

## Peace – Joy – Love – Dec. 8, 2021

Many C-mas images are popular: bells, reindeer, snowmen. Words, too. But – **PJL** - those words of Christmas are from the Bible. The C-mas story.

### **Joy**

#### **Luke 2:8-15 – Shepherds part of the story:**

- “Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of **great joy which shall be to all** the people.”

#### **Matt. 2:1-12 – Magi part of the story:**

- “When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding **great joy.**”
  - o **Joy:** knowing the Messiah has arrived. Here.
  - o **Joy:** knowing you are going to meet the King.
    - We have **same opp. for joy** – to meet Jesus, the King.
    - **Joy is:** Knowing Jesus’ story & Knowing you’re part of it.

**Jn. 16:22 - This is joy nobody can take away.** Can’t rob it. Steal it.

Not out of style. No batteries...

- o Joy over meeting Jesus would last their lifetimes.
- o Happiness is fleeting, JOY is lasting.
- o Happiness is based on something external, JOY is internal.

#### **The joy of discovery is powerful.**

When we discover something really good, it brings out something in us.

- **Joy is a motivator.** Rise above the fear that wants to hold us back.
- **We often miss chance of joy** b/c of 1 thing: **fear.**
- Shepherds could’ve stayed put. Magi could’ve given up. They didn’t.
  - o **Joy comes from Jesus. Jesus doesn’t give up.**

**John 15:11** (Jesus) says: “I have told you this so that **my joy may be in you** and that your joy may be complete.”

- **C-mas story is about what happens when we take God at His word, step out over fear.** End result: **great Joy.**

### **Peace**

- “Glory to God in the highest heaven, & on earth **peace** to those on whom his favor rests.” – **Luke 2** Peace... w/whom He is pleased.
- **Peace is for some, not all.** Drawn to God, and respond: yes.

**John 6:44** - “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

- No peace for Herod (power). No peace for Sanhedrin (jealous).
- Peace is in Joseph. Dream ... word, acts immediately.
  - Peace is knowing what you need to do; how – respond
  - It’s knowing God makes everything good.
    - Peace is not the absence of conflict.
- Doesn’t mean you’ll never have an **anxious** moment, but you can have confidence that - **all will be well**. That God is with you.
- Peace is a calm assurance that God is in charge; nothing is impossible... God is conqueror. Defeated the world.

**John 16:33** – “I have told you these things so that **in me** you may have peace.”

- There’s JOY in meeting God; Peace in knowing God.

## **Love**

- Love isn’t specifically mentioned in the C-mas story; but heart of C-mas.
  - **Love**: the gift of Jesus. The reason Jesus came.
  - “For God so loved the world that He gave his only son” - Jn 3:16
- **Love gives** ... gives of itself. **Love Motivates**.
  - Love led Jesus to leave comfort of heaven... uncomfortable world.
  - Love: left glory & light ... humble manger, dark world.
    - Stable, not nursery. ● Left peace, for chaos.
  - Love: King left His throne ... to be a servant. Face a cross.
  - Love: Jesus gave His all ... so we could receive all.
  - Love: Rich, became poor ... for us to have riches of heaven
  - Love: Jesus came so we’d have eternity with God.
  - Love: unending, unlimited, unconditional, unchanging, unwavering
- **C-mas story shows how far Love goes**. Wasn’t easy. Painfree.

**Tonight** ... This Christmas . . . may Peace, Joy, & Love be your gift.  
And may PJL motivate us... to be servants, take less, be light.

Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinated. Jan. 5, 2022

Song of the week: **“When Love Was Born”**- Mark Schultz