

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

“The Shepherds”

Part 2

Luke 2:15-20

August 8, 2021

Luke 2:8-14

8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

12 "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

"God, to show that he respected no persons, revealed this grand mystery to the shepherds and the wise men; the one poor, the other rich; the one learned, the other unlearned; the one Jews, the other Gentiles; the one near, the other far off."

- John Trapp

Luke 2:15-20

15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

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- Angels make their way back to heaven . . . gradually.

απερχομαι – to depart, to go away, Not disappear.

- Shepherds jump into action. No disagreement among them. No doubting among them.

διερχομαι δη (particle of emphasis) – depart . . . **now**. No time to lose. Must go straight. Shortest distance.

"see this thing" – "thing" – **ρημα** – word, content.

Eph 6:17

17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word** of God.

"the Lord has made known to us." - Their hearts were ready. No hesitation. When they hear the Word, they act. Not "we better pray about this", or "we better consult the religious authorities."

When you hear the Word and study the Word, do you act?

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- Time to stop talking and start walking.

“hurry” - **σπευδω** – to eagerly move, to make haste, to hurry.

This is “the first Christmas rush.”

- What did they do with their sheep? Doesn't matter. Nothing matters when you can be in the presence of the Savior.
- Peter, Andrew, James, and John do what? Drop their nets and go follow Jesus. They were professional fishermen. Doesn't matter.
- That's the affect Christ has on people whom He has chosen.
- That will happen at the Rapture of the Church – it all gets left behind to be in the presence of our Savior.

“found” – did a diligent search. “Manger” was the obvious clue. How many stables in a small town of 300?

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17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

- Now they take it a step further.
- They become the first “evangelists” with the good news. Imagine, these are lowly shepherds out evangelizing, sharing Christ with the world.

“ . . . the longer people are Christians the less they seem excited about it. They move further and further away from the initial revelation of the gospel and become more and more involved with other things. They get a lot more excited about sports and restaurants and food and kids and grandkids and houses and cars and possessions and vacations . . . ”

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- Shepherds were not allowed to testify in court but, by God’s grace, they can testify to the world.

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“wondered” – θαυμάζω - to admire, to marvel at, to wonder.

“things” – ρημα – word, statements.

- The shepherds weren't supposed to know much.

Matt 8:26-27

26 Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.

27 The men were **amazed**, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

Mark 1:22

22 They were **amazed** at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Luke 9:43

43 And they were all **amazed** at the greatness of God.

- Anyone can be amazed and admire, but that will not be enough.
- Few will believe and repent.

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“treasured” – συντηρεω - to keep closely together, to store, to preserve.

- This is Mary’s “baby book” – her heart.

“pondered” – συμβαλλω – to combine, to put together to compare.

- Mary not only tucked these things away in her memory, but she thought deeply about them and brought it all together.

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- Now the tough part: How do you go back to the mundane?

For the shepherds it meant:

- Making sure the sheep have green pasture.
- Helping in the birthing of lambs.
- Finding water.
- Dealing with disease and death.
- Protecting against predators.
- Dealing with the weather.
- Trimming the hooves.
- Shearing the sheep.

For us it means:

- Back to your office.
- Back to your classroom.
- Back to your factory.
- Back to your neighborhood.
- Back to your job.
- Back to your family duties.

20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

- So here are the shepherds glorifying and praising God. What irony – its not the religious people but the lowly shepherds.

“heard and seen” – this was only the beginning and the shepherds knew that.

- They didn’t experience the “after-Christmas blues.”
- 2 groups praise God here – angels and the believing shepherds.
- This is a picture of eternity – Heaven will be filled with believers and angels glorifying and praising God.
- **Note:** When angels praise God for the gospel message, they never just “go through the motions.” We at times do, when we are worshipping and praising God. If angels are always genuinely excited about praising God for the gospel we should be more so. Why?
 - Angels don’t need to be forgiven. We do.
 - Angels are sinless. We aren’t.
 - Angels did not need the Lord Jesus to die for them. We do.
 - Angels have never rebelled against God. We have.

“We never should let the angels out-praise us.” - Ligon Duncan

- You take the joy of the Lord back from where you have come.

“A man arrived late for church one day. The people were coming out, and the pastor was standing out front greeting people. The latecomer asked, “Is the service over?” The pastor replied, “No; the preaching and singing are over, but the service is just beginning.”