



LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

WEEK 2 | GREAT JOY | LUKE 2:1-20

Inspection – “What does it say?”

For whom was this “great joy” intended? (verse 10)

How did the heavenly host react to this great joy? (verse 13)

How did the shepherds respond to the news given to them by the angel? (verse 16)

What did the shepherds do after they had seen baby Jesus? (verse 17)

What reasons did the shepherds have to glorify and praise God? (verse 20)

Observation – “What does it mean?”

What difference is there between “joy” and “great joy” in life?

How is hearing and seeing vital to a person’s faith in Jesus?

What part does political (Caesar) and social caste (shepherds) play in our faith in Jesus?

What does “good news” of “great joy” to all people say about God?

How should world conflict move Christians with a message of great joy?

Life Application – “What does it mean for me?”

Use the nightly world news to direct your prayers for others who need joy.

Identify your joy killers and pray that God would teach you joy in your sorrows.

Consider blessing someone this advent season who is discouraged by life events.

Drop a note of encouragement to a young man or woman in the military.

Plan a visit with a shut-in or someone in a nursing home this month.

Meditation – “What does God say?”

Psalm 16:11

Isaiah 55:12

Psalm 30:5

Habakkuk 3:17-19

John 15:11

Romans 15:13

Galatians 5:22

Hebrews 12:1-3

Supplication: What Can We Meditate?

The following poem was penned by Henry W. Longfellow on Christmas Day, 1863, upon hearing the news that his son, Charles, was severely wounded in battle during the Civil War.

Christmas Bells

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.