

Joy

Luke 2.8-20

Main Idea

Jesus is the Great Joy of Christmas to all the People of Whom God is well pleased.

Overview

What is the Joy of Christmas? Savior, Christ the Lord

- The “good news (gospel) of great joy” is for or because “unto you....is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”
 - Three titles that is important to understand our Joy:
 - Savior: He has come to save us from our sin (Matthew 1.21)
 - The name “Jesus” means Savior
 - Christ: Means Messiah or Anointed
 - This highlights Jesus’ coming to fulfill the promises of the OT
 - It also highlights His being ‘anointed’ for a mission...namely to be a Savior from sin
 - The Lord: While it is possible to interpret Lord like you might say the “lord of a manner” when coupled with “Messiah” and the proclamation of the angel of the Lord and the glory of the Lord and the clear identity of Christ as God in the flesh, we can see this is pointing to the fact that this Savior is the Lord Himself:
 - Like God dwelt with His people in the temple, now He has come down to dwell with His people in the flesh
- Note what this Saving took and what it is coupled with:
 - Took:
 - Angel of the Lord to come and announce
 - The Lord Himself!
 - Coupled with:
 - A multitude of the Heavenly hosts singing
 - Glory of the Lord shining
 - This tells us how extreme our situation is without Christ which should inform the Joy of His salvation

Who participates in this Joy? Repenting Believers in Christ

- Vs. 10: I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all THE people:
 - This is designating a particular people
 - Vs. 11: Unto ‘you’ unto “the people” this child is born
- Who are the People?
 - Vs. 14: The one’s who have peace because God is pleased
- How do we get such Joy/Peace/Pleasure from God?
 - Mark 1.11: We see God has Pleasure in His Son
 - So, if you have the Son you have Gods pleasure (1 John 5.11-15)
- If God knows the number of stars and knows them by name (Isaiah 40.26) then surely He knows those of whom He has “foreknown” (Romans 8.29-30, Revelation 13.8)
 - This means that if you are in Christ, then Jesus has come to Save not a nameless mass of people, but a named people whom He knew before the foundation of the World...He knew YOU Christian! This gift has your name on it!

What does this Joy look like?

- Those who have received this gift do not have to fear the glory of the Lord (2.10, 8.50, 12.7, 12.32)

- Those who have received this gift of joy can run to Jesus and see Him (2.16)
- Those who have received this gift of joy can spread the news of His coming and saving (2.17-18)
- Those who have received this gift of joy return to their work praising and glorifying God for what He has done (2.20)
- Those who have received this gift of joy ponder and treasure these great truths (2.19)

Questions

Discussion Starter: *How have you had joy this past year in Jesus and the gifts that he gives?*

1. Read 2.1-20. What is the 'good news of great joy'?
2. Discuss the various titles used to describe Jesus here in this passage? How does this inform our joy?
3. What does this passage tell us about God's nature and our need?
4. Notice the good news is that there will be peace "with whom he is pleased." With whom is God pleased? How does this inform and fuel our joy?
5. What does joy look like in this passage? How does joy look in our own lives?
6. Where have you seen this Joy in the past year? Where have you struggled to find it?
7. Does Mary and/or the Shepherds encourage/convict you in anyway regarding your joy in Christ?

Accountability Question: *Praise the places you have found joy and pray for those ways you are not finding joy.*