

Series: Luke

Title: A Glorious Message
Text: Luke 2:8-14

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel of Luke chapter 2. I want you to look at that message that was given to the shepherds by the angels. It was a glorious message. Luke chapter 2 Vs 8.

(Read Luke 2:8-14)

Prayer

This message given to the Shepherds amazes me. Why did God choose sheperds ? The announcement of the great Shepherd, which Hebrews 13:20 calls Jesus, was given to humble shepherds who, by the way, have a bad reputation.

Do you really know about shepherds? They are not really treated very well. They tell us in ancient times that because of their calling they could never really fulfill the law. They were always out taking care of the sheep or providing them for others to use. And people really looked down upon them because they never participated in the ^{Required} religious ceremonies. They were unreliable..or, so history tells us. They were so unreliable that they never allowed a shepherd to testify in court. Can you imagine the attitudes of people toward shepherds?

And yet, who did God choose as He filled the skies with angels--some low class shepherds--It is really amazing.

The shepherds in the fields. And the sky fills with angels..SINGING...GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST..

GLORY TO God IN The Highest
AND ON EARTH peace Among Men
WITH Whom He IS pleased

Lk 2:13-14

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Wow! It must have been a wonderful sight. The sky filled with angels singing: GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST.

Can you imagine being a shepherd and hearing all this?

"Hay! I don't believe this? Do you believe this?"

"Man! I don't believe what I am seeing. What is happening. I must be losing my mind. Look at the sky. They are everywhere."

GLORY TO GOD.....

Can you imagine being a shepherd in those days. Men with very little education. Men who didn't have much respect. How were they going to tell the world?

But, dear friends, there is something wonderful about this message that was given to those shepherds. And I don't want you to leave, today, without understanding this glorious message. Luk 2:13-14.

Look at verses 13 and 14 and notice the three nouns: GOD...EARTH...MAN.

It is saying: To God....Glory
To Earth....Peace
On Man.....His good pleasure.

And when you look at it that way, I hope you get a tremendous blessing. You see, these three nouns: GOD....EARTH...MAN...each have something addressed to them. And it deals with the baby being born. "For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Saviour who is christ the Lord."

(1) ^{we suppose to do} NOW, WHAT ~~IS~~ WE ~~DO~~ TOWARD GOD? In the highest...up in the heavens.. What is going on there?...GLORY TO GOD...GLORY...

That is why God made us in the first place. That is why he brought Jesus into the World. That is why He saved sinners. That is why Jesus is coming back one day. That is why He is going to set up His kingdom on earth...WHY?... So that He will receive Glory.

Paul says. "What ever you do. do all to the glory of God." So, glory and praise and honor and blessing to Him. In the highest places there is GLORY.

(2) NOW, WHAT IS ON EARTH? Now that the baby Jesus is here what do we have?...PEACE.

Dear friends, peace isn't through the Roman peace or by Augustine Caeasr, or, in our day by our government or world leaders. Peace is going to happen because of that baby. JESUS IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE. He is the fulfillment of Isaiah 9:6-7.. "FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN..A SON IS GIVEN. AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL REST ON HIS SHOULDERS. AND HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED..WONDERFUL COUNSELOR. MIGHTY GOD, ETERNAL FATHER. PRINCE OF PEACE."

O.K. On earth what? Peace....Where?...In the baby, Jesus. If you want to experience God's peace. then turn your eyes ^{UPON} Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

Peace in the midst of torment...Peace in the midst of difficulty...Peace in your life even through the world is falling apart.Peach...Peace..God"s peace...Coming down from the heavens above.

Among Men With Whom He is pleased
(3) Then, third, ~~THE GOOD PLEASURE ON MEN.~~ What this is saying is that the only way to have peace among men is by God extending his favor to them.

Vs 14 says..PEACE AMONG MEN WITH WHOM HE IS PLEASED."

The question is: has God found pleasure in us because of our faith in the Son, the Savior, Christ the Lord? You see, God will bring peace among men on whom HIS PLEASURE REST. The emphases is on God..not man. It is those whom God favours, rather than those who favor God.

My friends, this is a fantastic principle. How will God bring His good pleasure on man? Through the baby!...Jesus is the good pleasure of God bringing salvation to man.

Now, put it all together...

In the heavens..GLORY COMES TO GOD BECAUSE OF THE BABY.

On earth..PEACE will be established in ^{peoples} ~~man's~~ heart because of the baby.

And ^{Believing} ~~on individual~~ people will come the good pleasure of God because of the baby.

God will give us His grace....provide His salvation to: WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH because of the baby. PRAISE GOD.

LET'S CLOSE WITH A WORD OF PRAYER