

Christ is Born – Christmas Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009
Luke 2:1-14

1. Christmas is a time of joy and celebration
 - a. Around the world people will pause to remember the child born in a manger
 - i. Some with question; some with disdain; some with great joy
 - b. ... all of the armies that ever marched; all of the kings that ever reigned; all of the legislative bodies that ever sat; all of them, have not affected the life of mankind more than this one solitary life”
 2. Today we take a very close look at what the Bible says about the birth of Jesus. Note: amid the familiarity we sometimes lose the significance of the text.
 - a. Biblically based
 - i. there are no excess words
 - ii. no flowery rhetoric or oratory
 - b. Bible says what it means and means what it says!
 - c. READ LUKE 2: 1-14
 3. Four key phrases for our understanding today
 - a. Vs. 1 – It came to pass in those days
 - i. We reference the prophet Daniel, 2:44,45
 1. “In the days of these Kings the God of heaven will set up a Kingdom that shall never end.”
 - ii. The birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecy
 1. “these Kings” is fulfilled in Caesar Augustus
 - b. Vs. 9 – Do not be afraid for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy
 - i. Jesus takes away the fear. Do not be afraid is a phrase repeated often in Old Testament and spoken clearly by Jesus in his preaching
 - ii. Good tidings of great joy is “Good News”
 1. The gospel of Jesus Christ
 - c. Vs. 11 – born this day, a savior, Christ the Lord
 - i. Born this day – in fulfillment of prophecy - a virgin would conceive and bring forth a son
 - ii. A Savior – the one who rescues, delivers
 - iii. Christ – the anointed One, Messiah
 - iv. The Lord – the One with authority, ruler, power.
 - d. Vs. 14 – Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will toward men.
 - i. Glory to God who has kept His word and fulfilled His promise
 - ii. There is now an eternal connection between the Highest and Earth – the man Jesus Christ
 - iii. Note the last part – on earth, peace, good will toward men
 1. Peace – with God
 2. God’s good will – toward men
 - iv. More than 400 long years had passed since God had sent a prophet among His people. The people lived in both anticipation and fear of the coming Messiah.
 1. They knew sin separates and God does not abide with sin.
 - v. Because of Jesus we have peace with God and we are “saved from the wrath to come” because of God’s good will toward men.
4. Today, we experience the same ancient message
 - a. It came to pass – God always keeps His promises
 - b. Do not be afraid – there is good news for you today
 - c. Christ the Lord is Savior – you are not doomed to stay in your sin
 - d. God’s “good will” is that you believe in and receive the Christmas gift of His son.