

Christmas Part 3: Treasuring Christmas in Our Hearts

Luke 2:8-20



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. 9 And an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of

the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people. 11 For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And peace on earth, goodwill among men." 15 And it happened that when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. 17 And when they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. 18 And all who heard it marveled at the things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary was treasuring all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as was told them.

On the very first Christmas Eve, as the newborn Jesus lies wrapped in cloth in a manger, God sends forth His angel to bring a special message to a group of shepherds. These shepherds hear the news, see the Savior, and glorify God in all they experienced. Amidst this angelic encounter, Mary is found, "treasuring all these things, pondering them in her heart." It is in this statement that we can consider in our day for how we too can experience the treasure of Christmas in our hearts.

1) Treasuring Christmas Starts With a Glorious Announcement. When the angel appears to the shepherds, the encounter is underscored by the glory of God. God's glory shone around them and appeared in the sky above them. This glory served to amplify the good news of the angel's message, that a Savior has been born for all of humanity. God's peace and goodwill is now found in Jesus and among all mankind. There is no better announcement than this, a true treasure in our lives.

2) Treasuring Christmas Brings Forth a Marvelous Experience. After hearing this good news the shepherds go, see, and tell others about their astonishing encounter. The shepherds did not experience the fullness of the angel's message until they went and saw Jesus for themselves. In meeting Jesus for the first time these shepherds believed in everything they heard. This belief and testimony produced a marveling for those who heard. The true treasure of Christmas comes when we believe in the announcement of Christmas. For Jesus to be the Savior means we must be saved by Him. This is the marvelous experience that Christmas represents. Our salvation in Christ is the treasure that we store up in our hearts.

3) Treasuring Christmas Results In a Heartfelt Worship. Once the shepherd's concluded their visit in Bethlehem they were found, "glorifying and praising God," just like the heavenly host. This is a heartfelt worship, one that praises God for what He has done in Jesus and magnifies His greatness in our lives. Treasuring Christmas in our hearts does not mean we keep these things hidden inside us, but that we let this treasure burst forth in a heartfelt worship of God for who He is and what He has done in our lives.