

The Good News and Great Joy to All the People

Sermon December 24, 2021 - Christmas Eve

Golden verse: *“I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”*

Luke 2:10

Two thousand years ago, on an ordinary evening, in an ordinary field in Israel, there were ordinary shepherds, doing their ordinary job. They were probably like many of us: going to work, facing daily stress and anxiety, dealing with life problems and needs. For them, it was just another ordinary evening in the outside of Bethlehem.

In an ordinary evening, unexpectedly, without any warning, God stepped into their lives through the angels who left heaven to show up in an ordinary place and on an ordinary night. Then God stepped into their lives through the announcement. God, the creator of human kind, the sustainer of cosmos, as a joyful and proud Father, announced the birth of His Son, Jesus.

This is where the ordinary stopped, and the incredible and extraordinary began!

The angel said, *“... for today in the city of David, there has been born for you a Saviour who is Christ the Lord”* (Luke 2:11).

Let us analyze what those ancient Jews heard in those words.

Today in King David’s city - in Bethlehem - is born to you - the nation Israel - a Saviour - the one who had been foretold by the Prophets many hundred years ago - and long awaited, one who would SAVE His people. His name is Christ. He is the MESSIAH. The meaning of MESSIAH is The Chosen One, The Anointed One. The shepherds knew that, at that time, only kings, prophets and priests were anointed. Anointed means to have oil poured over a person’s head through a ritual, as a sign of being ELECTED to do a specific sacred call. This newborn baby is bringing you SHALOM, peace, safety, prosperity, rest, and harmony. He is bringing you physical, psychological, social, and spiritual well-being as a mighty blessing. The child, who was promised as a gift of God, the Son of God as a human being, is here. Today, the Son was born, God became a human being. He is here. The government is on His shoulder.

His name is *“Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”* (Isaiah 9:6). He is here. Your Wonderful Counsellor, your Mighty God,

your Everlasting supporter is here now, and you can touch the Creator of Heaven and Earth, Him, Jesus, and you can have His SHALOM, His PEACE.

Dear beloved, this was, and this is, the great good news of Christmas. This is the best news on earth. The Jews had been waiting hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years for a Saviour to come and to bring to their own nation life and light.

But the angel said this was good news, not only for the people of Israel, but also good news for all people around the world and for all generations to come.

This is the everlasting, evergreen, good news for the earth in 2021 as well. The everlasting good news to us tonight from our everlasting and Eternal God, our dear Heavenly Father.

Jesus' name is EMMANUEL, which means, "God is with us". God, the Creator of the Universe, is embracing you and me. The angels said another extremely important message. This Godly gift is shared with all those "among men with whom He is pleased."

How can we know if we are one of those that please Him?

Here is the best part! We don't have to do anything else to please Him... JUST BELIEVE.

Believe in the Son God sent. It is this Son who restores the relationship between God and you and me, which was broken. On Christmas, this tiny baby came into our world to grow up and to shed His sinless blood for you and for me, to wipe away our sins, and to open for us the gates of God's eternal glorious home. This is how Jesus Christ brings you and me the greatest gift in Christmas.

The first thing God is asking you tonight is: BELIEVE.

God loves you so much. He wants to have a relationship of wholeness and completeness between us. So great is God's loving desire that He came to us in a human body, in Christ, to be our protector, provider, and guardian. Much more than this, Jesus is here to show us that those who believe in Him and embrace Him are saved, will receive heavenly peace on earth, and by grace have an eternal and glorious place prepared in heaven.

God loves you: *"For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not*

send His Son into the world to judge it, but that the world should be saved through Him” (John 3:16-17).

This is the good news to all the people. Believe in Christ, Embrace Christ and you are saved. This is your choice, your opportunity to accept the gift from heaven.

Two thousand years ago, the good news was announced to the shepherds. They heard God’s invitation in the angels’ praises and, leaving everything behind, they ran to seek Jesus. And they found Him. They found the Saviour, the Christ, the Peacemaker, the Lord. He was lowly like them, lying in a food trough.

Are you seeking, too, tonight for Jesus? If you are, God will lead you to find Him. Just start your spiritual journey to find Christ here and now. Jesus, Himself, is encouraging you now:

“Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be open unto you. For whoever asks receives, whoever seeks finds, and whoever knocks it shall be open” (Luke 7: 7-8).

Ask for God’s peace in your life. Come and seek the Saviour with all your heart... knock on the door to a relationship with God Himself.

Right now, we are in the shepherds’ field, on an ordinary evening. God steps into our time and can make it extraordinary for you. Believing, embracing Christ, His gift, God can impress you with His Peace.

Look at Jesus. Consider Jesus. Meditate on Jesus. Fix your sights on Jesus. Open the Bible to Luke and read it again and again and again this Christmas season. Read the Bible daily. The Bible is God’s love letter to you. The Holy Spirit can fill you with the peace and joy of Christ, just offer your heart for Jesus.

Pray. Pray, that God would open your eyes to see the beauty of Christ. God loves to open the eyes of people who are looking at Jesus, because then, when their eyes are opened, they see Christ Jesus as God’s gift, and they will be surrounded and filled with the Eternal and Loving God’s glory. They get the gift of salvation. And this is your greatest extraordinary gift in Christmas.

Believe in Christ, Embrace Christ. Walk away with Christ and He will walk with you. Walking away with Christ will be your greatest Christmas ever. Let it be.

Amen