

Christmas Reading

“You know how it is when some great king enters a large city and dwells in one of its houses; because of his dwelling in that single house, the whole city is honored, and enemies and robbers cease to molest it. Even so it is with the King of all; He has come into our country and dwelt in one body amidst the many, and in consequence the designs of the enemy against mankind have been foiled, and the corruption of death, which formerly held them in its power, has simply ceased to be. For the human race would have perished utterly had not the Lord and Savior of all, the Son of God, come among us to put an end to death.”

~ Athanasius

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Luke 2:1-7

Song #168 ~ O Holy Night

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 68:1-35

Song #177 ~ Joy Has Dawned

Scripture Reading: Psalm 69:1-36

Prayer

Sermon ~ Luke 2:8-20

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #27 ~ Holy, Holy, Holy!

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.

Pastor Dan Benitez ~ 813-751-4305

www.CalvaryBaptistTampa.com

Text: Luke 2:8-20

Theme: The shepherds response to the incarnation instructs our response to this glorious news.

I) When the shepherds came face-to-face with the glory of the Lord, they naturally responded in fear (v. 8-14).

A. All throughout the Bible when someone comes into contact with the glory of the Lord, they fear.

1. Moses at the burning bush (Ex. 3:4-6) and in the cleft of the rock (Ex. 33:18-23), saw the glory of the Lord. Both times Moses was afraid. At the burning bush, the holiness of God was the reason for Moses' fear.

2. Isaiah in the Temple (Is. 6:1-7) saw the glory of the Lord. In fact, God's glory filled the temple. The angels were calling out "holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts". Isaiah's response, "Woe is me, for I am ruined!".

B. After the shepherds saw the glory of the Lord and feared for their lives, the angels comforted the shepherds with good news—there is a Savior born!

1. The good news was not only given, but there was also a sign, so that the shepherds could verify this good news.

C. At the incarnation of Jesus Christ, humanity was able to behold the glory of the Lord (cf. John 1:14).

1. The clearest expression of the glory of God during the incarnation of Jesus Christ is at the mount of transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36).

D. How does the shepherds response to the glory of the Lord instruct our response?

1. The glory of the Lord should cause us to marvel and to fear the holiness of God. If God had not initiated peace, then we would die in our sins.

II) After the shepherds heard the good news, they desired to worship God (15-20).

A. They immediately went to find this Savior.

1. The shepherds were so overwhelmed by this good news that they left their sheep to find the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths.

2. Has there been a truth about God that has so grabbed your attention that you diligently search it out? This happened to Moses at the burning bush. He had to turn aside to see this great sight (Ex. 3:3). If not, I encourage you to take an attribute of God, like His holiness, and meditate on it until you are stunned by its truth.

B. When the shepherds saw the babe, they went away glorifying and praising God.

1. The only natural response to the sight of this great event was worship.

2. What will it look like for you on Christmas morning as you meditate on the birth of Jesus Christ?