



The Loneliness of Christmas

Lesson 3

Third Sunday of Advent: Light the Proclamation Candle!

For Many People Christmas Is Far from Merry and Bright.

A “Blue Christmas” due to loneliness brings a sense of *helplessness* and *hopelessness*. But with the Advent of Jesus Christ *there’s hope of reversals that are humanly impossible!*

The Loneliness of Christmas

Is there loneliness in your life this Christmas? *The Shepherds can relate! Luke 2:8-20*

“In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.” Luke 2:8

- The shepherd’s **profession** was a lonely one.
- The shepherd’s **location** was a lonely one.
- The shepherd’s **reputation** was a lonely one.
- The shepherd’s **condition** was a lonely one.

The separation and shame of our sinful condition brings with it a lonely darkness that is far from “merry and bright”! It’s humanly impossible to reverse such loneliness.

Hope for Reversing Our Loneliness

1. **HEAR** the “Good News” but It’s **R.A.R.E.!** *Luke 2:9-14*

R – REVEALED from Heaven by the LORD. (2:9)

1. The Good News is from the **LORD**. (vv. 9, 13-15, 20)
2. The Good News is God’s **REVELATION**. (vv. 10, 15)
3. The Good News is God’s revelation from **HEAVEN**. (vv. 13-15)

*The Gospel Is Revealed by the **HIGHEST** of the Highs!*

A – ANNOUNCED by Angels. (2:9-10, 13)

1. Was it an angel? *This is “**a**” angel of the Lord, not the “**THE**” angel of the Lord we see in the OT!*
2. Whose angel?
3. What angel was it? *Might be Gabriel.*
4. What kind of angels were they?

*The Gospel Is Announced by the **STRONGEST** of the Strong!*

R – RECEIVED by Shepherds. (2:8-12)

*The Gospel Is Received by the **LOWEST** of the Lows!*

E – EXPLAINS the Message and Meaning of Christmas! (2:11, 14, 17)

*The Gospel Explains the **GREATEST** of the Great!*

1. The saying of the angel explains the **MESSAGE** of Christmas. (2:11, 17)

Jesus was born to be our **SIN-BEARER!**

The “Savior” who meets the greatest need of all people as the Seed of the Woman!

Jesus was born to be God’s **PROMISE-KEEPER!**

The “Christ” who fulfills all God’s promises as the Son of David!

Jesus was born to be the only **GOD-REVEALER!**

The “Lord” who rules over all life but comes down to reveal Himself as the Son of God!

The Mystery of Godliness Is Revealed in Jesus Christ Our Lord – 1 Timothy 3:16

God became one of us to save us from our sins and give us eternal life in the Spirit!

2. The singing of the angels explains the **MEANING** of Christmas. (2:14)

“And on earth peace”

God has graciously **chosen** to make His salvation **available** down here on earth.

“among men with whom He is pleased”

God has graciously **announced** His salvation to all people and mercifully **chooses** some people to receive it by faith alone in Christ alone.

A Cultural but Wrong Explanation: *“Peace on earth due to people who are characterized by good will.”*

A Biblical and Correct Explanation: *“Peace on earth among people on whom God’s gracious will rests.”*

“The meaning seems to be, not that divine peace can be bestowed only where human good will is already present, but that at the birth of the Savior God’s peace rests on those whom He has chosen in accord with His good pleasure.” – Bruce Metzger

“God’s gift of ‘peace’ will come not to all humanity but to those whom God is pleased to call to Himself. – ESV Study Bible

“Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.” – Dr. Luke in Acts 13:48

“Glory to God in the highest”

God alone gets all the glory for providing salvation in Christ alone to anyone He graciously chooses to receive It by grace alone through faith alone in the gospel alone as preached to all peoples!

2. RECEIVE This “Good News” to Reverse Your Loneliness into Purposefulness. Luke 2:15-20

➤ Receiving this good news brings a new purpose of great **J.O.Y.** = **J**esus, **O**thers, **Y**ou!

3. Sharing this good news of God’s presence in Christ offers hope for reversing the loneliness of others.

The Advent of Jesus Christ Our Lord Is Good News for the Lonely!

*Break the silence of the season by singing His praises and sharing the Lord Jesus Christ with others
...not only during advent but all year long!*

