

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

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"

(Luke 2:10)

Go back over 2000 years ago and imagine that you are one of the shepherds living out in the fields near Bethlehem, keeping watch over your flock by night. Everything is silent except for the quiet breathing of the sleeping sheep, and an occasional hushed word between you and the other shepherds. You are trying your best to stay alert for any dangers that may approach the flock in the moonlit darkness, but nothing could have prepared you for what happens next.



In a moment the darkness is shattered by the light of God's glory and an angel is standing before you and the other shepherds. Suffice it to say, all of you are scared to death. Then the angel speaks telling you not to be afraid, but that he brings good news of great joy that will affect all people. He tells of a Savior born that day in Bethelhem, and you would be able to find him wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger (Luke 2:8-12).

This story is often told this time of year as people reflect on the birth of Jesus. Though there are no divine instructions for a yearly religious observance of the birth of Jesus or even proof that He was born on December 25th, giving thought to the Savior of mankind is a good thing. The circumstances of His birth give witness every day to the power and love of God.

After the angel spoke, he was joined by a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Lk. 2:12-13 ESV).

Anything that thrills the heavenly host should also cause great excitement in us! Peace on earth certainly is something to be desired, and the Savior offers that peace for all those "with whom he is pleased." This divine peace is available to all who look to God and obey the will of the Father (Jn. 14:27).

While strife and division plague an ungodly world, Jesus offers reconciliation between man and God and peace among all those who are in Christ. Let us give glory to God for this good news that is still as exciting as when it was first heard by those humble shepherds on that blessed night.

MWG

The Good News

The Central Voice

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Times of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship	9:50 am
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 pm

**"Everyone who is of the
truth hears My voice"**

– Jesus (Jn. 18:37)