

## Christmas, The Gift of Worship

Christmas Eve 2023

Luke 2:8-20

**I. The Reason for Worship (Luke 2:8-14)** We see in this passage that the gospel of Jesus Christ was first revealed to the lowest class of people in their society. The shepherds were looked upon as thieves, dishonest, unskilled people. For the greatest news ever to be given to these people first was a radical concept, yet one that displays God's true nature of love for a lost humanity. The fact that the lowly reacted to the Angels' worship shows their gratitude for God's amazing gift of the Messiah! The word Worship really means to show worth. The reason for worship is revealed to all people, especially to those who humbly acknowledge their sin and see the worth of Jesus Christ! Verse 11 makes it clear that a Savior was born! This is our gift, producing the gift of worship! All people are sinners, lowest to the greatest and need salvation found only through faith in Jesus Christ! We worship because He alone is worthy! Worship takes many forms, singing, witnessing, proclaiming God's Word, tithing, service, and prayer. Anytime we are showing the worth of Christ, it can be considered worship. The reason we worship is because He came to save us and He alone is worthy!

**II. The Response to Worship (Luke 2:15)** God chose the shepherds, the poor, to give His message to. Isaiah 61:1 predicted this: ***"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;"*** The shepherds responded to the angels' message and worship of Christ by going to find the Messiah and worship Him! They heard and responded through participation. When we know the worth of Jesus Christ, it will call us to action, we will engage in personal and public worship of Jesus Christ. 1 Chronicles 16:29 ***"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;"*** Do you want to know what you truly believe? You give worth to what you truly believe. Your time, talents, and tithes reflect your response of what you worship. May you respond to a relationship with Jesus Christ through worship this Christmas season.

**III. The Result of Worship (Luke 2:16-20)** You cannot be in the presence of Christ and not be changed! Once you see His worth, the result will be an eternity of worship! The worship of Jesus Christ breaks indifference and ingratitude, and compels the believer towards a lifestyle of worship. I love verse 20, the shepherds, having been in the presence of Jesus Christ, experiencing the message from the angels, and knowing that they, the societal outcast, can be saved, resulted in true worship. What was the result? A life of glorifying and praising God!

- a. God is Treasured (Luke 2:19)
- b. Go and Tell (Luke 2:17-18, 20)