



Joy To The World!

Series: Advent, #3

Text: Luke 2:8-20

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Theme: **Christ Replaces Fear With Joy.**

The Starting Point To Joy.

1. The foundation: God's truth.
(9-14; see also Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 4:7, 16:11; Ecclesiastes 2:26; Jeremiah 15:16; John 15:11, 16:24, 33, 17:13; Galatians 5:22; 1 John 1:4; Hebrews 12:2 & James 1:2-4)
2. The availability: to all. (8, 10; see also Romans 12:12; Philippians 4:4)

The Simple Process To Joy.

1. Accepting God's message of joy. (15; see also John 15:11; 16:24; Romans 15:13)
2. Acting on God's message of joy.
(16; see also Deuteronomy 28:25-34; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-9)

The Sparkling Presence Of Joy.

1. Overflowing with praise to God. (20; see also 1 Chronicles 16:25-34; Psalm 33:1, 47:1)
2. Proclaiming the good news to others. (17-18; Acts 1:8)

joy • n. Biblical joy, true joy is God's gift of steadfast delightful certainty.

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Christmas is getting closer! With all the things going on and coming up, are you joyful? Review the definition of Biblical joy (at the bottom of the sermon outline). Make a list of things or situations that could dampen or drown your joy in the next ten days. Commit to focusing on true joy this week so that does not happen.

Tuesday. The starting point to experiencing God's gift of steadfast delightful certainty is God's truth—truth about who He is, ourselves and about His joy. As you review the Biblical references listed on the outline under God's truth, what do they tell you about God's joy and how it is different from the prevalent ideas about joy? How does your concept and experience of joy line up with this truth?

Wednesday. The *simple process to joy* includes accepting and then acting on God's message of joy as the shepherds did (verses 15-16; review the other references listed as well). When you came to faith in Christ you accepted and acted on this. What are you doing in this Christmas season to give others an opportunity to receive God's joy?

Thursday. God's gift of joy is designed to sparkle within and out from you. The shepherds' example is clear as they were overflowing with joy (verse 20) and proclaiming the message to others (verses 17-18). Go back to any notes you made on Tuesday about your concept and experience of God's joy. As you stay grounded in this truth, God's joy *will* sparkle within and out from you.

Friday – Saturday. Sunday we plan to look at our fourth Advent theme, *Love*.