

Rolling Hills Community Church
“A Season of Thanks and Giving” Series
December 3, 2006

Giving Joyfully –

God, the Greatest Giver of All

Isaiah 9:1-3

“Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past He humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future He will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan – The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.”

- Written 700 years before the birth of Christ, the prophecy of the coming Messiah
 - Nazareth (where Jesus grew up) was in “Zebulun” and Capernaum (where Jesus based His ministry) was in “Naphtali”
- The Gift of the Messiah would bring:
 - “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light”
 - “You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy”

9:6-7

“For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government, will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

- The Gift is Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is “to us”
- The Gift comes from joy - “the zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

God Gives Joyfully

Luke 2:10 *“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’”*

John 3:16-17, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”*

- You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving

Because of the Gift of God, we are called to be Joyful Givers

2 Corinthians 9:7, *“...for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

“The man who knows most of Christ is not the intellectual scholar, not even the saint who spends his days in prayer, but the man who moves in loving generosity amongst his fellow-men.”

- William Barclay

“...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35