**Advent: Our HOPE Is Attacked By…**

**-Pastor Dan**

***Advent***: “arrival” or “an appearing or coming into place.”

**#1) Unexpected CIRCUMSTANCES.**

***18****This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother* ***Mary*** *was* ***pledged*** *to be married to* ***Joseph****, but before they came together, she was* ***found to be pregnant*** *through the Holy Spirit.* Matthew 1:18

**#2) SHAME And Disgrace.**

***19****Because Joseph her husband was* ***faithful*** *to the law, and yetdid not want to* ***expose her to public disgrace****, he had in mind to* ***divorce her quietly****.* Matthew 1:19

**Key: You Don’t Have To Understand God’s Plans To Trust His Purpose.**

***5****And* ***hope does not put us to shame****, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

 **Romans 5:5**

**#3) FEAR And Worry.**

***20****But after he had* ***considered*** *this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David,* ***do not be afraid*** *to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.****21****She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will* ***save his people from their sins****.”* Matthew 1:20-21

*For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you* ***hope*** *and a future.*

**Jeremiah 29:11**

**#4) Forgetting That God Is “WITH” You.**

***22****All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:*

***23****“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him* ***Immanuel****” (which means “God with us”).* Matthew 1:22-23

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virginwill conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*Isaiah 7:14

**God is ALWAYS *With* You…**

***7****Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I* ***flee from your presence****?* ***8****If I go up to the* ***heavens****, you are there; if I make my* ***bed in the depths****, you are there.* ***9****If I rise on the wings of the* ***dawn****, if I settle on the far* ***side of the sea****,* ***10****even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.* ***11****If I say, “Surely the* ***darkness*** *will hide me and the light become night around me,”* ***12****even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.* ***13****For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.* ***14****I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*  Psalm 139:7-14

**#5) REGRETS From The Past.**

***24****When Joseph woke up,* ***he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him*** *and took Mary home as his wife.* Matthew 1:25

***13*** *Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do:* ***Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,******14****I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.***Philippians 3:13-14**

***25****But he did not* ***consummate*** *their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.* Matthew 1:25