



Love So Amazing
at
Christmas



Lu. 2:8-14

“Love So Amazing For our Fulfillment – The Implementation”

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, **behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**



11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Lu. 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



Two weeks ago we began a series entitled, *“Love So Amazing at Christmas.”* The last couple of weeks we have considered the following:

“Love So Amazing for our Faith – The Incarnation”

“Love So Amazing For our Future – The Inspiration”

This morning, we will apply those two messages to incorporate the principles into our lives...

*“Love So Amazing For our Fulfillment –
The Implementation”*

In Lu. 2:10, the angel announced that he was going to “...bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, **behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**

Those “good tidings of great joy” included the following:

I. THE INCARNATION, v. 11

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

A. The Fact of Fulfillment, Mic. 5:2

B. The Focus of Faith – Christ the Lord.

“Love So Amazing for our Faith – The Incarnation”

II. THE LOCATION, v. 12

Luke 2:12 And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

A. The Expectation – “...a sign unto you...”

B. The Exactness – “...the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

III. THE PROCLAMATION, v. 13

Luke 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

- A. The Multitude “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude...”
- B. The Magnificence – “...the heavenly host praising God...”

IV. THE GLORIFICATION

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

A. The Preeminence – “Glory to God in the highest...”

B. The Proclamation – “...on earth peace, good will toward men.”

❖ Upward – “Glory to God...”

❖ Inward – “...on earth peace...”

- The application of Scriptural principles in the believer's life will provide the fulfillment of peace.

❖ Outward – “...good will toward men.”

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

Phil. 2:13 For **it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

❖ A believer must express faith outwardly to others as a representative of Christ.

V. THE APPLICATION

A. The Test, 2:15-16

Luke 2:15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, **Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.**

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

❖ Real truth will withstand investigation by honest inquirers.

❖ Throughout the Scriptures, the Lord has used incidents to “prove” His children.

Deut. 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, *and* **to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart**, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Jn. 6:6 And **this he said to prove him**: for he himself knew what he would do.

Rom. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

2 Cor. 8:8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and **to prove the sincerity of your love.**

2 Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; **prove your own selves.** Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

1 Thess. 5:21 **Prove all things**; hold fast that which is good.

❖ For the past few decades popular Christianity has been spawning a new generation of *plastic* Christians—those whose belief in Jesus amounts to nothing more than a “get-out-of-hell-free card.” As David Kupelian notes in his groundbreaking book *The Marketing of Evil*, “Christianity has been *dumbed down* into a bumper-sticker religion.... This *dumbed-down* version of Christianity doesn’t require honest introspection or courage or self-denial or patience.

<https://www.cbcb.org/booklets/why-christianity-has-failed-in-america/why-christianity-has-failed-in-america.html>

B. The Testimony, 2:17-18

Luke 2:17 And **when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad** the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And **all they that heard *it* wondered** at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

- ❖ The shepherds were living out their simple lifestyles when an extraordinary event interrupted them forever.

