

Putting on the Finishing Touches **Isaiah 53:1-3**

We have put up the tree, wrapped it in lights & put a star/angel on top!

What is left to do in decorating our tree for Christmas? **The ornaments**

If you put ornaments on your Christmas tree at home, why do you do so?

- **Is it to enhance the tree's beauty?**
- Is it to cover over, or fill in, what is lacking/missing on the tree?
- **Is it to personalize your tree and have it be a reflection of you?**

In this series, we have discovered a greater meaning in the Christmas tree.

- That it represents eternal life, which we know is only found in Jesus!
- The lights represent His everlasting light that pierces thru the darkness!
- The star/angel on top points to/declares where this Jesus can be found!

If these things are all true, then what need is there for the ornaments?

- **What could ever enhance what is already supremely beautiful** - the beauty of Christ & the gift of eternal life that He brings?
- What could ever be lacking in what He has brought to light in the gospel?
- Why would we ever want to add to this tree anything that would take the focus off of Him & put it onto us?

Ornaments on our Christmas trees take on many different forms.

- There are the fancy, perfectly symmetrical, glass bulbs! **They are beautiful on the outside, but they're boring!**
- There are the homemade sentimental kinds that remind us of things from the past, **but all they provide are pleasant memories!**
- There are the ones that reveal our hobbies, interests, the things we like, but those things change over time – here today and gone tomorrow!
- **But then there are those that have heavenly meaning!** They hang on the branches of eternal life, reflect the light of God's precious gift, and point us again & again to the Messiah – our Savior, our Lord, our King!

Do you have such ornaments? Does your tree tell the story of Jesus?

If you received a Chrismon a few weeks ago to make (one for your tree & one for the church) then you do have such an ornament!

We had two ornaments – the evergreen tree and the Ichthys (Christian fish). **Great symbols of both eternal life and our faith** (both of which are gifts of God to us in Jesus Christ)!

If you took a Chrismon, which one did you get, & how is it a reflection of Christ? Will you come now and hang it on our tree & decorate it in the very truth of who our Savior is revealed to be?

What did you notice about these ornaments? Maybe nothing in particular in terms of their form – they're just felt, lace & glitter!

But did you hear truth in their description? Truth about Jesus' identity & truth about what He came to earth to accomplish.

It doesn't have to take on an elaborate form to be a powerful display of God!

Jesus Himself is the best example of that! **Isaiah 53:1-3**

"Who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" Many will reject Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promised Messiah! Many will reject His message, all the signs & the wonders!

Why? Because, like these ornaments, **Jesus took on a less flashy & more humble appearance!** He wasn't the kind of Messiah they had envisioned!

"He grew up before them like a tender shoot, & like a root out of dry ground."

If He was the embodiment of eternal life (the evergreen), then **He appeared to them as a Charlie Brown tree!** He was nothing to behold, humanly speaking!

"He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him." If he was an ornament, he would be one that we would've hidden in the back of the tree where no one sees!

"He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. Like one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

In many cases, Jesus isn't even placed in the background, he is rejected all together, like those on the island of misfit toys!

Too often, Jesus is not held in His rightful place in our Christmas celebrations, nor in our lives! If it takes having a Chrismon tree in our homes to remind us of what Christmas is really all about, then let's do whatever it takes to discover once again (or maybe for the first time) the unique beauty of our Savior!

And let's not just decorate our tree with Christ, let's fill our hearts with Him!

And maybe this Christmas will reveal more of Jesus to us than ever before!

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