

## EVER-INCREASING

Our text is Isaiah 9:1-7. In this passage, the prophet Isaiah predicts the coming of the Messiah, and he talks about the kingdom this Chosen One will establish for God's people.

Today, our Christmas-in-a-word is \_\_\_\_\_.

We live in a world that is defined by diminishing returns.

One of the gifts of Christmas is that Jesus came into the world with a promise to give us an abundance of e\_\_\_\_\_ that really matters.

Believers live in a world of expanding resources, because 2000 years ago Jesus came into this world to create a "kingdom of increase" for all those who choose to follow him.

Three areas of increase that we can count on as followers of Christ:

1. Ever-Increasing O\_\_\_\_\_.

These words apply not only to Judah and the Northern Kingdom in 700 BC, they apply to all God's people, and they apply to the church. Ref: Isaiah 9:3

Victory is around the corner and God's increase is on its way. Ref: 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 4:10

You will never lack the opportunity to do good in God's kingdom.

We never lack for opportunities to do good in God's kingdom. What's the problem, then? As he said, "the workers are few." (Matthew 9:37) We don't lack for opportunity. We lack for v\_\_\_\_\_, and we lack for c\_\_\_\_\_.

I want you to know that God is willing — in fact, he's eager — to multiply your territory and expand your borders and fill your life with opportunities to make a difference in his kingdom.

2. Ever-Increasing J\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus came to give us an abundance of what really matters — and there's nothing like an abundance of joy. Ref: Isaiah 9:3

Not only does God want to give you the opportunity to do ever-increasing good in his kingdom, he wants to fill your heart with joy in the process. Ref: Mark 8:36

God has never promised us an easy life. Ref: John 15:11

One of the fruits of being filled with the Holy Spirit is that he gives us joy.

3. Ever-Increasing I\_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not an earthly kingdom; it's not of this world. But it's here right now. It's within you."