

Title: Glory to God In the Highest

Text: Luke 2:8_-20

Take your Bibles and turn with me to the Gospel of Luke chapter 2.

The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2

, I want to share with you the wonderful announcement of the Birth of Christ that came from the Heavens to a small group of Shepherds. ~~of Luke~~ this is a wonderful story. GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST. Luke chapter 2 and let's begin with Vs 8.....(READ Vs 8#20)

PRAYER

What a wonderful story. It is an amazing story. That... ..Almighty God, would choose a group of shephreds to tell the good news. Think about it. Can you imigine picking shephreds, uneducated men, they couldn't even read nor write....Shephreds where the bottom of the emplyment ladder. WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS YOU CAN ALWAYS BECOME A SHEPHRED. And the working conditions were bad. You couldn't come home at night to be with your family. ~~He~~ *you* had to live out in the country side with the sheep. And I want to tell you something, those shephred in those days didn't use "right guard"....They smelled like the sheep.

And I thought about that an ~~of all~~ *awfull* lot. How our Lord honored those shephreds. You know, dear friends, God takes the samall things of the world to confuse the mighty. He chooses the foolish things of the world to confuse the wise.

Some of us are too good for our own good. We forget from whence we came. We are all but clay. God has made us. He formed us out of the ~~dust~~ *dust* of the ground. And to the dust we will return ~~when~~ *one* day. And where it not for the provendence and grace and forgiveness of God, non of us would ever have a hope and a future in heaven.

The Psalmist knew that when he said, "He took me out of the pit, ~~He took me out of the mirary clay~~ and set my feet upon the rock."

God came to these shephreds. Men who lived with the sheep...men who couldn't read nor write...and He gave to them THE MESSAGE OF HOPE.

vs 9 says, "THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE AROUND THEM"....

Now, I don't know the truthfulness of this tradition. But, I am told that there is a manuscript in a musinime in Istanbul that records the Sanhredian, the Jewish high councils, visit to Bethlelem to inquire into the "UNUSALL CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE BIRTH OF A POSSIBLE MESSIAH."

This manuscript in Istanbul deals with that subject. And it is interesting to me that all the citizens of Bethelhem, according to the manuscript, say that they saw the brillent light. But, they had no idea of what was going on. The light, probably filling the heavens around the city of Bethlehem. THE GLORY OF THE LORD.

And, here, ~~the~~ these shephreds..... These poor shephreds see this light. And an angel of the Lord appears to them...

WOW!! Let me tell you. They received one of the most exciting revelations the world has ever heard. Direct from God they heard the most excting news. It is fantastic..... *Think about it?*

Vs 10 says..And the Angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in clothes, lying in a manger.'

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SING "While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night" #175

What a wonderful revelation. And this revelation, the angel said was to all the people. It is good news of a great joy. [As a matter of fact, Bible prophecy is involved in this announcement because the angel said that this new baby would be found in the "CITY OF DAVID."

And to those shephreds, this would ring a bell. That is Bethlehem. And the *P* Prophecy of Micah 5:2 would be remembered. "But as for you, Bethlehem, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you one will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel."

Unbelievable....You mean this is it? The Messiah has finally come?

"In the city of David, a savior, who is ^{Christ} MESSIAH the Lord!...

Wowwwwww...Oh, let me tell you. Vs 11 is one of the most powerful verses in the Bible....A SAVIOR.....NOT THE ROMAN EMPIRE.....NOT HEROLD THE GREAT... BUT THE LORD....THE MESSIAH....HE..IS HERE....

Dear friends, can you imagine being a shephred and hearing all of that?

Now, there is one thing I really like about this whole story. You know, I don't read that when these shephreds received this news that they sat down to talk it over. HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT?

"Hay guys...let's talk this over. What about this? Is it real? Is what we see really happening?

Look at vs 15..."And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heavaen, that the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

I LIKE THAT! Let's do this right now....

And the Bible says in Vs 16, that they came in hast...^{meaning} They didn't let any grass grow under their feet....BOY! They ran all the way to Bethlehem.

() ^{you} Now, I want to look for a moment at this tremendous announcement coming from heaven in verses 13 and 14.

In understanding these two verses, notice the three nouns...GOD...EARTH...MEN.....And notice what the verses are saying.....

TO GOD.....GLORY

TO EARTH.....PEACE

ON MEN...GOD IS PLEASED OR HIS GOOD PLEASURE.

And when you look at ~~it~~ it this way, I hope you get a wonderful blessing.....You see, these three nouns: GOD....EARTH....MEN.....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 Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

O.K.....WHAT DO WE DO TOWARDS GOD?.....In the highest....up in the heavens....WHAT IS GOING ON THERE?.....GLORY....GLORY.....

