

Advent – Jesus, our Source of Joy
Luke 2. 8-20

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

***¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”***

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

News of great Joy:

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Why is this Great Joy?

First consider our condition:

- **None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”**
Rm.3.10-12
- **...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... Rm.3.23**
- **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. Rm.1.18**

Now the Reason for our Great Joy:

- **But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:20-21**
- **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Jn.1.14**

- **The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29**

What becomes available through our Great Joy?

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:19-20

- Reconciliation
 - **For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Rm.5.10**
- Peace
 - **Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rm.5.1**

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Gal.4.6

- Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 - **Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 1 Cor.3.16**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. Eph.1.3-6

- Adoption into God’s family
 - **For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” Rm.8.15**
- Holy and Blameless
 - **Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thes.5.23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rm.6.23

- Eternal Life
 - **Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. Jn.3.36**

How well rooted is our great joy?

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ²And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” Luke 24.1-7

- In the resurrection the Father declares that He accepts the sacrifice of Christ – R.C. Sproul
- Because that sacrifice is accepted by the Father we can count on receiving the benefits brought by the sacrifice our Lord made on our behalf.

How can we be sure that our Lord Jesus rose from the dead?

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 1 Cor.15.3-8

- He appeared to Mary Magdalene – Mk.16.9
- To Peter (Cephas)
- The Twelve including doubting Thomas (Jn.20.27-28)
- More than 500
- Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9.3-6)

An angelic promise

And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”
Acts 1.10-11

Our conclusion

He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
Rev.22.20