

Ponder the News
Christmas Eve
Luke 2:8-14

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.’” (Luke 2:10-11)

More Special than All Other Nights

We ask ourselves every year, *“Why is this night more special than all other nights?”*

There is something about this night that awakens us to the overwhelming goodness of God’s love. We are alert to the great thing that God has done.

We listen with ears that are turned God’s way and the announcement of good news comes through loud and clear.

The news is not just of a newborn baby, but of a Savior that comes to set us free from the very things that keep us from truly living.

Good News of Salvation

The focus of this night is set squarely on the baby who is born. The announcement of Christ’s birth proclaims that *“unto us is born in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

The good news of this grand night is that a Savior has come.

The gospel in miniature rings true, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whosoever believes in him would not perish, but have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16)

In Jesus we have a Savior who was willing to go to any lengths to save us from our sin, even to death on a cross. That’s the good news of this season.

As good as the news of Christ’s birth is, and it is great news, the news that he provides the way for our salvation is even better.

God wants us to hear that news and respond with our very lives.

News for All People

It’s no coincidence that God chooses to share the news of Christ’s birth with a group of shepherds who were tending their flocks by night.

God chose to announce the birth of his Son to ordinary folk just like you and me. We’re really no different than the shepherds.

The announcement of Christ's birth to those shepherds speaks volumes about that fact that salvation is for all people and not just a select few.

Standing Amazed

The scripture records that the shepherds were terrified upon hearing from the angel of the Lord. Their nights were basically spent tending sheep. They made sure the sheep were well-fed, well-protected, and stayed with the rest of the flock. Other than that they were left to their thoughts.

The shepherds were not accustomed to the glory of the Lord shining so brightly around them. They certainly weren't used to an angel sharing about the birth of a Savior.

No wonder they were terrified.

Some versions of the Bible state that the shepherds were "*amazed*." You and I would have been as well. Those shepherds had to stand, jaws dropped, about what was happening in their midst.

Think of it, the heavens burst forth with song, "*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those whom he favors.*"

Tonight I pray we stand just as amazed as those shepherds some 2000 years ago. That night was special, but then again so is this one.

Told, Heard, Believed

Nobody that night knew about the great thing that had taken place, but those who were **told**, those who **heard**, and those who **believed**.

That same message is being **told** tonight. Let's hear it again, "*Unto us is born a Savior and he is Christ the Lord.*"

We **hear** that message and find our hearts stirred.

We ponder the news and look for ways to respond. We muster the faith to **believe** that the news about a brand new way of life is offered to us, even us.

And because of that we respond with praise and thanksgiving, even to the point of joining the heavenly chorus by singing, "*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those he favors.*"