

# Good Tidings of Great Joy

Luke 2:10-14

## Introduction:

- We all know that Christmas is supposed to a joyous and comforting time of the year. However, for many people it is a very sad time. As families gather to spend time with each other, it is sometimes a reminder of the ones who are not there anymore. For many people it is a very stressful time of year! The modern pressure of gift-giving leads to covetousness, going into deep debt, and promoting the false notion that things can make us happy.
- I suppose for most Americans it is a tacit, forced acknowledgment of Christ- but it is very superficial. There is no genuine repentance, no genuine faith in Christ alone, no desire to truly serve Him as Lord. And so, there is no true joy, or peace in their hearts.
- Thank God, if we accept God's gracious gift of salvation, we can truly experience true comfort and joy!

- I. Only Jesus can bring joy and peace to all people- v. 10
  - a. Gifts are great, family time is wonderful, good food is a blessing- but the most important thing about Christmas is Jesus!
  - b. He is the reason for the season! Only He gives peace.
  - c. So why is there no peace today?
    - i. And in despair I bowed my head:  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men."
  - d. Here is the plain truth: The wrath of God abides on each and every person who does not have Christ. This is why there is no peace on earth at this time.
  - e. "There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked" (Isa. 48:22)

- f. You cannot have the peace of God, until you first make peace with God!  
 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1)
  - g. There will be peace on earth when the Prince of Peace returns to earth. The first time He came to die on the cross for our sins. The second time He will come in judgment. Now is the time to get right with God!
  - h. Many years ago, the great statesman William Jennings Bryan said, "I am glad that He, who is called the Prince of Peace, can bring peace to every troubled heart and whose teachings, exemplified in life, will bring peace between man and man, between community and community, between State and State, between nation and nation throughout the world."
  - i. The rest of that carol goes:  
 "Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
 God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;  
 The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
 With peace on earth, good will to men."
- II. Only Jesus can be our Savior- v. 11
- a. Christ- He is God's promised Messiah
  - b. Savior- only he can deliver us from sin- Matthew 1:21
  - c. Jesus said in John 14:6- "I am the way..."
  - d. Salvation is exclusively through Christ- yet it is inclusive! Whosoever will may come- he receives freely all who humbly come to Him!
  - e. No Jesus, no peace- Know Jesus, Know peace
- III. Let us spread these good tidings!- v. 15-17
- a. These shepherds went to see for themselves! The good tidings of salvation are available to all, but only effective for those who come to Christ!
  - b. This world need good news, it needs peace!- The Personnel Journal reported this incredible statistic: since the beginning of recorded history, the entire world has been at peace less than eight percent of the time! In its study, the periodical

discovered that of 3530 years of recorded history, only 286 years saw peace.

Moreover, in excess of 8000 peace treaties were made--and broken.

- c. After these shepherds visited with Christ, they spread the good news!
- d. May we spread the good news this time of year as well!