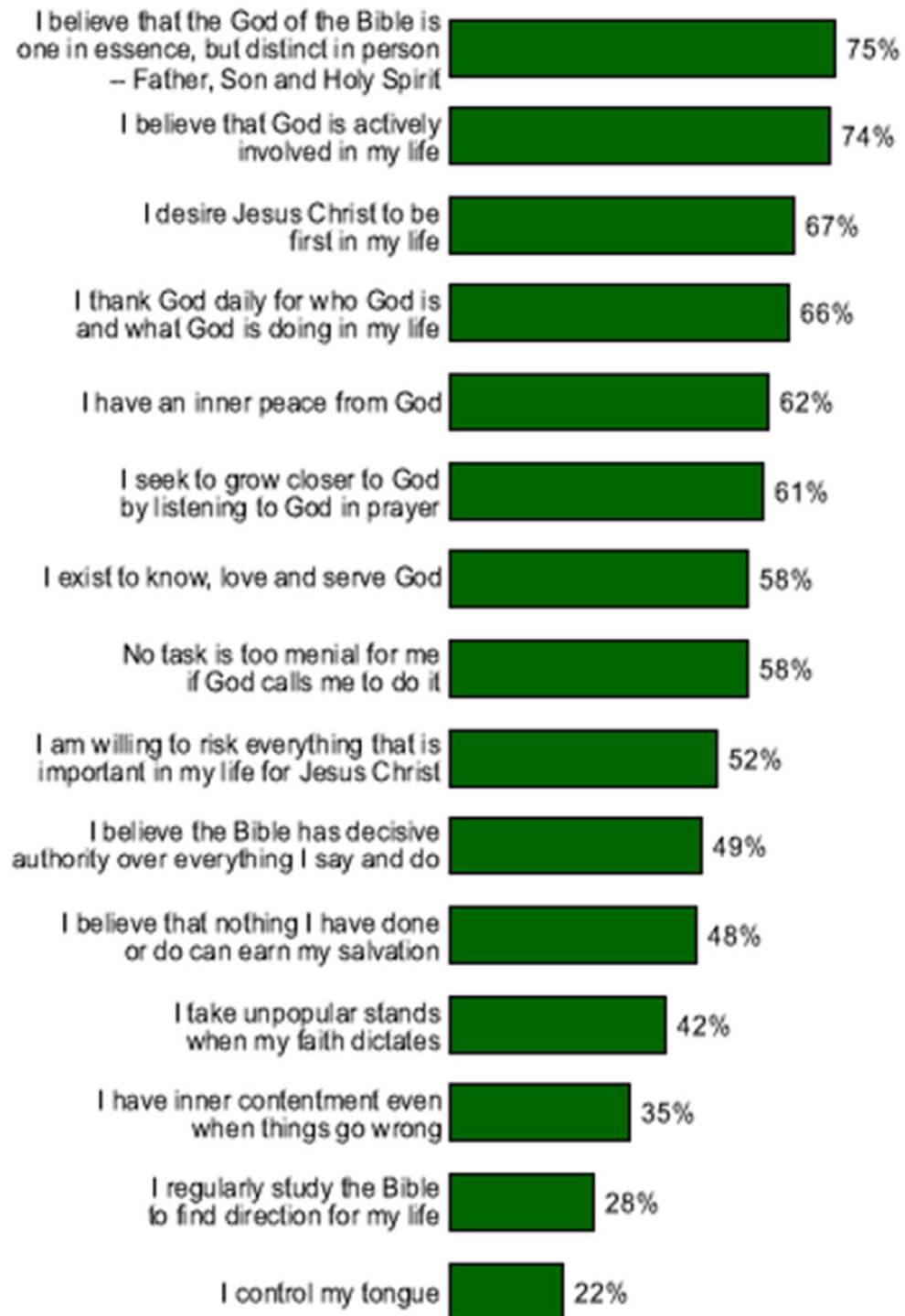
- ❖ They were confronted with spiritual truth, investigated it, then applied the truth to their lives, as they “made known abroad” the “good tidings of great joy.”
- ❖ They continued being shepherds, but shepherds with a greater reason for living.
- ❖ Believers, today, who have discovered this “Love So Amazing,” should find the effect of knowing Christ is the complete fulfillment of life.
- ❖ If knowing Christ is such a complete fulfillment, it should be experienced through the implementation of Biblical principles in obedience to Christ and His commands.

“Love So Amazing For our Fulfillment – The Implementation”

- ❖ The shepherds were “Living Out Their Faith.”
- ❖ In an article by George Gallup, Jr., a survey was taken among professing Christians:

How Are American Christians Living Their Faith?
BY GEORGE H. GALLUP JR.

% saying "applies completely"



❖ As truth affected the shepherds' lives, how does truth affect your life?

Chuck Baldwin, an outspoken Christian minister and author, has long lamented Christianity's failure to be *relevant* to modern life. Calling today's mainstream church "the opiate of entertainment and feel-good-ism," he writes that when it comes to influencing societal conditions, culture and the political philosophy of the nation, "America's churches are the largest block of irrelevant, impotent and insignificant institutions in the entire country."

In his book *Your Jesus Is Too Safe*, Jared Wilson notes that “in American culture, it has often become hard to distinguish between the body of Christ and the culture of society.”

If Christians are what they *claim* to be, adds Barna, “their lives should be noticeably and compellingly different from the norm.”

David Kinnaman has researched this phenomenon for decades. In his book *unChristian*, he writes about the palpable “lifestyle gap” between what Christians profess to believe and how they actually live. Kinnaman argues that Christianity in America has a well-deserved *hypocritical* image. “Our lives don’t match our beliefs. In many ways, our lifestyles and perspectives are no different from those of anyone around us.”

As David Kupelian notes in his groundbreaking book *The Marketing of Evil*, “Christianity has been *dumbed down* into a bumper-sticker religion.... This *dumbed-down* version of Christianity doesn’t require honest introspection or courage or self-denial or patience.

An extreme example of “accommodation” can be seen in the recent development of “churches” that offer enticements such as free *beer* or *cigars*—to be enjoyed *during services*, of course.

<https://www.cbcbg.org/booklets/why-christianity-has-failed-in-america/why-christianity-has-failed-in-america.html>

Summary

- ❖ The shepherds were living out their simple lifestyles when an extraordinary event interrupted them forever.
- ❖ They were confronted with spiritual truth, investigated it, then applied the truth to their lives, as they “made known abroad” the “good tidings of great joy.”
- ❖ They continued being shepherds, but shepherds with a greater reason for living.

- ❖ Believers, today, who have discovered this “Love So Amazing,” should find the effect of knowing Christ is the complete fulfillment of life.
- ❖ If knowing Christ is such a complete fulfillment, it should be experienced through the implementation of Biblical principles in obedience to Christ and His commands.

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- ❖ The shepherds were “Living Out Their Faith.”

Conclusion

Col. 3:12 **Put on therefore, as the elect of God**, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*.

14 And **above all these things put on charity**, which is the bond of perfectness.

15 And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts**, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.