



CHRISTMAS

Good News Of Great Joy

LUKE 2:8-11 - Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you **good news of great joy** which will be for **all people**. ¹¹For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

- “Gospel” comes from the old English word “godspel” which meant “good story” or “good news.”

- The Question** – If the Good News is really good news, why are more people not searching for it and believing it?

- The original Good News was _____, not _____.** The reason so many **reject the Good News today is that they have never seen the real, original Good News.**

LUKE 16:16 – Jesus said, “The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it.”

LUKE 1:1-4 - Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything **from the beginning**, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

What Was Good About The Good News?

LUKE 5:18-24 - Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. ²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." ²¹ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²² Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

•The Good News – Forgiveness is _____
and _____.

LUKE 6 - ²⁷ Jesus said, "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

•The Good News – God is _____
to ungrateful, wicked people.

So why have so many people not been drawn to the Good News?

•Too many Christians have been content to
_____ but not _____
and the world has been watching.