

December 22, 2019

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Things to Ponder This Week

Introduction

(Luke 1:26-56)

The coming of the Messiah (Christ) was in accordance with Old Testament prophecies: By v______ birth, a descendant of D_____, and would be preceded by a F_____ who would prepare the way for Him.

Jesus' birth took place . . .

(Luke 2:1-20)

- In a busy time in a c_____ place
- In a h_____ and quiet manner; in unexpected and uncomfortable circumstances
- In r_____ time, in what seemed like any other day
- In God's time, in what was according to His p_____ timing (part of HIStory)
- For _____ people to bring them great joy of s_____ – He is our Savior, Christ the Lord! He came in such an unassuming and approachable manner.
- For God's glory to bring p_____ to men with whom He is pleased – He is pleased with those who humbly place their trust in Him (faith in Jesus).
- So that He may be f_____ by us – and ultimately find our way to the Heavenly Father (John 14:6)
- So that we may w_____ Him, and make Him known to others!

Based on Luke 2:1-7, why did Joseph and Mary have to go to Bethlehem? How do you think that journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem was like for an expectant mother and a concerned husband? How did God comfort them? How does God bring comfort and peace to us in our challenges in life?

Based on Luke 2:8-14, how do you think the shepherds felt in hearing the good news given to them by the angels? What was the good news that the angels proclaimed? What good news has God given to us through His Word? Take time to thank God for His good news to us.

Based on Luke 2:15-20, what did the shepherds do after their encounter with the angels? Why was this important for them? Why was this important for Mary and Joseph? What do we learn from the shepherds' example? How can we honor Jesus as Savior and Lord?

Next Sunday is our Sharing Sunday. It is also our last Sunday of this year. Prayerfully read Psalm 118:19-29, and consider how God has shown His lovingkindness to you this year.