

Sermon Study Guide – December 24th, 2017:

Today's Focus – "All Who Heard It Were Amazed"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ Where do you see the word “amazing” used around you? When have you said that you’re “amazed”? Is this true amazement?
- ◆ The dictionary defines “amazed” as “startlingly impressed”. What would it take for all people truly to be amazed?

2) Today's Message: Luke 2:8-20

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



Feel free to answer the following questions to help you follow the sermon...

1. How'd the shepherds *first* feel when confronted by angels? Why?

2. This feeling quickly changed to one of amazement! What made that possible, in regards to...
 - ⇒ *The messenger(s)?*

 - ⇒ *The message?*

3. What was it about the *shepherds* that made them so amazed? What can we learn so that we also are *truly* amazed by Christmas?

4. Those who first heard this message were not only amazed; their lives changed! How was that so for...
 - ⇒ *Elizabeth?*

 - ⇒ *The Shepherds?*

 - ⇒ *Mary?*

4) Taking it Home:

Consider the following as you go about your week:

- ◆ How well do you celebrate Christmas... that is, not the secular holiday, but the religious holiday? Are there preparations you can make in the future to get more amazement out of Christmas? How can you differentiate it from the Christmas we see in the world around us?
- ◆ What changed for the shepherds after the first Christmas, and what can we learn from it? What didn't change, and what can we learn from that?

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: review Luke 1:26-56, 2:1-7

Tuesday: John 1:1-17

Wednesday: Psalm 96

Thursday: Micah 5:1-9

Friday: Matthew 2:1-12

Saturday: review Luke 2:8-20