

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Opening up to Receive Christ

[Isaiah 64:5-9](#)

You meet him who rejoices in doing righteousness, who remembers You in Your ways. Behold, You were angry, for we sinned, we continued in them a long time; and shall we be saved?

For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on Your name, who arouses himself to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us and have delivered us into the power of our iniquities.

But now, O Lord, you are our Father, we are the clay, and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O Lord, nor remember iniquity forever; behold, look now, all of us are Your people. (Isaiah 64:5-9 NASB)

To be honest, it is not the easiest scripture to read at first. How does it connect with Advent and preparing ourselves for the birth of Christ?

In this time of preparation for Christ's birth, we have to recognize that even in our praise and thanksgiving of God we still fall short, at times, of hitting the ideal that God calls us to be. We stumble; we fall; and we sin. But rather than being angry, God gave us Christ to remove our iniquities instead of letting our iniquities remove us from Him.

The more I read this scripture the more I connected with it as a coach. I see the possibilities that a player will have and what they could become. I will give my wisdom and knowledge into their training.

And yet, the player has a choice of submitting themselves to my instruction and allowing the potential to grow into reality versus the player doing it their way and fighting and resisting the wisdom and knowledge of the coach. In resisting the submission of their ego to be able to learn, they fall short of that potential.

Our preparation process includes being able to submit ourselves to God, through Christ, to allow him to create the masterpiece that he sees and that allows us to proclaim the peace of Christ and bring the Good News.

***Prayer:** Lord, may we be still and hear your call. Prepare us, mold us into how you see us.
Amen*

Ron Moreland
Beckley Community United Methodist Church
Beckley, WV
Certified Lay Speaker