

SERMON NOTES The Gift of Good News – December 22nd– Pastor Peter

Luke 2:25-32 "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests."

1. The Good News of His Glory

Glory surrounds the solo angel and the angel crowd shouts 'glory to God.' And there's a reason. The birth of the Saviour is the most powerful revelation of the glory of God.

Jesus is the pinnacle, Jesus is the peak, Jesus is the apex of God's self-revelation.

John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

1. Why do you
think the Angels
declared to give
the Glory to God?
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2. Can anyone
handle the weight
of Glory besides
God?
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3. What does it
mean to glory
God?

These angels give glory to God. And that's what we want to do. We want to give glory to God.

Because God and God alone is worthy of all glory and honour and praise.

Isa. 42:8 "I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give My glory to anyone else, nor share My praise with carved idols."

Glory belongs exclusively to God.

Psa. 115:1 "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name goes all the glory for Your unfailing love and faithfulness."

So how can the angels give God glory and how can we?

We're A Reflection

To glorify God means we acknowledge His greatness and we reflect that greatness by giving Him honour and worship and praise.

God's glory is part of His nature, and we give Him glory by reflecting that glory back to Him.

Change the Atmosphere

The angels change the atmosphere.

4.	How	do	we
cha	nge th	ıe	
atm	osphe	ere	?

5.	What do the
ang	gels mean by
pea	ace on earth?

On the day the Saviour is born, when the angels burst in and give glory to God, they're bringing the atmosphere of heaven to earth.

Rev. 7:11,12 "And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. They sang, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Worship is the soundtrack of heaven. Worship is the atmosphere of eternity.

The most valuable part of Heaven, Jesus, the centerpiece of heaven's culture, comes down to this planet.

John 1:14 "So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

Heaven's treasure becomes a child of the earth and the Saviour changes it all.

2. The Good News of Peace

The angels say, 'Peace on Earth'.

6.	How can we
hav	e peace with
Go	d?

7.	F	low	ha	ve	We	•
be	en	ma	de	rig	ht	in
G	od'	s sid	h	·? -		

Rom. 8:21,22 "The creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."

Creation itself groans under the crushing weight of the sin principle.

Creation waits in anticipation for the time when sin, violence, disease and death are gone and creation is restored to what God originally intends.

The angels predict that we can have peace with God and be made whole in our relationship with the one who Created us.

Rom. 5:1 "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."

And once peace with God exists we can then tap into the peace of God.

Phil. 4:6,7 "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

8.	What is the
dif	fference
be	tween favour
an	d favouritism?

9.	Who	is	God's
fav	ourit/	e?	

10.	How	do	we
achi	eve G	od'	S
favo	ur?		

Jesus Himself says,	QUESTIONS:
Matt. 6:25 "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life - whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear."	
The angels say that there's 'peace on earth'.	
3. The Good News of His Favour	
The angels say, 'on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.'	
But what does that actually mean?	
Gabriel appears to Mary, 9 months before this day and he tells her she's expecting the Saviour.	
Luke 1:28 "Greetings favoured woman! The Lord is with you."	
When we think of favour we often think of favouritism.	
In Acts 10 Peter speaks to Cornelius and his family and before he starts his message here's what he says.	
Acts 10:34 "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism."	
God doesn't favour one person over another. God doesn't love one person more than another.	

The word translated 'favour' is a noun not	a
verb. 'Favour' is an attitude of approval or	
goodwill.	

Because the stain of sin has been washed away by Christ's blood, God's favour, God's approval, God's goodwill, God's pleasure now rests on us.

He looks at us through the blood of Christ and He sees us as holy, He sees us as righteous, He sees us as pure, He sees us as saints.

Putting it all together (Application)

The glory is his, because only he can 1. handle it. The Angels tell the shepherds to give the glory to God in heaven. It's an instruction, not a suggestion. Through the bible we can see this instruction again and again. God himself says he doesn't share his glory with anyone. But why? Is God obsessed with having all the glory only for himself? No. The glory can only be his because he only has the strength to take on the weight that receiving glory entails. Managing the worship and glory of others is something we can't surely handle. Many of those that are in the public eye, for example, that have followers and in some cases worshippers sooner than later crumble until the weight of being an example for others. The glory is his, because only he deserves it and because only, he can handle it.

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2. We need peace, with God. The creation has	
been paying the price of men's disobedience	
since the time of the garden of Eden. Creation	
won't stop paying the price until Jesus comes	
back and sets everything straight. In the meantime, we are not exempt from the	
consequence of sin because of it we are	
separated from God, in enmity with him. We	
need to come to peace with him. And the only	
way to do it is through Jesus Christ.	
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3. His Favour is good but God doesn't have	
favourites. But it does favour those who love	
him and have been washed cleaned by the blood	
of Jesus. Religion teaches that we are all	
children of God. But the bible teaches us that we	
are creation of God and become his children	
when we accept his son Jesus Christ. God doesn't have favourites among his children, he	
favours them all equally and loves them all	
equally. Those who have become his children	
(John 1: 12-13), shall look after his favour	
everyday of their lives.	
ACTION STEPS:	