You see, that is why God created us in the first place. That is why He brought Jesus into the World. That is why He saves sinners like you and me. That is why Jesus is coming back some day. That is why He is going to set up His kingdom on earth.....WHY?.....SO THAT HE WILL RECEIVE GLORY,

And the Holy Spirit tells us through the Apostle Paul in I Cor 10.31 that in liiving the christian life and in calling ourselves CHRISTIAN we are to do all things , whether earting or drinking, whatever ^{we} ~~you~~ ^{all} do, do to the glory of God.

SO...GLORY AND PRAISE AND HONOR AND BLESSING AND DOMINE TO GOD...IN THE HIGHTEST PLACES THERE IS GLORY

NOW, WHAT IS ON EARTH? Now, that baby Jesus is here, what is on earth? PEACE..... ^{That is} ~~you see~~ peace for the human heart.... Inner peace in the midst of difficult circumstances isn't found through the Roman peace...through governments or materialist possessions, ^{OR The absence of sin} PEACE IS IN THAT BABY...Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Jesus is the ^{Fulfillment} ~~promised~~ Messiah of Isaiah 9...."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 PACAE

SO WHAT DO WE HAVE RIGHT NOW ON EARTH?.....Peace.....NOT peace that comes through governments or outward circumstances.....BUT WHERE IS THAT PEACE?.... IN THE BABY.....Apart from the baby?....NO....GLORY TO GOD APART FROM THE BABY.....NO.....PEACE ON EARTH APRART FROM THE BABY.....NO.....

BUT IN THE BABY!!!!!! *Peace*

() Then God 's good pleasure on men. The good pleasure is the pleasure of God. And the good pleasure is often used in the N.T. in referring to our salvation. It is also used of the grace of God ~~is~~ being given to us. It is referring to the Gospel. The GOOD NEWS,

What this means is this: through the baby the good pleasure of God's will is achieved in saving people from their sins.

IN the heavens..glory comes to God because of the baby.

On earth..peace will be established in our hearts because of the baby.

And third, on individual people will come the good pleasure, or, the grace and kindness of God because of the baby. God will give us his grace because that baby was born to die.....PRAISE GOD....It is God's love and grace and mercy that is right there in Vs 14..

To God..GLORY!

On Earth...Peace

And to men...The good pleasure of God is now possible. WHY? Because unto us is born this day in the city of David a saviour who is Christ the Lord. PRAISE GOD...THAT IS SHOUTING GROUND.....IT GETS YOU EXCITED, DOESN'T IT?... AMEN!....(Boy, you are slow this ^{MORNIN}~~evening~~)

(2) NOW, LET'S LOOK AT HOW THESE SHEPHREDS RESPONDED. In verses 15 to 20, I see the response of the shephred in the following ways.

(1) Number one, and I like this, they proved it for themselves. You know, a lot of people hear the Christmas story...a lot of people hear the preaching of Christ....and maybe you are here and you have heard the message of Christmas...put you have never made a personal commitment yourself. Boy, those shephreds are going to prove it for themselves.

Vs 15.."Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened." Let's go and make sure. And I ask you. Have you sreaded the scripture to see if these things are so? Do you realize that the things ^{we} say Sunday after Sunday have eternal consequences for your life? Have you sought the truth? Whether these things are so? Do you know the Lord? Do you personally? Do you have confidence and faith in what the Bible says about Jesus Christ? Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God

Jesus said, "search the scriptures," I think it is very, important to see Jesus in this book. Jesus said that all of the law and the Psalm.. all the prophets are concerning me (Luke 24:44). This book is about Jesus, who is the saviour of the world. DO YOU BELIEVE IT? He is the KING OF KINGS AND THE LORD OF LORDS. ~~Amen~~

(2) Now, secondly, what did the shephreds do when they saw Jesus? Vs 17 says "when they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this child."

Boy that is great. They went out and told ^{People about Jesus} ~~the world~~. They shared the message of Christ. HAVE YOU TOLD SOMEBODY ABOUT THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS? "For today in the city of David there has been born for you a saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

(3) And third, they praised the Lord for all they had seen and heard.

I hope that characterizes our attitude. Vs 20 says, "the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them."

And look at what we have told to us in this day. A lot more than the shepherds heard. And we ought to be praising and glorfyng God for all that we have seen and heard....AMEN?

Listen, if you don't know the Saviour, then receive Him, right now. That is the greatest thing you could do this christmas. Your whole christmas would be different. Because you have come to believe in the one who was born to die on a cross for your sins. Who rose again on the third day. And is one day coming back for us. The Bible ask you to believe in Him like a little child does. Jesus said that unless you come like a little child you can never enter the kingdom of heaven.

I invite you to come and receive Jesus as your saviour/

Shall we close with prayer