**2022 12 18 Notes of Bible/College Class Message**

**How to have a truly Happy Christmas.**

Can you fill in the blanks?

Can you put words before and after Christmas.

Suggestions: -

Before - Merry, Happy, Joyous, White, Father

After - Day, Eve, Cheer, Joy, Dinner, Tree, Lights, Market, Fare/Fair, Shopping, Jumper, Presents, Party Advert, Lights, Show/Play, Carol, Card. Holiday, Film, Music, No 1. Chocolate, Treat, Turkey, Pudding, Cake, Candle, Time.

Many people put a lot of effort into planning ahead with expectation for a Merry Christmas.

They will do lots of silly things in order to be 'merry'.

**But none of these are to do with Christmas.**

Nothing to do with the Lord Jesus Christ.

People may protest that we should not associate religion with Christmas.

They do not want to think seriously of God and His love towards sinful people.

**The first Christmas** was the birthday of the Lord Jesus Christ as a human baby.

He always is God but came as Immanuel - God with us.

But the things men do will soon stop.

The merry making will soon be over and stop.

Holidays finished. Back to normal.

This is the trouble with a worldly 'Merry' Christmas.

A short time of merriment but no true lasting happiness.

**But you can have a truly happy Christmas.**

Asda Supermarket published, 'How to have a Perfect Christmas.'

But this is a commercial view, a worldly view.

'Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die' is the common view.

**We read in the Bible of many people who had a deep and lasting joy.**

**A spiritual Joy.**

We do not know the names of the shepherds.

But God sent a message to them and to all of us.

**1. A message of, joy from Heaven.**

The shepherds were afraid of the bright light.

They were aware of God's Holiness shining around them.

We should be afraid too. God is a holy Judge.

He hates our sin but loves us.

Had God come in Judgement?

No, the message on this night was not of judgement.

It was a gracious, kind, loving message of great joy.

Sent to these poor but spiritually minded men.

**The Gospel is sent to all people.**

Jew and Gentile. You and me.

**2**

**A Saviour had come Who is Christ the Lord.**

Names given by the prophet Isaiah - Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

We must look in God's Word, The Bible, to find true peace, joy, and everlasting happiness.

**2. The shepherds immediately went to find the Saviour.**

A. They left their sheep.

B. They went now, without delay. Immediately.

C. They went with haste and determination.

Searching every stable in Bethlehem until they found where Christ was.

We must not allow anything to distract us from seeking the Saviour.

**Beware, the world has many attractions.**

Some are very sinful and obviously harmful, whilst others are just stealing our time and energy.

Let us copy the shepherds and do it now.

**Are you any nearer to finding Him than you were a year ago?**

Many have died during the year.

Too late. Their opportunity gone for ever.

Maybe they meant to come but put it off until it was too late.

**So come now.** Do not leave it until it is too late for you.

**Others have lost interest,** not seeking any more.

Maybe it was too hard. Maybe they were not earnest enough.

Distracted by the lure of this world.

**Have you lost interest?**

Other things may seem more important.

But what is more important than knowing the peace of sins forgiven and God's promise of eternal joy?

You must come as the shepherds did, with haste.

Treat the situation as urgent.

Mary and Joseph moved to a house and if the shepherds had come the next day they would have missed worshipping the Lord.

**So, what must we do?**

We must come to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The shepherds found Mary, and Joseph in the stable, and Christ lying in the manger just as they were told by the angel.

We must view Him in Human form as a perfect man.

We cannot really see His Godhead. God is too holy to see while we have our sin.

We must also see Him 33 years later, on the Cross, dying to save His People.

Taking the punishment for their sin.

***“My God My God why hast Thou forsaken Me?”*** was His cry as He bore the wrath of His Father for the sin of all who will call upon Him in repentance and faith.

**The shepherds told everyone with joy in their hearts.**

They had seen and worshipped the Saviour.

Only joy and peace can come to our souls when we trust fully in the Lord as our Saviour.

**3**

**This will make Christmas a truly happy Christmas for you.**

But the joy does not stop here.

The joy of salvation continues with us every day until we die, when the true believer will enter eternal joy in Heaven.

To worship Christ as God for ever.

**Is this your destiny?**

**It can be.**

**Do not put up with short term merriment.**

**The soul needs the peace and joy of the Lord.**

**Come, seek the Lord today and make this a truly happy Christmas.**