

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT . . . JOY

Luke 2:8-11

- ***What would really bring joy and happiness to your life this Christmas?***
- *"That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!'"* (Luke 2:8-11)
- **Everyone wants to be happy, but *Happiness* depends on circumstances while *Joy* is a deeper emotion not dependent on life's circumstances.**
- **We need to have *Joy* to live an enjoyable life, be good examples to others, and overcome life's struggles (Nehemiah 8:10).**
- ***What steps can we take this Christmas to experience the JOY that the Angel promised to the Shepherds outside of Bethlehem?***

To Have JOY This Christmas We Need To:

PERCEIVE THAT JESUS IS HUMANKIND'S SAVIOR

- The Angel - *"The Savior . . . has been born today in Bethlehem!"* (Luke 2:11)
- **Many people have been acclaimed to be the "savior" for certain people, but only Jesus Christ can be described as "the Savior" for all humankind.**
- Jesus - *"I am the way, the truth, and the life."* (John 14:6)

To Have JOY This Christmas We Need To:

BELIEVE THAT JESUS CAN HELP US

- The Angel - *"The Messiah, the Lord - has been born . . ."* (Luke 2:11)
- **Since Jesus is the Lord over all, He has the power to help us with the greatest needs of our lives.**
- **Forgiveness is one of our greatest needs.**

    - **Our sinful mistakes and "messups" separate us from God, and cause people people to live with guilt and shame in their lives.**
    - The Angel to Joseph – *"She (Mary) will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:21)
- **Freedom is one of our greatest needs.**
    - **Many people are in bondage to struggles or strongholds.**
    - Jesus - *"If the Son sets you free, you are truly free."* (John 8:36)
- **Fulfillment is one of our greatest needs.**
    - **Many people are searching for fulfillment in ways and with people that will eventually bring big problems to their lives.**
    - Jesus - *"My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."* (John 10:10)
- **A Future in Heaven is our greatest need.**
    - Jesus - *"No one can come to the Father except through Me."* (John 14:6)

To Have JOY This Christmas We Need To:

<u>RECEIVE</u> JESUS AS OUR SAVIOR AND LORD

- *"The shepherds hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. . . . The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen."* (Luke 2:16, 19)
- **To receive Jesus as our Savior we need to acknowledge our need for Him, repent of our sins, profess our faith in Him, and surrender our lives to Him.**
- *"He (Jesus) came into the very world He created, but the world didn't recognize Him. He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God."* (John 1:10-12)

- Angel - *"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people."* (Luke 2:10)
- Jesus - *"I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!"* (John 15:11)
- ***What does God want me to do in response to this message?***