

December 8, 2020

Dear Ladies,

I wanted to take time to wish you a Merry Christmas! As I write this, I am in Dothan, Alabama meeting my new great niece Maddie Clare who is five weeks old. As I look at her and consider her vulnerability and absolute dependence on someone to take care of her, it amazes me to think Jesus willingly placed himself in that position for us. It is understandable for a newborn to be so helpless, but for the King of kings and Lord of lords who had no beginning, it is astounding! Please take to heart the words of the sermon from Sunday that he is the Shepherd who cares for us, his sheep. I have had no trouble adoring Maddie Clare. Come let us adore Him!

This year has been so very different for us all individually and as a church family. So many things have contributed to making it one that we will remember for a long, long time and tell to our children and grandchildren. We have been isolated, fearful of illness and economic uncertainty, experienced strange schedules, shopping habits and home life. I can't remember life without a face mask! Although our study of Revelation has continually brought us back to worship at the throne in heaven, on which sits the Almighty One who orders our world and unrolls history, we struggle to bring that reality central to our daily lives when our world is in turmoil. My prayer is that you will experience the love of the One who is, who was, and who is to come as you celebrate the Lamb who did come to dwell among his people and sacrifice his life for us. I hope Revelation has made the reality of the hope he brings a strong encouragement to you as we anticipate the celebration of his taking on human form to identify with and die for us. As you remember this, may you experience the true joy and peace that he brings!

I know that my lessons have been an hour or longer to bring forth the richness of the text, but my new year's gift to you is to keep them to 40-45 minutes!!!! The first lesson on Chapter 12 will be available January 12 and we will go until the lesson posted on March 23—right before Palm Sunday. You will not have homework assigned now so you can focus on the celebration of Christ's birth. Before we begin in January, you will receive some questions that will help you review and then engage with Chapter 12. My hope is that we are able to meet in person at some time in the future.

May your Christmas be merry and bright!

With love,
Susan

