

# **“THE DESIRE FOR LOVE”**

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**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**TEXT: COLOSSIANS 2:8-10**

**SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 9:2-7**

## **I – HOLE IN THE HEART:**

Did you realize that babies are born with a hole in their heart? I didn't know it either until I had reason to do some research recently. When we are in the womb there is a hole in the wall (septum) between the upper chambers of our heart so that blood can enter the pre-natal heart. In the majority of babies this hole grows shut within a few days after birth and causes the baby no problems at all.

Problems do occur when the hole does not close on its own. It results in a thing called “ASD” which is “Atrial Septal Defect” which simply means there's a hole in your heart. If not repaired it means that some of your blood is not getting sent into the lungs and refreshed with oxygen. This in turn affects how the body can function because it's being deprived of oxygen enriched blood. Side effects can affect how the baby breaths, the energy available to live, the very quality of the child's life. If left go too long it can cause one chamber of the heart to grow larger than the other because of pressure differences within the heart, which brings other side affects to the human body.

In short, the heart lets the body know that something's not right. The lack of tissue causing the hole is causing the whole body to suffer, and in the case of babies it affects those around them. If your baby had a hole and was suffering affects from it you would be concerned wouldn't you? You'd be taking the child to doctors and hospitals to find out what was wrong and when you finally got the right diagnosis, when you were told your baby had a hole in their heart you would tell the doctors to fix it, to fill that hole!

## **II – SPIRITUAL HOLE IN THE HEART:**

Everyone is not only born with a physical hole in their heart, but they are also born with a spiritual hole in their hearts. When we're born there's something missing, there's a void, there's a hole that needs filled. That hole can only be filled by one thing...GOD.

This shouldn't surprise us. Where do babies come from? That's right, from God. Psalm 127:3 tells us that "*Children are a gift from the Lord.*" We come from God. Remember the words of

Psalm 139:

**Psalms 139:13 - 16 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup> You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. <sup>15</sup> You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. <sup>16</sup> You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

God knew us from the very beginning of our existence, before our loved ones held us or loved us, God loved us, and God had an intimate relationship with us. God loved us and we loved God. Then we're thrust into the harsh reality of this world and God is with us, but not yet in us, there's a hole we have to fill, a hole we have to plug. We go on a life search to find what it takes to fill that spiritual hole and heal us.

Isaiah knew about this hole, and God told him to prophesize about how that hole would be filled. Verse 2 tells us that that hole plunges us into darkness and causes us to live in the shadow of death, our future is bleak. But God wants to provide the perfect filler for that hole, his Son, Jesus. Isaiah says Jesus will be born and will cast light on the darkness; Jesus will be the one to fill the hole. Jesus will fill all the roles we'll ever need in life, He'll be our counselor, our Mighty God, our Father for all of eternity, and he'll bring us peace as we find him and fill the hole in our souls.

### **III – THE WRONG FILLER:**

The trouble comes when we attempt to fill the spiritual hole in our hearts with the wrong filler. We know there's a hole, we feel the affects of that hole in our body, and it usually affects those around us. When we suffer, others suffer. But we try to fill the

hole with the wrong thing. We keep thinking that the next relationship will be the filler, the next thrill, the next promotion or accomplishment. We may believe the next toy, car, or tool we buy ourselves will bring satisfaction, or the next milestone we pass in our lives. Maybe sex, drugs, alcohol, or shopping may plug the hole. But the relief only lasts a short time, then we feel the effects of the hole again.

Sooner or later people realize that it's a spiritual hole so only something spiritual can fill it. Maybe if we worship a statue or a crystal the ache will go away. Maybe that new religion called scientology may be just what the doctor ordered. Or maybe if we join Wicca and worship mother earth all our heartache will cease.

I was walking through a toy store recently and saw a toy that I remember my children having. It was a plastic ball that had different shapes cut into it, like squares, ovals, stars, and triangles. There were corresponding pieces in the same shape that the kids used to learn different skills as they put the shapes into the ball by matching the right sized shape with the right sized hole. This reminded me of one of the bits of wisdom my father passed on to me that "you can't put a square peg in a round hole." You can't fill the hole with something that wasn't made to fit it. If you do there will be gaps, there will be trouble as you try to force it into the opening. It will not sufficiently plug the hole, it will be a mismatch! That's what happens when we try to fill the hole of God in our hearts with anything besides Jesus. Jesus is the only thing which can close the spiritual hole in our hearts and make us well.

#### **IV – TEXT – COLOSSIANS 2:8-10:**

Our text this morning sums this all up beautifully. The Apostle Paul told us what fills the spiritual hole in our hearts in these words to the Colossians...

#### **Colossians 2:8 - 10 (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup> Don't let anyone lead you astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world, and not from Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body, <sup>10</sup> and you are complete through your union with Christ. He is the Lord over every ruler and authority in the universe.

Paul says that man can't save man. Anything we think up in our minds like worshipping crystals or space aliens will not save us won't fill the hole in our heart. He says no matter how important it sounds it's only nonsense. He also makes it clear that just because it's popular doesn't make it right. Just because the public sports figures gamble and use steroids doesn't mean you should do it to. God does not want us modeling our lives after people like Brittany Spears, Paris Hilton, or Justin Timberlake. Following them will not save you, will not fill the hole in your heart. He tells us that if it's not from Jesus, it can't work.

The only thing to plug the hole in your heart is God, and we get to God through his Son, Jesus. When we find Jesus it allows God to live in our hearts and makes us whole, as God sends his Holy Spirit to fill us and guide us.

Jesus completes us, Jesus is what we search for, Jesus is the patch that heals the hole in our heart and makes us complete. Jesus is the only one who can control every aspect of our lives and give us the joy, happiness, hope, and love we talk about at this time of year. It is only through Jesus that we find God and fill the hole.

#### **V – FILL YOURSELF WITH JESUS:**

Christmas is all about filling this spiritual hole in your heart. Last week's message pointed out to us that God is aware of the spiritual hole in our heart and sent his love, the Christ child, to fill it. This week's message reminds us that we all have a desire to find the love of God and fill the void in our lives, the holes in our hearts.

It is the Christian belief that Jesus was how God revealed himself in all his fullness to mankind. The baby born in the manger that first Christmas was Emmanuel, God with us. It was God putting on human skin and living here with us so we could understand him and his motives a little better. It was through Jesus that God revealed himself in love, and it's through Jesus that we can have fellowship with God and heal the hole in our heart. God wants to know us and wants us to know him.

Christmas is all about our desire for love and God's fulfilling that desire through Jesus. Jesus "FILLS THE HOLE AND MAKES US WHOLE." The more we fill ourselves with Jesus, the more we feel the love of God in our lives. The question today is "ARE YOU FILLED?" Has your heart been healed, has the hole been patched? If not I'd love to introduce you to the great physician and let him heal the hole in your soul. AMEN