

## Bible Class Notes – Christmas 2020

### *The Joy of Knowing Christ as Our Saviour.*

We read about the promise of the Saviour, Who came, died, rose again, and ascended.

***“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and He shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*** Isaiah 9v6

Joy is a Christian experience of the soul, and is a ‘Fruit of the Spirit’, Galatians 5 v22. Read the set readings and note who had this joy – Mary and Joseph, The shepherds, Elisabeth, Zacharias, The Wise Men, The Apostles and followers who witnessed the Lord’s Crucifixion, His resurrection and ascension. Even Christ, anticipating His death to save sinners, had joy in His heart. So too must all who love the Lord Jesus as Saviour – the peace experienced over sin forgiven fills their soul with joy.

#### A Selection of Lovely Advent Hymns: (Look them up in our church hymn book)

- 220 Hark! The glad sound the Saviour comes, The Saviour promised long.
- 229 Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the new born King!
- 222 Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth.
- 227 O, Come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant.
- 230 Thou! Who wast rich beyond all splendour, All for love’s sake becomest poor.

#### A Selection of Lovely Easter Hymns: (Look them up in our church hymn book)

- 246 ‘Man of Sorrows’, What a name for the Son of God who came!
- 243 When I survey the wondrous Cross, on which the Prince of Glory died.
- 254 My song is love unknown, my Saviour’s love to me.
- 260 Give me a sight, O Saviour of Thy wondrous love to me.
- 268 ‘Christ the Lord is risen today!’ Sons of men and angels say.
- 278 Jesus lives! Thy terrors now can no longer, Death appal us.

## Bible Readings for the next two weeks, December 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2020

*(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)*

### Week 1 – A Saviour Promised, and the Joy of that Promise Fulfilled

Long before the Lord Jesus was born, the Old Testament prophets spoke of His coming. Micah 5v2 tells us He would be born in Bethlehem. Isaiah tells us – He would be born of a virgin (7 v14), in Isaiah 9 v6 he informs us of His wonderful names, and in Isaiah 40 - God’s people were told how to prepare for His coming. In the New Testament, The Gospels record details of His birth, the faithfulness and joy of Mary and Joseph, of those who looked for His appearing, and how they all worshipped Him with joy in their hearts. They all, (including Mary), joyfully acknowledged that He was Emmanuel, ‘God with us’, the promised Saviour of lost sinners. Do you have the joy of personally knowing The Saviour, that your sins are forgiven bringing eternal peace with God?

Day	Bible Reading for Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	Tick When Read
Sunday	Isaiah 9 v1-7, Micah 5 v2 (Prophecy)	
Monday	Isaiah 40 v1-18 (Preparing for His coming)	
Tuesday	Matthew 1 v17-25, Isaiah 7 v14 (Joseph told)	
Wednesday	Luke 1 v26-38 (Mary told of Christ’s birth)	
Thursday	Luke 1 v39-56 (John The Baptist)	
Friday	Luke 1 v57-80 (Elizabeth and Zachariah rejoice)	
Saturday	Luke 2 v1-20 (The Shepherds worship)	

### Week 2 – More of the Joy of the Promised Saviour Fulfilled

The Wise Men worship Christ as a child. Christ is preserved from Herod. At about 30 years of age, Christ begins His 3 year ministry, anticipating the ‘Joy set before Him to die to save sinners’ (Hebrews 12 v2). We note some significant events in Christ’s sinless life - His intercessory prayer to The Father for His Elect People (John 17), His substitutionary death on Calvary, His resurrection on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, His ascension into Heaven where He now intercedes for His People, and the Promise of His Return in Judgement at the end of time. Believers, who have repented, knowing that their sins are forgiven, have great joy and peace with God, and will experience eternal joy in Heaven.

Day	Bible Reading for Dec 30 <sup>th</sup> – Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>	Tick When Read
Sunday	Matthew 2 v1-23 (The Wise Men worship)	
Monday	John 17 v1-28 (Christ’s intercessory prayer)	
Tuesday	Luke 23 v33-47, Hebrews 12 v2 (Christ on Calvary)	
Wednesday	Matthew 27 v35-51 (Christ on Calvary)	
Thursday	Matthew 28 v1-10 (Christ’s resurrection)	
Friday	Matthew 28 v18-20, Acts 2 v38-47 (Gospel Preached)	
Saturday	Acts 1 v1-14 (Christ’s Ascension) Hebrews 9 v26-28 (Christ’s Return in Judgement)	

*The Apostle Paul wrote, ‘Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God’.*