

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. In what ways does the coming of Christ give hope to the world?
2. What significance can be found in the fact that Jesus was born in a stable, of humble parents? What if He had been born to an earthly king?
3. Why were the shepherds apparently the only ones to receive an angelic announcement?

SUMMARY:

As we look back upon the history of mankind, from Adam to the present generation, we see a pretty gloomy picture except for one thing: the advent of Christ into the world.

The coming of Jesus, in all its aspects, and His promise to come again, is the one bright hope for all people.

NOTES:

[SoF:4] We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life. He died on the cross for us. His shed blood is the atonement for our sins.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #13

December 24, 2017

Fourth Quarter

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

LESSON TEXT: Luke 2:1-20

LESSON SETTING: In the town of Bethlehem, a few miles south of Jerusalem.

TIME: Christ's birth was of such great importance that western history is set by it—that is, B.C. or A.D.

I. THE MIRACULOUS BIRTH. Luke 2:1-7
A. God's Providence - the Taxing (vs. 1-5)
B. Jesus is Born^[SoF:4] (vs. 6-7)

II. THE ANGELIC ANNOUNCEMENT. Luke 2:8-14
A. The Shepherds in the Field (vs. 8)
B. Announcement by Angel (vs. 9-12)
C. The Angel's Song (vs. 13-14)

III. THE SHEPHERDS' RESPONSE. Luke 2:15-20
A. The Shepherds go to Bethlehem (vs. 15-16)
B. The Shepherds Tell the Story (vs. 17)

GOLDEN TEXT: *AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRSTBORN SON, AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHES AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.*
Luke 2:7

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Luke 10:25-37

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Exodus 23:1-9; Deuteronomy 6:1-9;
Nehemiah 6:1-13;
Matthew 23:34-40; James 1:1-32

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ the Son of Man

TOPIC: THE GOOD SAMARITAN

INTRODUCTION:

Of all God's creation man is the most helpless. Born without very many instincts, and with a sinful nature. He has many needs from cradle to the grave. Mankind is dependent first upon God, secondly upon his fellow man. His physical, mental and spiritual needs are endless. God has done His part by providing for man's every need. Jesus Christ is the answer to the depravity of man. The power of Jesus in the heart of man produces love, compassion, kindness and pity so that we may be able to give others what they need. One of the greatest needs of mankind is to be loved. God knows this and loved us by sending His only Son to prove His love for us.

He also gave Christians to one another and to all mankind to fill this important hunger by serving humbly to each one's needs. The Good Samaritan is an excellent example of this kind of service.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Christians should aim for active, tangible service to others.

GOLDEN TEXT: SEE THAT NONE RENDER EVIL FOR EVIL UNTO ANY MAN; BUT EVER FOLLOW THAT WHICH IS GOOD, BOTH AMONG YOURSELVES, AND TO ALL MEN. 1 Thessalonians 5:15

One cannot even imagine what the world would be like if God's eternal principle, to love Him above all things, with our whole being, and to love our neighbor as ourselves, would be practiced by everyone. If we are wise, we will recognize and use every opportunity to serve God and our fellowman. Not only for praise of men, but serve in lowly, menial tasks to the glory and honor of God. This is the abundant life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 25 –31

M. Serving the Lord. Deuteronomy 10:12
T. The Disciples Serve. Matthew 19:16-30
W. *The Good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37
T. Mary and Martha Serve. Luke 10:38-42
F. The Lord Served. John 13:1-17
S. The Service of Brotherly Love. Romans 12:9-31
S. The Service of Love. Romans 13:1-13

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