**The Cast of Christmas: Prophets**

**Preparation and Expectation**

* **Preparation Begins with** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.** (Matthew 3:2-8)
* *Repentance* in its simplest definition means \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + John is saying “You all better start feeling really guilty for all the things you’ve done.”
  + He’s not saying, “I want you to feel really bad.”
  + Repentance can begin with feeling bad. But John is saying is, “Change your approach. Reconsider how you think about things and begin to think and act differently.”
* The prophets and people missed the significance of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_sin.
* Rules were important to the observers of the law. (The Jews)
* Avoiding sin was the chief \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Old Testament followers of God.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for sin was nearly ignored.
* When they looked for salvation, they weren’t really thinking about their need for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from sin.
* Instead they looked for salvation from foreign rule and oppressive government. And their mistaken belief about the mission of the Messiah became their most important conviction about Him.
* **Preparation Increases as we are filled with Expectation.** (II Peter 3:1-9)
* Have you ever considered how you would prepare for work or school if you expected Jesus to be sitting there when you arrived?
* How might we prepare for church service if you knew that God was going to show up and meet us?
* How would we spend our time getting ready in the morning if you knew the Holy Spirit was just waiting to tell us something amazing as soon as you were ready to listen?
* If you knew you were living in the Last Days, would you do things differently?
* If we had such expectations, surely it would affect our preparations for each season and even each day.
* God’s Word is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and God is willing to speak to you if we are willing to read and listen.
* **Preparation Bears Good** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.** (Romans 10:9-13, John 3:16-17)
* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the believer’s life shows true change of heart.
* We do not work to gain salvation, but we do show who we live for by our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* **Our Hope is in a** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Rescue.**
* The promise Malachi and all the other prophets clung to was that they would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the power of the law.
* Our preparation is not our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nor is it our rescue.
* Our preparation is our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to what Jesus has already done for us and in us.

**So What Now?**

* If we truly believe God is with us and for us let’s live that way this Christmas Season.
* Allow this Advent to prepare us to see the great rescue of all Mankind from the enemy of our souls.