

# From the Family Room

**Creekwood Church of Christ  
Mobile, AL**

23 December, 2018

## ***WISHING YOU GREAT JOY!***

***But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! Listen, I bring you good news of GREAT JOY which is for all the people. This very day, in David's town, a Saviour has been born for you. He is Christ, the Lord."***

Luke 2:10-11

The shepherds must have had good hearts. They were with a resting flock of sheep in the pastures at night. They may have had a small campfire burning while they were laid back resting and probably telling funny sheep stories. Then suddenly the Glory of God shone around them and the angel of the Lord stood before them. Startled is an insufficient word to describe the mind set of the shepherds! The angel told them to not be frightened. The shepherds were told about good news that would bring *GREAT JOY*. That good news and the *GREAT JOY* were from the fact that the Savior had been born in Bethlehem. Then if that was not enough, a host of angels appeared in the sky praising God. Bible scholars tell us that "host" means thousands of angels. I wish we could see the look on the face of the shepherds! I wish I could have seen the angels! The shepherds apparently did not have a heart attack as a result of all of this excitement. They went as quickly as they could to find Jesus. They found *GREAT JOY*.

***When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with GREAT JOY. After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*** Matthew 2:10-11

The shepherds were not the only people to seek *GREAT JOY* in Jesus. When the magi followed the star and found Jesus the King, they rejoiced with *GREAT JOY*. They gave Him valuable gifts and worshipped Him.

***The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." And they left the tomb quickly with fear and GREAT JOY and ran to report it to His disciples.*** Matthew 28:5-8

People did not just find *GREAT JOY* at the birth of Jesus. The women who came to the tomb of Jesus on Sunday morning found *GREAT JOY* in His resurrection. Just like the shepherds, they ran quickly with fear and *GREAT JOY* to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive.

***While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with GREAT JOY, and were continually in the temple praising God.*** Luke 24:51-53

The disciples of Jesus found *GREAT JOY* in the fact that the King returned to heaven and now rules with power. *GREAT JOY* was known both when Jesus came to Earth and when Jesus returned to heaven.

Does it bring us *GREAT JOY* that God came to Earth in person? Does it bring us *GREAT JOY* that Jesus is the King to rule our lives for our good? Or do we want a Savior but not a King? Does it bring us *GREAT JOY* that Jesus lives in Christians by faith today? Does it cause us *GREAT JOY* and alleviate stress and anxiety to know that Jesus is alive today and is in control? Does the fact of our salvation bring us *GREAT JOY*? Are we anxious to tell others about this good news that brings us *GREAT JOY*?

We pray that our families at Creekwood will discover *GREAT JOY* in Jesus during this holiday season. We pray that all of our families will view life through the lens of *GREAT JOY* found in Christ. We pray that our *GREAT JOY* will overflow as we live in Christ's love.

***RICKY***