



E-Mail Newsletter *Bringing The Word of Life*

"... that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

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The Shepherds



While they faithfully looked after their sheep at night in the fields outside of Bethlehem, suddenly "the glory of the Lord shone round about them," and an angel proclaimed in their ears a message of good tidings for all.

What the Shepherds Heard Luke 2:8-14

"**Fear not**," said the angel, expressing Heaven's desire. Sin has produced fear in man's heart, but this message is intended to dispel it.

"I bring you **good tidings** of great joy, which shall be to all people." What a contrast with earth's news! Heaven's message - the Gospel - is truly "good news," and the reception of it brings joy to all!

"**Unto you**" introduces a personal appeal. "**Is born this day** in the city of David," tells a specific and definite fact. "**A Saviour**" reveals the necessity of the Gift. "**Which is Christ the Lord**" shows how wondrous in grace and majesty is the Person!

Then a sign was given to them, that they should find this glorious Saviour "wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Suddenly, all was confirmed to them by a multitude of the Heavenly host breaking forth in chorus: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

What the Shepherds Did Luke 2:15-20

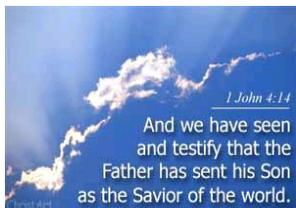


What they heard stirred them to an immediate decision. They said, "**Let us now go** even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which the Lord hath made known to us." They could not be neutral about the matter; they dared not be indifferent concerning it. Faith in the message led them to instant action.

"They **came with haste**." The glory of the revelation from Heaven had gripped their hearts. Faith's acceptance of the message compelled them to go to Bethlehem with urgency. Such faith was rewarded, for they "**found ... the Babe** lying in a manger." Christ the Lord, the Subject of Heaven's "Good Tidings" - and the Object of their search - was before them.

"They **made known abroad** the saying which was told them concerning this Child." Their testimony was the result of their faith. Returning to the fields to take up their responsibilities, they are now filled with a new joy, and are heard "**glorifying and praising God** for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

The message from Heaven is still being proclaimed. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (**1 Timothy 1:15**). On Calvary's cross, where He "suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (**1 Peter 3:18**), He finished the work necessary to redeem you from sin. Now He is risen from the dead - no longer in the manger, on the Cross, or in the tomb. He lives!



Will you believe the message as the Shepherds did? Will you now come to the Saviour through repentance and faith and be eternally blessed? Repentance is turning from your sins and all efforts to save yourself, realizing that you are on a path that leads you away from God. Faith is putting your trust in Jesus Christ and the work He accomplished on the cross as **all** that is necessary for your salvation. Jesus says, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out" (**John 6:37**).

"Now from the Glory He waits to impart
Peace to the conscience and joy to the heart;
Waits to be gracious, to pardon and heal
All who their sin and their wretchedness feel."

"Thousands have fled to His spear-pierced side,
Welcomed they all have been--none are denied;
Weary and laden, they all have been blessed;
Joyfully now in the Saviour they rest." --D.T.J

*Message of wonder, music of praise
Born of a virgin, the Ancient of Days.
Low in a manger, incarnate, our Lord.
Humbly abiding, keeping God's Word.
God dwelling with us, beauty we see
Glory from heaven, Immanuel, He.*

*Eternal Son, and heir of all things
Borne from the glory on angel's wings.
And then unto death, obedient is He;
Even the death of dark Calvary.
But lo, He is risen! Our hearts have a song
Of praise and assurance, all the day long.*

I Am Come



The seasonal reminder of the incarnation of the Son of God is perhaps best expressed by the words which came from the lips of the Saviour Himself. In the Gospel of John - that inspired portion unique for its revelation of "the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" - three specific statements declare the authority, purpose, and blessings of His advent into the world His hands had made.

"**I AM COME in My Father's Name**" (**5:43**), expresses the authority for His mission. His works bore witness that He was sent by the Father (**5:36**). His power to bestow life to those to whom He would, so definitely showed His equality with the Father that John writes, "He that honoureth not the Son, honoureth not the Father which hath sent Him" (**5:23**). In fact, the "I Am" He often uses in reference to Himself in this Gospel is none other than His Name Jehovah--the Self-Existent One, the eternal "I Am" revealed in the Old Testament. This is confirmed by His New Testament name of "Jesus," which means "Jehovah Saviour." Do you know Him as such?

"I AM COME that they might have life" (10:10) reveals the purpose for which He came. Could there be any nobler motive than that the Son of God should Himself undertake the work which alone could give eternal life to sinful men, dead in trespasses and sins? His immeasurable love is manifested in the character He assumes: "I Am the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep" (10:11). He willingly died as a substitute for sinners and is now risen from the dead. Those who hear His voice and believe on Him become one of His sheep, receive the eternal life He imparts, and follow Him. He says: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead [spiritually dead] shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live" (5:25). Have you heard His voice, and received His life eternal?

"I AM COME a Light into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me should not abide in darkness" (12:46) declares the means whereby eternal blessings are received. "Whosoever believeth on Me" makes Him available to all. To believe on Him is to repent of one's sins before God and to trust the death of Jesus, the Saviour, as full payment for those sins. The only condition imposed is faith, or trust, in Him alone. The only way to escape eternal blackness of darkness forever is to simply receive the light of truth which is in Himself alone, and revealed in His precious Word.



But not only has the Saviour declared His authority, purpose and means of appropriating the blessings of His first advent many years ago, He has also proclaimed, "I will come again"! (14:1-3). This promise, made to His own before the Cross, is nearing the time of its certain fulfillment. One is ready for this glorious event, which may take place at any moment, only if he has received the Son of God as his personal Saviour. Have you done so? If not, I urge you to accept Him NOW by simple faith before He comes again ending all opportunity for your salvation. If you do, you will know as never before, not only the true blessedness of the season, but of an eternity of life and light in the Father's house above. --D.T.J.

*Jesus, my Saviour to Bethlehem came,
Born in a manger to sorrow and shame;
Oh, it was wonderful! Blest be His Name!
Seeking for me, for me!*

When I was young, I was sure of many things; now there are only two things of which I am sure: one is, that I am a miserable sinner; and the other, that Christ is an all-sufficient Saviour. He is well-taught who learns these two lessons. John Newton

Point to Ponder



If you never know me, you'll miss **nothing**.
If you never know Jesus, you'll miss **everything!**

"We know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life. This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (**1 John 5:20, 13; John 17:3**).

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