

GLORY TO GOD

Luke 2:11-14

INTRODUCTION: As Christians, we have reason to celebrate Christmas with a spirit of joy. This Christmas you can let others experience God's love through you. Every time you lend a hand, offer a smile and spread joy in your heart, you are showing the love of Jesus. Everyone you meet can use a little more joy and grace in his or her life. Your words of grace and acts of kindness will make their day and yours a little brighter. Make this Christmas special for someone else by finding ways you can give and share.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14 KJV)

**"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."
(Luke 2:14 NLT)**

**"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."
(Luke 2:14 LSB)** John MacArthur Charitable Trust. The goal of the LSB is to be as literal as possible.

**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"
(Luke 2:14 ESV)**

I. THE GLORY OF GOD IN CHRIST "Glory to God"

A. GLORY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH.

Christ's presence brought the glory of God close to mankind. The shepherds heard the multitude of heavenly hosts praising God. They made their way to Bethlehem where they looked upon the face of Jesus. The Bible teaches us that Jesus died to glorify the Father. In His gift of salvation to sinners, the Christ child brought glory to the Father and hope to humankind.

The glory of Christ was declared by the angel to Mary and Joseph before His birth. Jesus Christ was the glorified Son of God from all eternity. The angels knew Jesus in His preexistence so they gave Him praise at His birth. Before Jesus walked on earth, He existed as the second Person of the Holy Triune. Jesus declared His preexistence a number of times while on earth.

The Father proclaimed Jesus' preexistence when He said in Matthew 3:17, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." In John 17:5, Jesus said, "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

B. GLORY OF CHRIST'S PERSON.

The glory of Christ was proclaimed before His birth and throughout His bodily presence on earth. The worship and glory of Christ will continue throughout all eternity. The angels of heaven know of Christ's glory. The redeemed know of Christ's glory. The devil and all the demons know of Christ's glory. At the appointed time, all lost people will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and they will all be cast into hell. Sadly, it will be too late for them, but they will know that Christ is the Lord of lords and King of kings.

II. THE GRACE OF GOD IN CHRIST "on earth"

A. GRACE EMBODIED IN CHRIST.

If we want to understand the meaning of grace, we would only have to study the life of Christ. The true grace of God was embodied in Christ's incarnation. We read in John 1:16-17, "And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

B. GRACE EXPRESSED IN CHRIST.

The life and ministry of Jesus Christ is the expression of His grace. During His time on earth, Jesus went about loving people, healing the sick, raising the dead, and feeding the hungry. His life was a walking and talking example of what grace is and what grace does. Jesus did not think of Himself. His desire was to complete the work the Father had given Him to do.

We allow the true meaning of Christmas to be lost in the trappings of this world. While time with family, the giving of gifts, and having wonderful meals at Christmas is important, we know the most important thing is experiencing the grace of the Lord Jesus. There is no record of Jesus telling anyone "I love you." He let people know of His love in a more powerful way. He showed His love by the giving of Himself.

The people may never have heard Jesus tell them that He loved them, but they always knew they were very much loved. The love of Jesus is to know His amazing grace. We cannot separate the love and grace of God. In Jesus' coming to earth, He brought to us the good news of the gospel and the gracious gift of salvation.

The greatest gift was the giving of Himself to us. "Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thessalonians 1:2)

III. THE GIFT OF PEACE FROM CHRIST (peace, good will)

A. GIFT OF PEACE JESUS PROMISED.

In the Bible, we find many verses related to peace. The Lord has promised us peace. We must be reminded that Jesus is our peace. Jesus said in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

In the Word of God, we learn of the One who is the source of our peace. Before Jesus ascended back to heaven, He left us this promise in John 14:27. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

B. GIFT OF PEACE JESUS PROVIDES. (good will)

Christians are blessed with the gift of peace that only Jesus can provide. We find His peace through the gift of Himself, the Heavenly Father, the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God. It is not the kind of peace the world offers.

The Bible says in Romans 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." This peace is the result of us putting our faith and trust in God.

One of the great verses in the Bible about peace is found in Philippians 4:6-7, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

As followers of Jesus Christ, we need faith in our Lord. We need to accept and believe the promises of God. Romans 15:13 states: "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Christmas is not about a special day but about the special gift of God's Son. Christmas day comes and goes, but the gift of Christ is for all eternity. Jesus was born to give His life for us so we may receive the give of eternal life.

LESSONS FOR LIFE:

1. We can have the spirit of Christmas all year with Christ in our lives.
2. The spirit of Christ produces His love, Joy, and Peace in us.
3. Jesus deserves our worship every day.

Luke 2:11-14

- 11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.**
- 12. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.**
- 13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,**
- 14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**