

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

### Luke 2:8-18

December 13, 2020  
Pastor Ed Drewlo

Luke 2:8-18 – And occasion for JOY

#### Introduction

- A change in plans
- Christmas is a time for JOY

Is it possible to be filled with joy amid this year's depressing circumstances?

Yes, because of the announcement of God's Good News!

Why is the birth of Jesus such good news of great joy?

Because He came to bring **salvation**

- From the judgment of sin
- From the power of sin
- From the judgment to come on the world

How is it possible for us to express true joy this Christmas?

By focussing our attention on the truth of this Good News

John 14:1-3, John 15:10, 11; John 16:33, John 17:13

Romans 12:12, Philippians 4:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:16

God calls His people to be a people of joy. See the example of the prophet Habakkuk in 3:17, 18. Consider that JOY is a decision based on who God is and what He has done for us in Jesus Christ.

## Discussion Questions based on Luke 2:8-18

1. Begin with prayer. Ask God to give each one new insight and understanding about His will from today's lesson.
2. It is evident that this year's pandemic has affected people's emotions. Why do you think this is so? Have you noticed this to any degree in your own experience?
3. Read the passage from Luke about the announcement of the angel to the shepherds. What is the mood reflected in the announcement of the angels and why do you think this is so?
4. What is it about the angels' message that makes it such an announcement of GREAT JOY?
5. Take some time to talk about the three major applications of salvation that have been provided in Jesus. Which one is especially meaningful to you this Christmas? Why?
6. There are many encouragements in the Bible that followers of Jesus should be characterized by JOY. Choose one and consider memorizing it this Christmas.
7. Why is this such an important message? Do you think there is a need for greater JOY among Christians? What is the secret to being a joyful person?

Pray for one another according to needs expressed and to be reflections of God's JOY this Christmas -- and beyond!