace

C. Redemption Anticipated

- 1. Active expectation Luke 21:34
 - a. Avoid faithless grief (realized through unsatisfying addictions)
 - b. Pray
 - (1) For strength to escape
 - (2) To stand before the Son of Man
 - 2. Hope accepts the promise of God today for the blessings of God tomorrow
- III. Advent: Hope leads to joy which leads to peace which nurtures love.