

## Christmas Joy:

### Read: Luke 2:8-11

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

1. What does this world think when they hear the term, “Joy to the World”?

Most people today think of joy as happiness. They think of it as self gratification.

2. What do you think of when you hear the term, “Joy to the World”?

Hopefully, we think of Jesus, our Savior coming to us in our greatest time of need and lifting us out of the pit of sin. Hopefully, when we think of Joy we think of the moment we were saved. The moment we came to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

3. What do you think the Biblical meaning of great joy (verse 10) that the angles brought to the shepherds that first Christmas?

The angels were bringing good news of great joy because at that very moment, God was coming to man to redeem us and to make a way for us to be called children of God. That is a source of joy to the world. That a world once separated from God because of sin, now has a bridge to cross over to His Kingdom.

Read: Luke 2:12-20

4. What was the active response of the Shepherds to the message of joy?

The Shepherds responded first by believing the message, second by going to the source of salvation (Jesus), third by telling everyone about what they knew, and finally by giving God the glory and worshipping Him.

Read: Matthew 2:1-12

5. Notice from the reading the account of the Magi that the word “overjoyed” found in Matthew 2:10, is the same word (chara) used in Luke 2:10 as joy. Based on what you have read in this passage from Matthew what was the object of the Magi’s joy?

The object was the promise, the Messiah which God had promised and so they were overjoyed by the star because it was a sign from God.

6. What was their active response to the object of their joy?

They responded in worship. They brought gifts and they bowed in worship.

7. What can you learn from the Shepherds and the Magi and how should you respond?

Our response to the birth of Jesus should be filled with joy and demonstrated in our willingness to worship Him. We should desire to bow before Him and give Him all the glory. And we should be motivated to give gifts to Him and to share the great joy we have received with others.

### **This Weeks Daily Devotional Christmas Reading**

Day 1 – Matthew 1:1-17

Day 2 – Matthew 1:18-24

Day 3 – Matthew 2:1-12

Day 4 – Matthew 2:13-18

Day 5 – Matthew 2:19-23