

## Christmas Morning - 12/25/22

**TEXT – 1 Peter 1:3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

**INTRO** – Christmas is a season of cheer and goodwill, wrapped in red and green. There's an extra skip in our step and a song in our heart as the calendar unfolds and Christmas approaches.

A pastor wrote, "It's a carol of hope in a world of broken dreams . . . It's the coming into time of the Savior, Jesus Christ; a God-kind of joy lying in a manger; the hope of heaven in a mother's arms . . ."

Things to love about Christmas:

**First, Christmas music.**

**Second, preaching on Christmas themes.** This is my 47th Christmas.

The sermons center on hope, peace, joy, salvation, and love.

**Third, lights and decorations.** I remember my father finding a Carlie Brown tree out in the woods. It was meager to say the least.

**Fourth, giving gifts.** I enjoy the satisfaction of selecting and sharing a tangible token of love. Shopping is not high on my list. I'm "in and out" if I must go into a store. Either they have it or they don't. I'm always looking for a deal. "Is this the best price you can give me on this item?"

**Fifth, people's generosity and acts of kindness.** I love to see Christmas spirit in action. People seem to be nicer this time of year. Some intentionally find a way to bless others.

**Sixth, family time.**

**Seventh, Christmas goodies.** My wife's sugar cookies and snickerdoodles.

**Eighth, hearing the Christmas story.** It's still the greatest story ever told! The mystery of the virgin birth, the impact of the incarnation, the simplicity of Bethlehem. Christmas reminds us that God is great.

**Ninth, the Christmas Eve service.** The rush is over, and it's time to pause and ponder the coming of Jesus. The service is warm, informal, worshipful, and meaningful. The dark sanctuary is slowly illuminated as we sing "Silent Night" and each worshiper lights his or her candle.

**Tenth, Christmas morning.** Exchanging gifts, sharing and building memories. Reciting the Christmas story by memory. Remembering to center Christmas around Jesus and thank God for His indescribable gift.

### I. Jesus Christ Brought Hope To A Needy World

**Lu 2:9-11** *And, lo the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people For unto you is born this day in the city of David*

*a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

**Luke 2:13-14** *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

#### **A. The world is in great need**

**Genesis 6:5** *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

**Matthew 24:37-39** *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

#### **B. Jesus brought hope to man**

##### **1. The hope of salvation**

**Genesis 3:15** *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

**1 Peter 1:3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

##### **2. The hope of peace**

**Romans 5:1** *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

##### **3. The hope of heaven**

**Hebrews 6:19** *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*

### II. Shepherds and Wise Men Came and Worshipped Him

**Worship can be defined as "the reverence or adoration that one shows toward something or someone; holding a person or object in high esteem; or giving a person or an object a place of importance or honor."**

**Matthew 4:10** . . . *it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

#### **A. The wise men worship Jesus**

**Matthew 2:2** *Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*

**Matthew 2:8** *And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.*

**Matthew 2:11** *And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.*

### **B. The disciples worshipped Jesus**

#### **1. The disciples in the boat worshipped Jesus**

**Matthew 14:33** *Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.*

#### **2. After Jesus ascension the disciples worshipped Jesus**

**Luke 24:50-53** *And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. 51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: 53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.*

#### **3. The Canaanite woman worshipped Jesus**

**Matthew 15:25** *Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.*

### **III. The Birth Was Told Abroad**

**Luke 2:17** *And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.*

#### **Christian song – Go Tell It On The Mountain**

**Mark 16:15** *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

**Romans 10:13-17** *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

**1 Corinthians 9:16** *For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*

**2 Timothy 4:2** *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

**2 Timothy 2:2** *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

**CONCL –**