

The Joy of Christmas (Luke 2:10-11)

- I. **Introduction: Where do we get our joy at Christmas?**
 - A. Tony Bennett's idea: *meetings, friends, parties, and loved ones*
 - B. Christmas on the Lord's Day
 - 1. let us monitor our priorities and our "default mode."
 - C. Christmas as a unique opportunity to:
 - 1. rejoice in the incarnation of Christ
 - 2. share Christ with friends and family
 - D. Luke 2:8-14 restoring the awe and joy to Linus and Christmas cards
- II. **Luke 2:8-9: How tough rugged men became greatly afraid**
 - A. *There were shepherds abiding in the field*
 - 1. Why would God reveal Himself to *shepherds*?
 - B. *They were greatly afraid*
 - 1. the assault of the holy
 - a. Is 6:1-5, Dan 10:10-11
 - b. Augustine and Luther
 - c. the disciples "what manner of man is this?"
- III. **Luke 2:10-11: And the angels in reply ...**
 - A. *Do not be afraid*
 - B. *Good tidings of great joy*
 - C. *For all people*
 - D. *For there is born to you* (Is 9:6)
 - E. *This day a Savior who is Christ the Lord*
 - 1. The **incarnation**: 100% God 100% man in one person (Jn 1:1,14)
 - a. physically human (born, grew, tired, hungry, weak, died)
 - b. emotionally human (marveled, sorrowful, deeply troubled)
 - c. a human mind (Lk 2:52, Mk 13:32, Jn 21:17)
 - d. a *hypostatic union* (divine nature Heb 1:2)
 - 2. Jesus Christ the **God-man** (the *hypostatic union*)
 - a. only Jesus fulfills our need for eternity and immanence
 - b. Job's intercessor – the only mediator (1 Tim 2:5)
 - c. a faithful high priest (Heb 4:15)
- IV. **Your call to rejoice!**
 - A. The command to *rejoice always* (Philippians 4:4, 3:1, 1 Thess 5:16)
 - B. None of God's commands are burdensome
 - 1. The ground of our joy
 - a. pleasant earthly circumstances
 - b. unpleasant circumstances - persecution (Lk 6:22-23)
 - c. the value of joy – costs everything (Mt 13:44)
 - d. joy in suffering and trials (1 Pet 4:13, James 1:2-4)
 - e. a present joy in the fact of our salvation (Lk 10:19-20)
 - C. Do you know this joy?
 - 1. Great joy proceeds from great fear
 - a. Law: the fear of God against me as a hell-bound lawbreaker
 - b. Grace: joy unspeakable and full of glory