

Good News For Today 2019-12-22

Luke 2:4-11

Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Merry Christmas...In these times very difficult to be merry or happy.

- Internet reveals mostly "bad news" not just our community but in world.
 - Crime, sickness, hatred, evil....result is anger/depression/despair
 - Desire be merry/happy so seek "Good News"puppy video's.

Try change bad news into good news thru programs, laws, \$ assistance (good).

- Man's solutions (gun control, legalize pot, financial redistribution, etc) have little success because focus on effect not cause, on fruit not root.
 - Origin and present roots of all "bad news" in your life and by extension world is the naturally degenerating results of sin.
 - Perfect good world God made now broken because sin started with Adam and corrupts/destroys everything/everyone, including you!
 - Kylo Wren: NOT SPOILER implies same "it's in our nature!"

Because of sin, situation people are in is far worse than brokenness of world.

- Sin is rebelliously breaking God's law which requires punishment....sinners eternally separated from a holy God.
 - No human solution to sin's destructive power and eternal penalty.
 - Good behavior not undo a crime or it's penalty.
- Good news is God chose to do for us what we couldn't do for ourselves.
 - He provided solution to our desperate, broken condition...a Savior.

Christmas celebrates beginning God's loving earthly initiative to end sin's destructive curse & bring us into right relationship with Him and each other.

- Christmas when Creator came into His creation to provide way to be eternally w/Him. Matthew 1:18, 21-23, Philippians 2:6-8.
 - Immanuel (God with us): invisible God made visible thru virgin birth.
- Through Jesus' perfect, sinless life/substitutionary death Jesus solved foundational sin problem by making available freedom from sin's penalty and power in our lives.

○ That's the Gospel...literally means "Good news". Luke 2:10-11, Mark 1:15
Solution for brokenness in world not financial, political, social but Gospel!

- Only to degree individuals repent/receive gospel can society/world change.
 - Jesus Christ is the only hope for you and this world.

You receive gift of salvation? 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 6:23, 10:9-10, John 14:6, 8:36

- Like any gift, salvation paid for by someone else and doesn't become yours until you receive it, even though always been available to you.
 - Nothing more needs to be done, Jesus did it all so freely receive what you can never earn by good works...forgiveness and eternal life in heaven.
- Good news: Jesus can rescue, redeem and deliver you from sin, death, evil.

Examine if "holly berry" faith: looks good but deadly. 2 Timothy 3:4-5, Matthew 7:21-23

- Intellectually accept Christianity and do religious/good things.
 - Priority YOUR VERSION American Dream, not desiring things of God
 - Jesus wants heart, not just head. James 2:19, 2 Corinthians 4:4, 1 Samuel 16:7

Reality: all mankind needs good news of Gospel Christians possess. Luke 2:20, Romans 15:13

- Andrew, "Christians are rightful owners of joy and love and peace."
 - So live out and proclaim the Gospel to broken, sinful people looking for lasting hope and joy.
 - Looking for "good news" in world filled w/bad news!