

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Text: Luke 2:8-16

I. THE _____ OF THE ANGELS (vs. 8-9A)

- They came to _____ receptive people of _____.
- Application: God's methods, ways, and thoughts are not ours. He is not looking for impressive people, or skeptics, but _____ people willing to receive the glad tidings and believe His Word. (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

II. THE _____ OF THE ANGELS (vs. 9B)

- The glory "of the _____" was glory straight from heaven's throne room.
- Thought: People have seen a large group of angels on earth on only three occasions:
 - _____—in his dream of angels descending and ascending to and from heaven (John 1:51).
 - _____ and his servant—seeing another host around the Syrian host (2 Kings 6:17).
 - The _____—seeing angels engaging in worship.
- In those three revelations, we see three of the primary _____ of angels:
 - They are _____ (busy about God's business).
 - They are _____ (sent to minister to the heirs of salvation).
 - They are _____ (praising God around throne).
- Application: True _____ is found not in serving self, but in serving God and others in love (Ps. 103:20-21).

III. THE _____ OF THE ANGELS (vs. 10-14)

A. It was a _____ message.

- "Good tidings" = good news, the Greek word we get the word gospel from.

B. It was a _____ message.

- "Of great (mega) joy"

C. It was a _____ message (vs. 11).

- "A Savior is born, Who is Christ the Lord."

D. It was a _____ message.

- "Glory to God in the highest!"

E. It was a _____ message.

- "On earth peace, goodwill toward men."

- "Goodwill" = God's good, gracious _____ to the human race of the Savior and also of peace because He is the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6).
- Discussion: How was or is this promise of peace on earth fulfilled?
 - Not through human _____ but only through Christ.
 - World peace ended at the _____.
 - Despite all professions to the contrary, unredeemed humanity does not love peace and will quickly go to war for selfish reasons.
 - The only people who truly _____ peace are those who have received Christ as personal Savior (Ps. 120:6-7, 37:10-11 Matt. 5:9).
 - Those who don't know Christ may genuinely long for peace but on their _____. A peaceful existence in a state of war and rebellion against God in sin is simply not possible (Isa. 57:19-21).
 - There has never been and will never be any true peace on earth without Christ. But wherever Christ _____, there is peace!

IV. THE _____ MANDATE OF THE ANGELS (vs. 12, 15-16)

- The angels issued no _____ to go and see child; they just told the Shepherds how to recognize Him because they knew they would seek Him.
- And they did, with _____!
 - Could have second-guessed (like _____).
 - Could have _____ to believe (like Zachariah).
 - Could have gotten busy and _____ to go (like the nine lepers).
- But their right, faith response = to make haste to seek out the child.
- Application: God's Word is never just to be heard; it's always to be acted upon. What will you _____ about what you have heard today?
 - The good, glad, gospel, glorious, goodwill message was not just for the shepherds. It's for us as well.
 - What faith _____ should take in response to God's Word?