



# GOD

*With Us*



Pastor Greg Mansur  
December 15-16, 2018

Advent Series #3:  
God With Us Brings Joy

# Advent

*Hope · Love · Joy · Peace*







**“Advent” looks back  
in celebration and  
forward in anticipation.**



# Luke 2:8-14

(page 949)











**GOD**  
*With Us*

**JOY**



# *UNDERSTANDING TRUE JOY AT ADVENT . . . .*

1) Joy is not found in the absence of struggle, but in the presence of Jesus



# Luke 1:39-44

(page 948)





A photograph of a pregnant woman's belly, with her hands resting on it. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue rectangle containing white text. The background of the entire image is a gradient from purple to orange, with a starry sky and silhouettes of mountains.

**The first person to  
recognize Jesus  
was an unborn  
child.**

Luke 1:41



# ***UNDERSTANDING TRUE JOY AT ADVENT . . . .***

**1) Joy is not found in the absence of struggle, but in the presence of Jesus**

- Happiness is dependent on circumstances
- Joy is independent of circumstances



## John Piper's Definition of Joy

*“Christian joy is a good feeling in the soul, produced by the Holy Spirit, as he causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the word and in the world.”*







*REJOICE*  
*IN THE LORD ALWAYS*

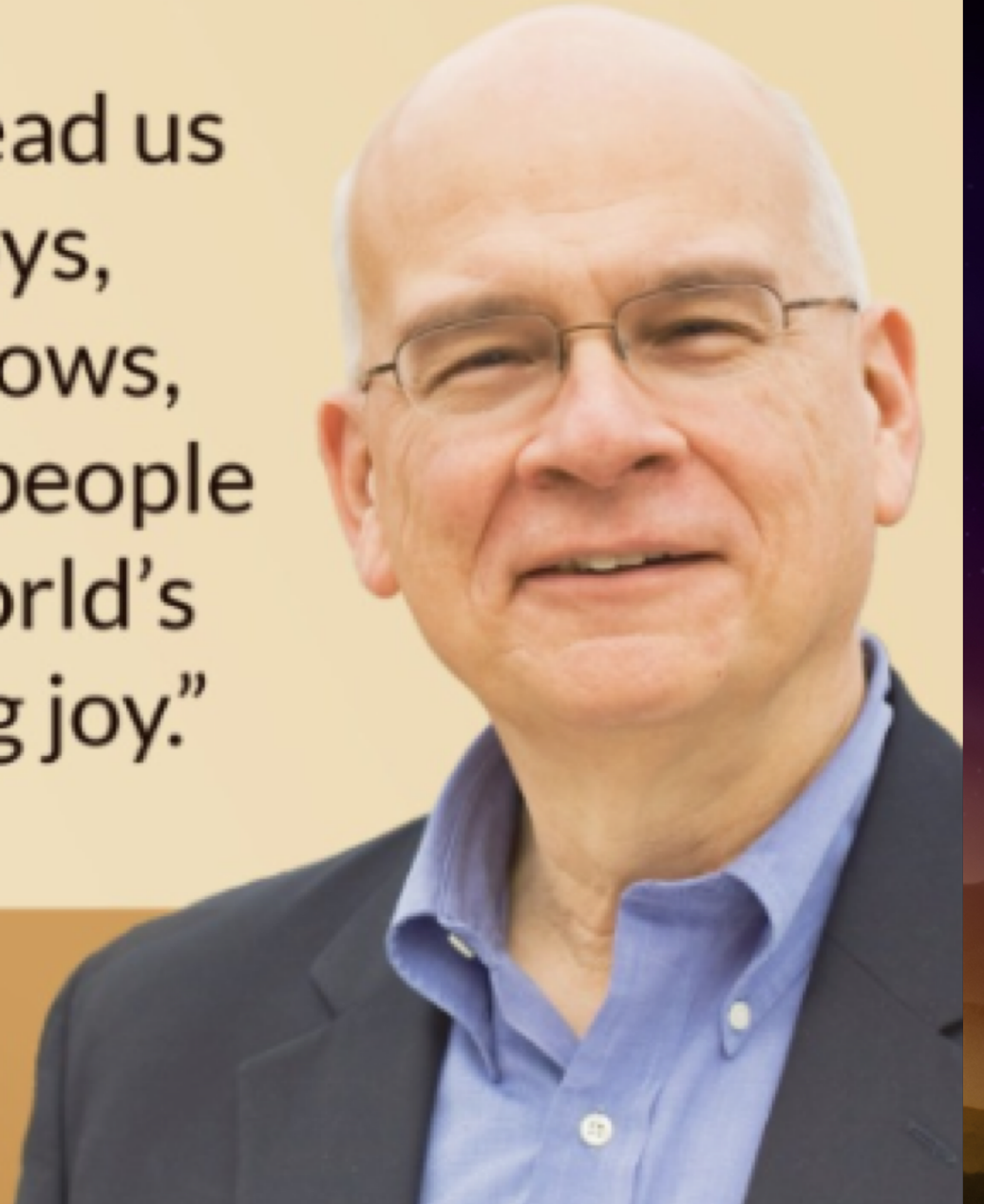
PHILIPPIANS 4:4



“While other worldviews lead us to sit in the midst of life’s joys, foreseeing the coming sorrows, Christianity empowers its people to sit in the midst of this world’s sorrows, tasting the coming joy.”

