

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Luke 2:8-20--December 10th, 2023

Sermon Recap:

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

I. A Heavenly Proclamation

Good news is heralded by angels to humble shepherds.

a. Savior

- When we celebrate Christmas, we are celebrating that we have been delivered by the divine Savior stepping down from glory to rescue us from sin, from judgment, from death.

b. Christ the Lord

- *Christos-Kyrios* literally translates as Christ Lord.
- He is Christ the Lord, meaning he is God! This was necessary for him to be a sufficient Savior.

The Savior, Christ the Lord was born “unto you.” Christ came to save the humble, poor, broken, and despised. His humble, humiliating birth communicated that he was accessible to them. His life and death were marked by this same weakness and humiliation so that he might bring peace as our Savior.

II. A Humble Response

How should we respond to the good news?

a. Proclaim

- V.15-17--Evidence that the joy of the gospel has captivated our hearts is seen in our inability to keep the good news to ourselves. Like the shepherds, the joy overflows as we tell others the good news of Jesus.

b. Ponder

- V.18-19--Like Mary, we must ponder and meditate on the gospel.
- The gospel isn't just necessary to bring salvation. We rely on it every day.
- We must ponder and preach the gospel to ourselves daily.

c. Praise

- V.13-14--In celebration of the gospel of Christ, the angels burst into glorious praise of the Lord.
- V.20- Like the angels singing, the shepherds ran through the streets, joyously praising God for his faithfulness to send a Savior.
- Not just angels, but sinners saved by grace may sing this song. Do you know that joy?

Discussion Questions:

- Why were the shepherds frightened?
- What is the message of good news that the angel delivers? (See Vv. 11-12)
- What's symbolic about God announcing Jesus' birth to some of the lowliest members of society?
- To whom was Christ born?
- How does God's appearance to the shepherds relate to Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55?
- What is the significance of the title "Christ the Lord?"
- Is it necessary that Jesus be God? Why?
- What are the two purposes of salvation according to verse 14?
- What is the appropriate response to the good news of Christ?
- How do we know the joy of the gospel has captivated our hearts?
- When do we rely on the gospel?
- Considering Mary's example in verse 19, what does it mean to meditate on the gospel?
- What three things should joy prompt us to do?

Application:

- Do you know Christ as Savior and Lord?
- Has that created peace and joy in your life? What hinders that peace and joy?
- According to this passage, why would you say that Christ came?
- When was the last time you "heralded" the good news to someone? Who can you proclaim it to this Christmas season?
- How often do you meditate on the gospel?
- What reasons do you have to praise God this year? (trick question)

