

News of Nathaniel Brown's Seminary Journey

December 2017

Grace to you and peace from our coming Savior Jesus Christ! It has been a busy few weeks to finish the semester, but my first semester is in the bag! We started final projects on the Seminary right when Advent was starting, and since advent is my favorite

season, it was helpful to have decorations celebrating Christmas.

Advent is my favorite season because of the double meaning. We



rightly celebrate the first coming of Christ, but in Advent, we also look forward to the last day when Christ comes again. This is what Christian hope is built on, not just on Christ taking on flesh and dying, but also when He comes again we will have eternal life with Him. We as Christians can often forget this, but the hymns and Bible readings on the Sundays of Advent point to this hope. That is why I wrote an Advent devotional based on the hymn "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People", which I thought I would share with all of you.

It only takes a quick glance to see how broken the world is. This brokenness can be seen worldwide through terrorism and in



shootings around the country, and is felt through the loss of loved ones. This brokenness has been around for millennia. This world cannot give peace, hope, salvation or comfort to the people who desperately need it.

Prayer List:

- For all people, that they may come to the knowledge of Christ and so be saved.
- For all our leaders, that the rules they enact may lead us to quiet and dignified lives.
- That the Church would be strengthened.
- For the Seminary students in St. Louis and in Ft. Wayne, that they may be able to serve His people faithfully.
- That the fires in California can be controlled.
- That my neighbor can be comforted in her Stage 4 cancer diagnosis.
- That people hurting during this Christmas season can find comfort in the coming Jesus Christ.

If you have prayer requests, or want to talk, please send them to me! My email is brownn@csl.edu, and my address is: 801 Seminary Place St. Louis, MO 63105

There is only one person who came for that purpose, and that is Jesus Christ. This hymn speaks that purpose to us this Advent season. He gives peace to a people warring with God, hope for those who have none, comfort to those living in darkness, and salvation for a broken world. The first Christmas would have been pointless without the death and resurrection of Christ, and the first verse says this by saying, "Speak ye to Jerusalem; Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her sins I cover; And her warfare now is over." Immanuel means God with us. This does not mean He was with us. He is with us in our present situation and is our peace and comfort.

I have a neighbor whose husband is in a nursing home, and she was just diagnosed with Stage 4 Pancreatic cancer. She is hurting and as a Christian, she is clinging to Christ, not the promise of salvation that was won on the cross, but the hope that her body will be restored when she is united with Christ. I have friends who deal with Seasonal Affective Depression, and there are brothers in Christ at the Seminary who suffer with depression. This illness is debilitating and people want to help fix it. The best way to help people with this daily struggle is not slapping a Bible verse on the pain, or to say that it is just sadness that will pass away. The best way is to be in the life of the person, talk with them about something other than depression, and to constantly point to Christ, and how His death means that we have eternal comfort in Him. Depression is a tough disease, but as Christians we can support our brothers and sisters who struggle with the disease.

My fall semester is over, but I have my class schedule for Winter and for Spring. My Winter is a Leadership Intensive, which means I will be at a different congregation for 2 weeks seeing day to day work of what a pastor does. My Spring Semester is also going to be busy. I am taking Introduction to Practical Theology, Synoptic Gospels, Pauline Epistles, Creeds and Confessions, and Homiletics. I think I



am most excited for either Pauline Epistles or Homiletics. Homiletics is learning how to preach, so since that will be what I doing as a pastor, I am excited to learn it. Pauline Epistles is where we get lots of our Christian Doctrine, so I am excited for that. I'm not sure when my next newsletter will be in with my break. God's Blessings to all of you!