*Timothy Keller*

Photo by Nathan Troester





# ***UNDERSTANDING TRUE JOY AT ADVENT . . . .***

**1) Joy is not found in the absence of struggle, but in the presence of Jesus**

- Happiness is dependent on circumstances
- Joy is independent of circumstances
- Joy is often preceded by fear



There Are Some Places In The Universe You Don't Go Alone.

# ALIENS

This Time It's War

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX Presents A BRADYWINE Production A JAMES CAMERON Film ALIENS SIEGOURNEY WEAVER  
Music by JAMES HORNOR Art Director STAN WINSTON Creature Designers THE L.A. EFFECTS GROUP INC. Executive Producer GORDON CARROLL  
Director of Photography DAVID GILER and WALTER HILL Based on the Screenplay by DAN O'BANNON and RONALD SHUSSETT Story by JAMES CAMERON  
and DAVID GILER and WALTER HILL Screenplay by JAMES CAMERON Produced by GALE ANNE HURD Directed by JAMES CAMERON



RESTRICTED  
Under 17 Requires Accompanying  
Parent or Adult Guardian



Special Edition  
Special Edition

Produced by  
Produced by

Produced by  
Produced by



Produced by  
Produced by



Produced by  
Produced by

© 1986 Twentieth Century Fox



# *Fear Not*

The Angel's Message



Luke 1-2



# ***UNDERSTANDING TRUE JOY AT ADVENT . . . .***

**1) Joy is not found in the absence of struggle, but in the presence of Jesus**

- Happiness is dependent on circumstances
- Joy is independent of circumstances
- Joy is often preceded by fear
- Joy is always available



