

"Giving God the Credit For Good – JOYFUL"

Luke 2:8-11

JOYFUL

Luke 2:8-11

8) And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9) And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10) And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

JOYFUL

- **JOYFUL**
 - Experiencing Joy
 - Causing Joy
 - Showing Joy

EXPERIENCING JOY

- **TWO JOY EXPERIENCES**
 - Birth of Christ Experience
 - Salvation Experience

EXPERIENCING JOY

- **Birth of Christ Experience of Joy**
 - The prophets of the Old Testament prophesied of the joy
 - King David wrote songs and prayers about the joy.
 - The angel said to Zacharias that he had come to speak of joy.
 - The angel told Mary of the joy to come
 - Elizabeth testified to Mary through joy
 - Mary sung a song of joy
 - The baby Jesus was born in joy
 - The angel told the shepherds of the joy that they would soon experience.

EXPERIENCING JOY

- **Salvation Experience of Joy**

Salvation Experience of Joy

Romans 5:1-5

- 1) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
- 2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- 3) And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
- 4) And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
- 5) And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Salvation Experience of Joy

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

- 6) Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.
- 7) Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

"H.G. Spafford was a businessman in Chicago. He was a dedicated Christian. He had some serious financial reversals, and during the time of readjustment, he lost his home. He realized his family needed to get away for a vacation. Spafford decided to take the entire family to England.

He sent his wife and four daughters ahead on the SS *Ville du Havre*. In midocean the French steamer carrying his loves ones collided with another and sank within twelve minutes; 230 people lost their lives. The four daughters drowned, but Mrs. Spafford was rescued. She wrote her husband, "Saved alone."

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

Mr. Spafford was almost overcome with grief. He had lost his property, his four precious daughters were buried beneath the deep waves of the sea, and his wife was prostrate with grief on the other side of the world. But he put all his trust in God and wrote a song that has comforted thousands since that time:

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

*from 1001 Great Stories and Quotes by R. Kent Hughes
(Tyndale) p 304*

CAUSING JOY

- Cause
 - To effect by command, authority, or force
 - JESUS CHRIST
 - A person or thing that is the occasion of an action or state
 - JESUS CHRIST
 - A reason for an action or condition; Motive
 - Personal Experience With JESUS CHRIST

STEPHAN

Acts 7:54-56

- 54) When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.
- 55) But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,
- 56) And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

PAUL

Acts 26:22-23

- 22) Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:
- 23) That Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

CAUSING JOY

“We fight for lost causes for one simple rule...LOVE THY NEIGHBOR.”

- Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

SHOWING JOY

- **Two Definitions of “Show”**
 - An impressive display

AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY

2 Timothy 2:15

15) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

SHOWING JOY

• Two Definitions of “Show”

- An impressive display
- To cause or permit to be seen

TO CAUSE OR PERMIT TO BE SEEN

Luke 8:39

39) Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

Jesus speaking to the man referred to as “Legion”

TO CAUSE OR PERMIT TO BE SEEN

John 5:20

20) For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

TO CAUSE OR PERMIT TO BE SEEN

Acts 16:17

17) The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

TO CAUSE OR PERMIT TO BE SEEN

Psalms 119:74

74) They that fear thee will be glad (HAVE JOY) when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.

Christmas slippers

(1) "While we are called to work hard, we must make sure that our work doesn't so preoccupy us that we endanger our health, our relationships, or our time with God.

(2) A woman died, leaving behind her husband and one daughter. The little girl soon became the very apple of her daddy's eye. He loved to spend time with her, but because he had to work, they had only their evenings together. After dinner each night they would talk and play games; sometimes she sang for him. He treasured every moment.

Christmas slippers

He felt very disappointed, but he let her go. She continued this pattern for a solid month. Finally, Christmas Day arrived, and early in the morning she burst in on her daddy and proudly displayed a pair of crude crocheted slippers she had made for him. It was this project that had taken her away from her father for every evening that month.

Her father thanked her warmly and gave her a big hug, but then he said, "Honey, I would rather have had you with me all those lonely evenings than to have these slippers, as beautiful and comfortable as they are."

Christmas slippers

[As in the story of Martha and Mary], God wants our presence more than our slippers. He wants our devotion more than our work. It really is a matter of balance.

(1) *from the TouchPoint Bible with commentaries by Ron Beers and Gilbert Beers (Tyndale) p 1298*

(2) *from Breakfast with Jesus by Greg Laurie (Tyndale) p 141 "*

Presence vs. Presents

Today instead of being preoccupied with “presents”...let’s focus on the “presence of God”. That is where we will find the Christmas JOY!

“Giving God the Credit For Good – JOYFUL”

Luke 2:8-11
