

Theme: Christmas is a time of great joy, because God has come to us in Christ and reconciled us to Himself!

I. Intro – Various Reactions to Christmas

- A. There are many different reactions to Christmas
- B. Some people get frustrated with commercialism
- C. Some people get angry – political correctness
- D. Some love all of the trappings – I do now
- E. The angels said to respond with joy!
- F. Why is joy appropriate for Christmas?

II. The Angels and the Shepherds

- A. Angels appearance & the shepherds response
 - 1. Shepherds keeping watch – typical night (8)
 - 2. Suddenly an angel appears; glory of Lord (9)
 - 3. The shepherds are terrified (9)
- B. The angels surprising words
 - 1. Don't be afraid – right! (10)
 - 2. Good news – why to us? (10)
- C. The call for joy & praise (passage; carols)
 - 1. Joy and praise (10; 13-14; 20)

- 2. Joy to the World; O Come, Angels We Have Heard
- 3. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen; Good Christian Men Rejoice;
- 4. All My Heart This Night Rejoices

III. The Reason for Joy and Praise

- A. A Savior has been born (11)
- B. This Savior is the Christ (11)
- C. This Savior is the Lord (11)
- D. God has shown favor to us (14; 2 Cor 5:18-19)

IV. Finding Joy in Christmas Today

- A. Do you understand Christmas?
 - 1. A Savior has been born – for you & me!
 - 2. This Savior has met our deepest hopes & fears
 - 3. God has shown favor to you & me
- B. Do you respond like the Shepherds – or others?
 - 1. Shepherds believed and rejoiced – do we?
 - 2. Others simply went on their way – do we?
 - 3. The Shepherds shared their joy with others – do we?
 - 4. Sharing the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:18-19)

5. Joy must be shared – like snorkeling sights

Christmas Joy

Luke 2:8-20

December 24, 2006 (Morning)

Angels We Have Heard On High

Romans 15:13

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

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