

## ***FEAR NOT, BEHOLD YOUR SAVIOR!***

*(Luke 2:10-11)*

What do you fear most in life? People across the country are afraid of various concerns and issues ranging from serious illness, crime, natural disasters, personal anxieties, and many others. Most of us fear the unexpected, the uncontrollable and the unknown. During the first Christmas night, a group of ordinary people were struck by great fear not because of any temporal or trivial concern. This group of shepherds was struck by fear because they were confronted with the reality of the glory of God. But here's the encouraging part. When the glory of God confronts us, our fear turns to joy because of the good news that God has sent us our Savior. Reflecting on the angel's announcement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds, let's consider two encouraging truths about the good news of Christmas.

- 1. The good news of Christmas turns our \_\_\_\_\_.***  
The glory of God terrifies sinners like us. When God's glory confronts us, it reveals and exposes us for who we really are (Isa. 6:5; Rev. 1:16-17). It's no wonder then why the shepherds who were regarded as social and religious outcasts were filled with great fear when the angel appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them (Luke 2:9). God's glory unveils God's absolute holiness and man's utter sinfulness. The greatest threat that confronts every sinner is God Himself (Rom. 1:18; 6:23). The ultimate threat is to fall into the hands of the living God and suffer His eternal wrathful judgment on account of our sinfulness. But praise God, the angel did not bring a news of divine judgment, but the good news of great joy (Luke 2:10-11). The gospel of Christmas is meant to make us fearless, not fearful; it's intended to make us joyful, not hopeless. The genuine joy of Christmas belongs to the hearts of the lowly and the humble for God's heart delights upon and favors those who recognize their desperate need for a Savior (2 Sam. 22:28; Psalm 149:4; Luke 4:18-19).

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- 2. The good news of Christmas declares that Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_.***  
One cannot move from great fear to great joy without grasping and embracing the good news of Christmas (Luke 2:10-11). This good news which produces great joy reveals the glorious identity of the Christ-Child who was born in Bethlehem. This gospel of great joy declares that (a) Jesus is our Savior who rescued us from the penalty of our sins and delivered us from God's eternal judgment; (b) Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, our Prophet, Priest and King who alone could bring salvation to God's people; and (c) Jesus is Lord, our sovereign God who possesses all authority and absolute sovereignty. When we trust in Jesus for salvation, we willingly bow to His Lordship. The hallmark of authentic saving faith is submission and surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9). Jesus' Lordship means our self-dethronement (Matt. 16:24). If Jesus is Lord, then He is the Lord of everything in our life. Submission to Jesus' Lordship leads to genuine joy and eternal security of God's saving love for us in Christ (Rom. 8:31-32).

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