

DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Glad Tidings from Heaven ... by Billy

READ LUKE 2:8-20

- The question often comes into our minds, why would the God of heaven send such glad tidings to such people on the margins of society?
- We heard last week about His choice of a young Jewish lady who exclaimed: “for He has regarded the lowly state of His handmaiden” (Luke 1:48)
- The immediate reaction of the shepherds is one of fear. (Luke 2:9). Perhaps they sensed that this was a day of judgment for their many sins.
- Such pure and radiant light shone around them that they must have felt so unclean by comparison.
- “And the angel said to them, fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.” (v.10)
- There is this unchanging truth that has thrilled the hearts of millions down through the centuries. It is good news of a great joy.
- Let us once more be amazed as we contemplate this news and let it never become outdated to our ears.
- The scripture says that the humble will hear it and be glad. (Psa.34:2)
The shepherds entered into the joyful occasion and soon they would hurry to Bethlehem to see the sign which the angel foretold.
- First they were to see a sight of great heavenly jubilation as they beheld a multitude of the heavenly host of angels.
- Next, they were to hear the song of the angels..”*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.*”
- How those dark and cold hills were transfigured that night and so it will be for those who are of a humble heart to receive God’s message with gladness.
- Whilst most wondered at the words of the shepherds, Mary herself treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.
- For many the gospel is a novel and curious report that perhaps holds some truth for the poor and the ignorant.
- For humble hearts the words of eternal life are deeply treasured and often pondered.



WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Meeting starts at 11.00am tomorrow.** Praise, worship and breaking of bread will be followed by a time of testimony from those who would like to reflect on the goodness of God throughout 2016. Expect to finish at 1.15pm. There will be no Sunday School or Junior Praise.
- ▶ **Prayer meeting will resume** on Wednesday in church at 8.00pm.
- ▶ **No Friday Bible study group** this week due to gathering in home of Sean and Dolores for testimony and fellowship.
- ▶ **Season of prayer and fasting next Sunday.** Meeting will begin at 10.00am. After a short break at 12.00pm prayer will begin and will continue until 3.00pm.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 2-5 year olds in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11)

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2).

