

Joy At The Birth

Luke 2:8-12

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

The angel says, "I bring you good tidings of great joy." The word for good tidings in the Greek is euangelizō which gives us the word evangelism, which means, "to preach or to bring good news." We have a clue as to what this good news is all about in v.11.

I. There Is Joy In The Birth Of The Son - Vs. 11

In the year 1942 the world was focused on a man by the name of Hitler who was behind a war that would engulf the entire world. Very few people were thinking about babies that year, but maybe they should have.

2000 years ago one baby was born who would shape the destiny of the entire world. There is a reason why the Lord Jesus came in human flesh. He came to be one of us so that we might know not only can He raise us up to his level, but He can get down on ours. In music they call this "sympathetic resonance." When Jesus Christ came in His humanity, He was like us in every way except that He had no sin.

II. There Is Joy In The Birth Of The Savior - Vss. 10-11, Isa. 43:11 & 49:26, 1 Jn. 4:14, Mt. 1:21, 2 Cor. 5:21

Now you will never understand the meaning of Christmas, nor the real joy of Christmas until you get into your heart that Christmas is the coming of a Savior. The title Savior, the noun salvation, and the verb to save, are found in every book in the New Testament. The origin of these words is the Latin "salvare." It means to deliver from the penalty and the power of sin. The title "Savior" not only tells us who He is, but what we are because the only people who need a Savior are sinners. He meets our greatest need!

This principle of substitution is at the heart of the gospel. The Savior willingly took our place because of His infinite love. He died in our stead and paid the penalty for our sin.

III. There Is Joy In The Birth Of The Sovereign – Vs. 11

Jesus, the little baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger, born in a stable, was not just the Son of God or the Savior of the world, He is the Lord of the universe. The heart-breaking thing at Christmas is to see how this world tries to convince us that the reason why Christmas is such a time of joy is because of someone who doesn't even exist--they call him Santa Claus.

But we're in the Army now, God's Army! So many of us don't really understand we are in the army of the Lord, we think we can come and go and do as we please. Most people do not make Christ Lord because they do not understand the long-term benefits. Bruce Larson, in Believe and Belong, tells how he helped people struggling to surrender their lives to the lordship of Christ.

The best news you will ever hear at Christmas is "The Lord is come." That is why there is joy to the world.