

Certainty... in a world of doubt

Christmas Eve

desert breeze
community church



Saturday, December 24th, 2016 Ray Davis

CHRISTMAS GIFTS Luke 2:1-14 "Peace"

Stress is one of the prevailing characteristics in our modern culture! It is one thing to know when you're stressed out and it is altogether another to know how to deal with it in a healthy way.

Christmas tells us that peace is not the absence of problems but the presence of Christ.

Luke 2:1-14

V10 The angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

V14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" ("Peace on earth good will toward men")

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (13xs)

FEAR NOT... (Three Ways We Lose Our Peace)

1) When circumstances are uncontrollable.

2) When people are unchangeable.

3) When problems are unexplainable.

FOR BEHOLD I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

On earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!

(Five Ways We Find Our Peace)

1) Accept God's Pardon

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2) Enjoy God's Presence

Psalms 16:8 I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

3) Obey God's Principles

Psalms 119:165 Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

4) Ask for God's Provision

Phil. 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

5) Trust God's Plan

Prov. 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Growing Notes

1) Why do you think stress is one of the prevailing characteristics in our modern culture? It's one thing to know when you're stressed out and it's altogether another to know how to deal with it in a healthy way. Explain.

2) Read Luke 2:1-14. What stands out to you? What do you like most about this story? Why do you think we have such a romantic view of the nativity scene when in reality it was anything but peaceful (i.e. God incarnate was born on a dirt floor of a filthy cave meant for animals because there was no room for Him in the inn)?

3) Put the two key verses of this study in your own words (Luke 1:10, 14). What are the three ways we lose our peace? Which one of these have you struggled with most recently? Explain.

4) What are the five ways we find our peace? Which one(s) do you currently find most helpful to you? How do the five ways we find our peace relate to the three ways we can lose our peace? Christmas tells us that peace is not the absence of problems but the presence of Christ. Explain. Pray through the five ways we can find peace.