

BIG IDEA: The coming of Christ brought the promised Holy Spirit.**1) INTRO**

- Christmas and focus on Jesus the baby – songs and nativity scenes
 - It’s a miracle that God came to us, for sure!
 - But, can’t forget why JC came to earth
- Belief in JC as Lord & Savior means we’re Spirit-filled now

2) JOEL OVERVIEW...“afterward” (v28a)

- 600-900 yrs B.C.
 - Not much known about Joel
- Great themes of Bible – God’s judgment on sin, need for repentance, merciful grace of God so that all who call on him will be saved
- Repentance
 - A locust plague sets the stage for a call to repentance
 - Economical effects & sacrificial effects
 - YHWH disciplines those he loves
 - YHWH’s discipline calls his people to repentance
 - 2:12-13 – picture of repentance
 - God is gracious & compassionate...
 - Motivation for repentance lies in God
- “Day of the Lord” – day of judgment & salvation (common prophets)
 - Judgment, deliverance, & the “day of the Lord”
 - This day is a source of hope & comfort and a word of warning
 - W/ all prophets, we see we’re sinners called on to repent
- Joel ends w/ the future blessings on God’s people – lavish, eternal dwelling w/ God & the removal of sin
- Before that, vv28-30 point forward to a time that’s marked by HS
 - We’re in this age now!

3) HS Poured ON ALL HIS PEOPLE (vv28-29)

- “pour out...”
 - HBRW vb includes pouring liquid or dry goods from container
 - Familiar w/ outpouring of God’s anger & ritual blood
 - CA & BC fires give picture of our need

- God pours out his Spirit...not a trickle, like Qualicum Falls
- Poured out on all God’s people
 - Not a select few...or some...but ALL
 - Men/women, old/young, even servants (female)
 - When we trust in JC, we have the HS poured into us
 - Doctor, cashier, baker, businessman, teacher, grandma, grandpa, retired, homemaker, electrician, secretary, pastor, widow, mechanic, student, large bank accounts, unsure of next meal
 - We’re all given the HS without distinction! PTL
 - Whether “big” sinners or “little” sinners
 - [Camp-out here – this is amazing! God-with-us our whole lives! Not just Xmas!]
- The giving of the HS takes place the moment our sins are forgiven
 - Acts 2 – Peter’s Sermon at Pentecost
 - Acts 2:38-40
 - When God saves/forgives us, we’re given the HS right then

4) HS/GOD CHANGES WAY WE LIVE (v30)

- Why does it matter that we have the HS?
 - John 16:7 – JC said it’s better he goes so that we have the HS
- HS is at work in saving, sanctifying, & securing us
- HS saves us...brings us to repentance & confession of JC
 - Different times in life & in diff ways
 - Billy Graham (Mordecai Ham) vs Ruth Graham (in 5 yrs?)
 - HS opens our eyes to Scripture and JC’s work on cross
- HS changes us - grows us to love the things of God
 - Sproul reading the entire Bible in 2 weeks after conversion
 - Our desires change – not perfect, but changed
- HS sanctifies us...makes us grow in holiness
 - B/c we’re filled w/ HS, our sin will bother us
 - Jerry Bridges “The Pursuit of Holiness” – sliding into sign
 - HS pricks our heart to confess and repent...he works us over
 - HS works in us to run from sin & fight sin
- HS secures us – Eph 1:13 – we’re sealed by the promised HS
 - So, we don’t fear death