# *UNDERSTANDING TRUE JOY AT ADVENT . . . .*

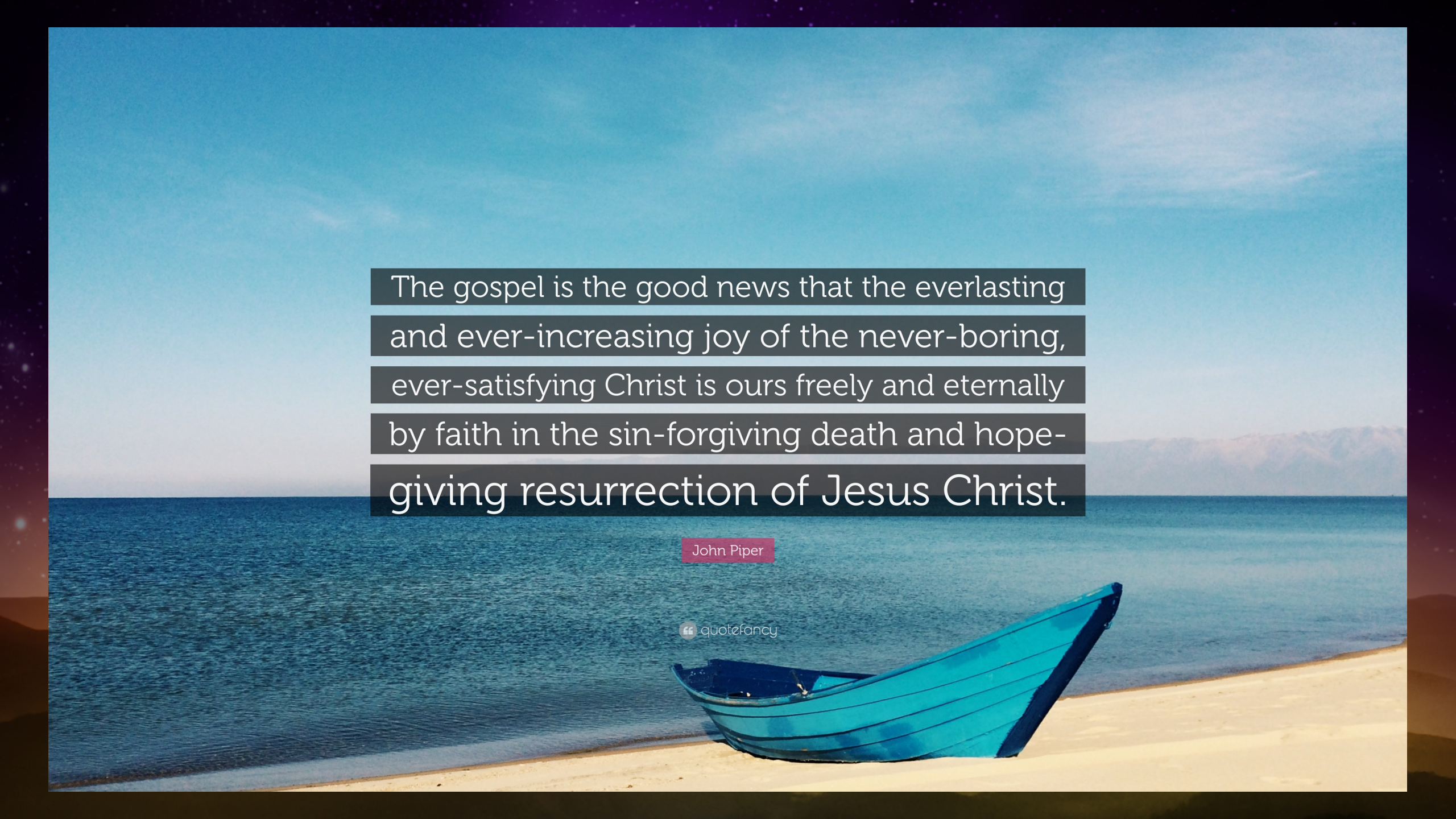
- 1) Joy is not found in the absence of struggle, but in the presence of Jesus
- 2) Joy is revealed in the message of the Gospel





**GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.**



A wooden boat is beached on a sandy shore. The background features a vast blue ocean meeting a clear blue sky at the horizon. The scene is peaceful and serene.

The gospel is the good news that the everlasting and ever-increasing joy of the never-boring, ever-satisfying Christ is ours freely and eternally by faith in the sin-forgiving death and hope-giving resurrection of Jesus Christ.

John Piper

quote fancy



# ***UNDERSTANDING TRUE JOY AT ADVENT . . . .***

- 1) Joy is not found in the absence of struggle, but in the presence of Jesus
- 2) Joy is revealed in the message of the Gospel
- 3) Joy is our right as a follower of Jesus



# John 16:16-24

(page 1000)





# "OLD CHURCH CHOIR"

BY ZACH WILLIAMS







**GOD**  
*With Us*


**JOY**



“We are half-hearted creatures,  
fooling about with drink and sex and  
ambition when infinite joy is offered  
us, like an ignorant child who wants to  
go on making mud pies in a slum  
because he cannot imagine what is  
meant by the offer of a holiday at the  
sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

*C. S. Lewis*





But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread your protection over them, that all who love your name may be filled with joy.

For you bless the godly, O Lord; you surround them with your shield of love.

- Psalm 5:11-12