

"Finding The Christ Of Christmas"
Luke 2:8-20
Christmas Eve 5:00 PM December 24, 2017

"Each One Of Us Is An Innkeeper Who Decides If There Is Room For Jesus."

The Thought Of Our Passage: Jesus, The Son Of God, Was Born So That He Would Be Our Savior, And Redeem Us To God.

1. Verses – 8-14 God's Birth Announced

2. Verses – 15-20 God's Birth And Testimony

1. Verses – 8-14 God's Birth Announced:

Luke 2:8

Why did God announce the birth to the shepherds?

Jesus is the Lamb of God – He was to be slaughtered for the sins of the world.

Jesus is called "The Great Shepherd Of The Sheep."

Shepherds symbolize needful man.

One said, "God used earth's lowest to do God's highest."

Luke 2:9

"And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them," – The Shepherds!

Luke 2:10

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid;'" – Here, these common people are now met by messengers from heaven.

"for behold, I bring you good news" – That "good news" is actually what the Gospel is. Originally meant "Stop the press," preempt, stop what we're doing!

"Good News" – is that God has met the great need for man to be made whole (Forgiven). Jesus came (Savior) to pay the requirement of sin (Substitutionary Sacrifice). This is great news!

"of a great joy" – "greatest or very great, exceeding great joy;" Attempting to describe the joy of salvation.

"which shall be for all the people;" – The Gift of Salvation is offered to all people.

Luke 2:11 – "for today in the city of David" – Bethlehem; 700 years before – Micah 5:2.

"there has been born for you" – Note the Savior was born for us!
Incarnation – Preexistent God becoming man!

"a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." – The promised Deliverer is the Messiah, The Lord. The Messiah is God!

Matthew 1:21

Meaning of Christmas. God Came For Us! Romans 3:10-12

Called Savior – Because we are lost! This is God's Declaration!

Luke 2:12 – "This will be a sign for you:" – The purpose of a sign is to impart information, Isaiah 7:14.

Luke 2:13-14

Peace rests exclusively upon those that humbly turn from their sin; place their faith in Jesus Christ!

2. Verses – 15-20 God's Birth And Testimony:

Luke 2:15

"shepherds began saying to one another, 'Let us go straight to Bethlehem then,'" – They resolved to go at once; The right time, which is now!

The "poor of spirit" (Shepherds) saw their need and are willing to admit that God is their solution!

"to Bethlehem then," – The Right Place, Bethlehem. We need not only to go immediately, but it must be to the right place.

"and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." – God's Purpose, to see this thing.

Luke 2:16

“So they came in a hurry” – This of course is The First Christmas Rush!

The Message of The Manger: Isaiah 55:8

Luke 2:17

They made known the statement which had been told them about this Child; The angel’s statement – Luke 2:12.

Luke 2:18 – “Wondered” – “to be amazed, marvel, to be astonished, to admire.”

Two Types of Wonder:

1. **Temporary Wonder** – a fascination with something unusual.
2. **Holy Wonder** – amazement at the acts of God – “beyond human comprehension, borders on adoration if not identical.”

Wonder – “wondered at the things” – The Incarnation; God Taking On Human Flesh. “God With Us;” Who can explain the wonder of this event.

Luke 2:19 – “But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.”

“treasured all these things,” – “to keep in mind lest we forget.”

“pondering” – “to throw together, to confer with one’s self, to bring together.”

It is connected with wonder, it begins with it. It goes beyond wonder because “it is the idea of trying to understand, figure it out.”

1. “Mary treasured up all these things.” (Memory)
2. “in her heart.” (Affections)
3. “pondering them in her heart.” (Intellect)

Luke 2:20

“The shepherds went back” – God wants us to go back to our homes and jobs and relationships so as to glorify Him.

“glorify” – in the beginning meant to “think, be of the opinion.” Later it took on the meaning to “honor, praise, to make anyone important.”

We need to believe the truth and be of the right opinion of God. That's what worship is, Worth-Ship – to express a right opinion of God.

Application:

1. I Am A Sinner, Romans 3:23, In Need Of A Savior – Luke 2:11 – “for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”
2. The Message of Christmas – The Depths Of Human Sin Was So Great That God Intervened Through The Sending Of His Only Son Jesus, To Die For Us So That We Could Be Made Right Before God.
3. If I Will Repent, (Turn From My Sins) And Believe In Jesus Christ (The Savior) I Will Receive The Greatest Gift Of All, Jesus Our Salvation.