

**The Messengers of Christmas
Outline – December 17, 2023
Luke 2:8-12; 16:16-17**

**The Announcement of The Angel
The Two Most Common Questions People Ask About Christmas**

- I. The two questions**
 - A. Is it true?
 - B. Is it good?

- II. How we know it is true**
 - A. The historical writings about Jesus
 - 1. Here is what we would know about Jesus, just from ancient historians
 - B. The timeline
 - C. The prophetic fulfillment
 - D. The eyewitnesses of the Gospels

- III. Is it good?**
 - A. Why some believe Christmas (today) is not good
 - B. The argument against religion

- IV. The original message of the first Christmas**
 - A. An angel announced:
 - 1. Good News=Gospel
 - 2. Great joy
 - 3. All people
 - B. Angel announced part 2:
 - 1. Savior
 - 2. Messiah
 - 3. The Lord
 - C. The problem for many is they have never learned, they've forgotten, or they've suppressed the message of the first Christmas
 - D. And embraced a version of The Bible that was never declared, and God never intended

- V. What is The Good News Jesus brought into the world?**
 - A. God so loves you
 - 1. He wants you in His Kingdom

- 2. He wants you as His child
- 3. He wants to be in your life
- B. You can be born again
 - 1. Start new
 - 2. New beginning
 - 3. Major do-over
 - 4. Born of The Spirit
 - 5. Born from above
- C. You can be completely forgiven
 - 1. Good news for those who know they are not good
 - 2. Paul's story
 - 3. Matthew's story
- D. Jesus born, that we may be right with God
- E. We can follow Jesus as He leads us to new life
 - 1. Peter's story
- F. That we can have life in His Name
- G. Be called sons and daughters of The Most High

VI. How God accomplishes The Good News

- A. Not by sending more commands
- B. But by sending His Son
 - 1. Savior- ransom
 - 2. Messiah- Anointed One
 - 3. Lord- Immanuel God with us
- C. We need a Savior because we fail daily
 - 1. We fail God
 - 2. We fail others
 - 3. We fail ourselves
 - 4. We make some really bad choices
- D. As we acknowledge our failures, God pours out grace
- E. When we don't know where to go, Jesus says, "Follow Me"
- F. When we don't feel lovable, He pours out His love on us
- G. When we feel we have no purpose, He says follow me and we will change the world
- H. This is more than a 2nd chance. This is amazing grace. Good news, great joy, to all people

VII. The Story of Ruth Graham

VIII. If you will receive His gift

- A. One day you will enter heaven
- B. Hearing welcome home
- C. No shame, no condemnation, no judgment for sin

**That is Good News
Of Great Joy
For All People**

**The Original Message of Christmas
It is all True
It is all Good**