

Date: December 21, 2025

Title: The Joy of Christmas

Passage: Luke 2:8-14

Summary:

Why be joyful this Christmas?

- 1) A Savior has been born who is Christ the Lord (v. 10-11)
- 2) The Good News is offered to ALL people (v. 8-10)
- 3) God is glorified in the Highest (v. 14)
- 4) His people have peace with Him (v. 14)

Key Truths:

- Misperception: God is a joy-killer who wants to destroy any source of happiness or waiting to punish you.
- Biblical definition of joy and happiness = state of peace knowing that God is in full control of every detail of your life.
- Without a right view of God, then you will have a wrong view of self and the world around you.
- Joy = when you remind yourself that God is in complete control with all the details of your life and is for your good.

Application:

- If Christ is the Lord and you are not in peace, you need to leave more in control to God.
- If you carry guilt that time has not erased, know the only way to have true peace is when you come to the Savior, Jesus Christ.
- If you are in Christ but God feels distant, know that joy comes through what God has already done. Return to the Gospel; refresh your mind with His truth.
- If you have not personally responded to Christ, come to Christ.
- If you are in Christ, tell the world about the joy of Christ.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What message did the angel tell the shepherds?
- How does knowing Jesus bring true peace compared to what can be found in the world?
- Are you at peace with God? Why so or why not?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

"Merry"

- a word that is uniquely associated with Christmas
 - Not a commonly used word in everyday happenstance.
- Meaning = joyful
 - Isn't this something we would want everyday of the year?
 - Why? We have a natural yearning and desire to be happy or joyful.
- God is a happy God.
 - One of the main characteristics of God is that He is a happy, joyful God.

1 Timothy 6:15

which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

- blessed = happy / joyful
- In the Trinity, there is a blissful, blessed relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit.
 - From that place, God created the world.
 - God does not take any joy in judging the world.
 - The only way to be happy is to follow God's design as He created you for His ways.
- Misperception: God is a joy-killer who wants to destroy any source of happiness or waiting to punish you.
 - Truth: God is in the business of creating joy and making people joyful.
- World: sources of joy are trivial.
 - Only God provides eternal, lasting joy.
- Biblical definition of joy and happiness = state of peace knowing that God is in full control of every detail of your life.

Candles of Advent sermon series:

- Hope
- Peace
- Joy (12/21)
- Love

Passage:

Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you:

you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

EXPOSITION

WHY BE JOYFUL THIS CHRISTMAS?

1) A Savior has been born who is Christ the Lord (v. 10-11)

Luke 2:10-11

And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Why do we need a Savior?

- Because of our sin.

Context: God created the world including the first humans, Adam and Eve.

- But instead of seeking joy in God, Adam and Eve sought it elsewhere and sinned.
- Ever since, sin has infected the world.

In response, God would promise He would provide a way of salvation.

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

- Jesus Christ ultimately came in fulfillment of that promise.

Jesus came to save the world from its sin

- Not merely as an example of moral living.

Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

John 4:42

They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

1 John 4:14

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

- Jesus' main purpose for coming was to save the world.

What does this have to do with you?

- You need a Savior now.
 - Problem: You are a sinner. We all are.
 - Regardless of your background or your past, we are all sinners.
- You need to own your sin regardless of what others have done to you.
- Our biggest problem is sin.
 - We need a Savior.
 - To save you from the addictions in your own life
 - Not perfection but more wins than losses.

What makes Jesus so special?

- Jesus is the Lord.
 - Angels proclaimed "who is Christ the Lord."
- "Lord": designation given to the only true God.
- Misperceptions:
 - Jesus is Savior or Lord
 - But Jesus can only save you if He has the power to do it as God.
 - Jesus was merely a moral teacher.
 - But Jesus clearly proved to be God.

2) The Good News is offered to ALL people (v. 8-10)

Luke 2:8-10

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Why did God reveal this to the shepherds?

- a) God identifies Himself as a Shepherd
- b) God chose the ordinary to display His grace
- c) The shepherds raised the lambs which were used for sacrifice

a) God identifies Himself as a Shepherd

- throughout the Old and New Testament in the Bible.

Psalm 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Isaiah 40:11

He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Ezekiel 34:30-31

And they shall know that I am the LORD their God with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, declares the Lord GOD. And you are my sheep, human sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, declares the Lord GOD.”

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

- Shepherds are ones whose responsibilities are to lead and care for the weak.

b) God chose the ordinary to display His grace

- Shepherds were common, working-class people.

1 Corinthians 1:26-27

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

Luke 1:52

he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

- The Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all.
 - Not for the elite or the wealthy.

c) The shepherds raised the lambs which were used for sacrifice

- Every week, lambs would be used as sacrifices for the Temple in Jerusalem.
- Those who watched over the sacrificial

Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

John 1:29

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

- The man to raise lambs to die for sins were the first ones to see the Lamb of the World who would die for the world.

3) God is glorified in the Highest (v.14)

Luke 2:14

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

- Why? Because there is glory in the Highest, there can be peace on earth.
- God doesn't need anything - He is the all-sufficient God. Out of that, God alone can provide true peace and joy.
- Misperception: Have a wrong view of God, then you will have a wrong view of self and the world around you.

Isaiah 6:1-3

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

- What is God doing? He is sitting on the throne.
 - He is not fretting or worried about what is happening in the world.
- Joy = when you remind yourself that God is in complete control with all the details of your life and is for your good.

Romans 8:28-39

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose...For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

4) His people have peace with Him (v.14)

- Peace = a holistic well-being
 - Not merely absence of conflict.
- Do you feel you know the Lord in a deep, deep way?

- Are you at peace with God?

Applications

If Christ is the Lord and you are not in peace, you need to leave more in control to God.

- Surrender all to God.

If you carry guilt that time has not erased, know the only way to have true peace is when you come to the Savior, Jesus Christ.

- You don't need to do more good.
- Stop trying to bandage your sin.
- Receive the Savior who came to bear your sin.

If you are in Christ but God feels distant, know that joy comes through what God has already done.

- Return to the Gospel.
- We forget what God has done: we deserve nothing but death.
 - Anything beyond that is God's grace.

If you have not personally responded to Christ, come to Christ.

If you are in Christ, tell the world about the joy of Christ.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.