

The Message Of Christmas
Outline – December 24, 2023
Luke 2:12-20

Life Is Difficult

I. The heartache of the rich and famous

- A. The concern of Sir Paul McCartney
 - 1. The long and winding road
 - 2. No purpose, no understanding of life, no contentment
- B. Bruce Springsteen
 - 1. No inner peace
 - 2. How bad I feel
 - 3. I hope I can find help

II. Our common dilemma

- A. Problems we can't solve
- B. People don't see things our way
- C. Personal expectations we can't meet
- D. We all fear similar things
- E. We all need the same thing
- F. We all have questions
 - 1. About life
 - 2. About struggles
 - 3. About regrets
- G. Which means we all need grace, truth and life

III. Our common questions

- A. Is there hope?
- B. Can I have peace?
- C. Can I be forgiven?
- D. Is there life beyond and will I experience it?

IV. The reason for (that first) Christmas

- A. The gift(s) we needed arrived
 - 1. Grace
 - 2. Truth
 - 3. Life

- B. The angels came forth praising God
 - 1. Glory to God in the highest
 - 2. Peace on earth
 - 3. Good will toward men
- C. Jesus showed up. Immanuel God with us
 - 1. The presence of God became real
 - 2. His presence brings joy
 - 3. For some it has been a while since you felt the presence of God
- D. Matthew and Luke recorded something amazing that night
 - 1. Angels praising
 - 2. Shepherds glorifying
 - 3. Soon Magi worshipped
- E. This night was about two things
 - 1. God with us
 - 2. Our worship to Him

V. Here is the reason for worship of Messiah

- A. He is the why
 - 1. We have grace
 - 2. We have truth
 - 3. We have hope
 - 4. We have love
 - 5. We have life
- B. He is the who
 - 1. Who gives life
 - 2. Who defeats death
 - 3. Who prepares a place
 - 4. Who we will give an account
- C. He is the what life is about
- D. He is the (only) way to God
- E. He is the how we are redeemed, reconciled, renewed

VI. On this night 2 groups would emerge and forever remain

- A. Those who would worship Him
- B. Those who would not

VII. The 2 groups

- A. Those who would not worship
 - 1. The indifferent
 - a. Religious elite
 - b. Only theory
 - c. No focus on Messiah
 - 2. The ignorant
 - a. No recognition of the times
 - b. No knowledge of the events
 - c. No interest
 - 3. Indignant resistant
 - a. Herod the great
 - b. Feared this child would get in the way
- B. Those who would worship
 - 1. Angels
 - a. Made by God, for God
 - b. Praising God
 - 2. Magi
 - a. They know Daniel's prophecy
 - b. They know the mathematical formula
 - 3. Shepherds
 - a. Humble
 - b. Willing
 - c. Thankful

VIII. Tonight you choose what group you are in

- A. Angels praised Him
- B. Wise men still seek Him
- C. The humble glorify Him

When You Follow Him
When You Worship Him
You Find Meaning, Purpose And Life

O Come Let Us Adore Him