



Sermon Notes

Luke 2:8-11 Good News of Great Joy!

What is the Good News? Jn3:16, 10:10

- Cradle (Incarnation) v11a for unto us is born this day...
- Cross (Substitution) v11b a Savior...
- Crown (Restoration) v11c who is Christ the Lord.

Ultimate Revelation of God (Cradle), Indispensible Reconciliation with God (Cross) & Infinite/Eternal Restoration of the world by God (Crown)! Jn14:6

What is the Great Joy? John16:22; 1Pet1:8

- We were created by God, for God, to give glory to God. 1Cor10:31
- God's Glory & our Joy are one in the same pursuit. Phil1:20-21
- The Christian life is the pursuit of your deepest & most enduring joy in God every moment of the day. Phil4:4
- Joy Defined: It is a buoyancy based on the pleasure found in the eternal privileges we have in the person & work of Christ.
- Opposite: Hopelessness and despair (not sorrow). 2Cor6:10 Counterfeit: Elation based on the gifts over the gift-giver.

How This Changes Everything:

- Conversion is not just agreement with truth in the head but an appetite for God in the heart. Matt13:44
- Evangelism is not only persuading people about the truth of Christ but pointing them to incomparable treasure. Acts4:20
- The daily "fight of faith" is a fight to see and savor Jesus as more desirable and satisfying than all that life can give or death can take. 1Tim6:12; Heb11:6
- Overcoming temptation happens by developing distaste for sin because of a superior satisfaction (joy) in God. Heb11:24-26
- Suffering is opportunity to boast all the more gladly in our weakness because God's power is made perfect in it. 2Cor.12:8-10
- Corporate & personal worship is to waken & express our joyful admiration of all the wonders and works of God. Ps43:4
- Ministry (Marriage, parenting, life group, serving at db or in the community) is working with others for their joy & firm standing in the faith. 2Cor1:24
- Love is the overflow of joy in God that meets the needs of others. 2Cor8:2

Growing Notes

1) The Holidays can be emotionally, relationally, financially & spiritually draining for a lot of different reasons. What do you find most difficult & most delightful about the Holidays?

2) Read Luke 2:8-11. What is the "Good News" in three words from the sermon notes (v11)? What are the implications of those three words (Jn14:6)? How is the Gospel the underlying reality of the stories we love to read or movies we enjoy watching of good winning over evil & some hero snatching victory out of the jaws of defeat just in the nick of time (Jn3:16, 10:10)?

3) How can knowing Jesus give you a joy of such intensity that no one can take it from you (Jn16:22; 1Pet1:8)? The more you understand the implications of the "Good News" the more you'll experience "Great Joy!" Explain. Define joy? What is the opposite of joy? What is the counterfeit for joy? (see sermon notes)

4) We were created by God, for God, to give glory to God (1Cor10:31). How is God's Glory & our Joy one in the same pursuit (Phil1:20-21)? Review the eight examples of how joy in Christ changes everything. Which one(s) most resonate with you? You don't feel your way into rejoicing, but you rejoice your way into feeling. Rejoicing is filling your mind with the beauty & value of the person & work of Jesus Christ until your heart is so sweetened & satisfied that nothing can rob you of it. What are you next steps for more joy? Pray.