Good Tidings to All People

Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 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. 15 And it came to pass, as the

angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Beth-lehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And

Good Tidings to All People, Luke, Vision Baptist Church, Christmas on the Northside, December 7, 2014

when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20 And the **shepherds** returned, **glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen,** as it was told unto them.

- 1. Christmas is about more than the nativity scene Luke 2:10
 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring
 you good tidings of great joy, which
 shall be to all people.
 - a. What do you think of when you think of Christmas?
 - i. Peace and joy
 - ii. Family and happiness
 - iii. Getting and giving gifts
 - iv. Laughter
 - v. Spending time with loved ones

- vi. Fun and games vii. Eating, drinking, and partying
- b. Do you see cookies and milk and a fat elf coming down your chimney?
- c. Do you see wisemen with gifts, shepherds with sheep, a baby in a manger, all warm, fuzzy and beautiful?
- d. Do you see commercialization, music, fun, spending money, and family time?
- e. What is the real story behind what we so often see as the story?
- f. Why did the angel say that it was a message of great joy 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
- g. Why was the host of angels praising God so much? 13
 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.

- h. Why were the shepherds so happy? 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.
- 2. The excitement was over the fact that God was moving in the salvation of mankind
 - a. When Simeon sees Jesus as a baby in the Temple he knows 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
 - The real story of human history is that we have sinned against a holy God
 - Our sins and rebellion have brought death and destruction on us
 - d. God loving us came to find us in our sin and save us from our sins
 - e. Hell is a real destination for those that remain in their sins Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on

the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

- f. All men everywhere are responsible to God. They will die and go to Hell without Jesus. He is the only way John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
- g. In Jesus we have life John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
- God's desire was for the whole world to know about His salvation Psalm 67:2 That thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations.

- a. The announcement was "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people!"
 - This is like an announcement of 2000 years of world evangelism
 - ii. It was getting the gospel to the Gentiles, non Jewish people
- b. See what happens when Jesus is presented in the Temple Luke 2:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was **Simeon**; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. 26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, 28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart In peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine

eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

- i. Simeon is quoting Old Testament Scripture Isaiah 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, That thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.
- ii. All the world was going to see the salvation of the Lord Isaiah 52:10 The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
- iii. God has always wanted all the world to know about Him and what He has done for all to be saved Psalm 98:2

The Lord hath made known his salvation: His righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. 3 He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

- c. Matthew's genealogy lists 2 gentile women Matthew 1:5
 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat
 Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;
 - Two women are mentioned that would be very different for a Jew
 - ii. Two gentile women is even more different
 - iii. Even as He is born He is the Messiah for all people in all the world
 - iv. That would have been hard for a Jewish man to understand but it is the teaching
- d. Wise men come to visit Jesus. They were not Jewish but Gentiles. He is the Messiah for all people

- e. World Evangelism is not an after thought after Jesus dies on the cross. It was the intention from forever, the Old Testament, His birth, God wants the world to hear the gospel
- 4. What does Christmas and all of this mean to us tonight?
 - a. If you are not saved then tonight is your night
 - Salvation is announced to you
 - ii. You are not alone.
 - iii. He has done everything that needs to be done to save you. It is finished II Corinthians 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.
 - iv. Salvation is a gift you simply receive
 - v. Will you believe God right now for what He has done for you?
 - b. If you are already saved then you have the privilege of sharing the good news with everyone.
 - i. Are you sharing the good news with your family and friends?

- ii. Do you realize that there is life after death, a heaven and hell, and eternity?
- iii. If that is true how can you rest without sharing and praying that your friends and family come to know Jesus as their Savior?
- iv. This is about more than a church or growing attendance?
- v. Salvation is more than just saying that they are Christians?
- c. What will we do as a church based on the Christmas message?
 - i. We will continue to train up our people to go to the world with the gospel
 - ii. We will pray for the world and our missionaries preaching everywhere
 - iii. We will give like crazy so that more can hear
 - iv. Are you involved in praying, giving, going, and making a difference around the world?
- d. More than anything Christmas should remind us of Jesus and what He did on the cross of Calvary
 - i. God became flesh and lived among us

- ii. He showed His great heart and love all the time He was here on the planet
- iii. He paid the price for all to be saved
- iv. He sent us to tell others about Him
- v. We should go and share the great news that we have
- vi. God has come and brought salvation for all
- vii.We should be excited that everything we do makes a difference in eternity