



DECEMBER 23, 2018

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What is Christmas?

Luke 2:8-14

I. The Shepherds of the Field (v. 8)

A. The _____ of a shepherd (1 Cor. 1:26-29;
Jms. 4:10)

B. The _____ of a shepherd (Ex. 3:1-2;
1 Sam. 16:11-13)

II. The Angel of the Lord (v. 9)

A. The _____ of the angel (Lk. 1:11-20, 26-38;
1 Pet. 1:12; Eph. 3:10)

B. The _____ of the Lord (Ex. 24:17; Ezek. 10:18;
Matt. 17:2; 24:30)

C. The _____ of the shepherds (Lk. 1:12, 26-30,
Mk. 4:41; Lk. 8:37; Acts 5:11; Rev. 11:11)

III. The Announcement of Good News (vv. 10-12)

A. The announcement is about _____ news! (v. 10a-b)
[Jn. 3:16]

B. The announcement is for _____ people! (v. 10c)
[Isa. 49:6; Rom. 1:16; 1 Jn. 2:2]

C. The announcement is about a _____! (v. 11)
[Matt. 1:21; Rom. 3:23; 6:23; Dan. 9:25-26; Rev. 17:14; 19:16;
Ex. 3:14-15; 1 Cor. 12:3; Jn. 8:24]

D. The announcement is about a _____! (v. 12)
[Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; Lk. 1:28-35; Jn. 6:51]

IV. The Glory of God (vv. 13-14)

A. A _____ of heavenly hosts praising God
(v. 13) [Rev. 5:11-12]

B. A _____ proclamation for those with whom
He is pleased (v. 14) [Lk. 15:10; Rom. 5:1; Heb. 11:6]

TAKE HOME

- Christmas is about the ***glory*** of the Lord
- Christmas is about the ***good news*** of the gospel
- Christmas is about the ***gift*** of salvation offered through Christ

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. What does Christmas mean to our Western culture? How did this happen? Can we as Christians still enjoy all of the hoopla around Christmas and point others to Jesus? How do we do this?

2. Read Luke 2:8. In the first century what was the status of shepherds in that culture? Why do you think God wanted to make the first public baby announcement to them? What does this tell you about God?

3. Read Luke 2:9. What was the glory that shone around the shepherds? Where have we seen this glory before? (Ex. 24:17; Ezek. 10:18; Matt. 17:2; 24:30)

4. Why were the Shepherds afraid? Discuss when fear is good and when it is harmful. (Lk. 1:12, 26-30, Mk. 4:41; Lk. 8:37; Acts 5:11; Rev. 11:11)

5. Read Luke 2:10-12. Which part of this incredible baby announcement encouraged you the most? Why? What are the three titles for Jesus in verse 11? What is the significance of each one? (Matt. 1:21; Rom. 3:23; 6:23; Dan. 9:25-26; Rev. 17:14; 19:16; Ex. 3:14-15; 1 Cor. 12:3; Jn. 8:24)

6. Read Luke 2:13-14. Where else do we see angels praising God? (Rev. 5:11-12; Lk. 15:10) What is going on in those scenarios?

7. Look again at verse 14. Describe the difference between “world peace” and the peace described in this verse. (Rom. 5:1; Heb. 11:6) Which peace is our world more excited about? Why? Which peace is more important? Why?

8. Read the take home points. Which one encourages you or challenges you the most? How will you live differently this Christmas and over the holidays based on what you have learned from this passage?

“Now the time has come when God's kindness and good will towards guilty man is to be fully made known. His power was seen in creation. His justice was seen in the flood. But His mercy remained to be fully revealed by the appearing and atonement of Jesus Christ!”

- J.C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on Luke*