The Songs of Christmas
Sunday, December 18, 2016

Luke 2:8-20

Introduction
Luke continues to describe the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. We have seen from Luke 1 the story of Elizabeth, Mary's Song and last week Zechariah's prophetic song concerning his son John and Jesus the coming Messiah.

"The birth of Jesus is the coming of salvation, peace and praise for all who put their trust in Him."

I.   Shepherds
God chose shepherds to announce the birth of Christ, not the political or religious leaders of the day but shepherds.

These shepherds are a picture of the lowly and humble people who respond to God's message. The first message of the gospel came to 'sinners.'

First, there is 'good news.'
Angels announce to shepherds, *"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."*

Gospel message for all people!

Second, there is 'great joy.'
"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

This is a personal message 'unto you'

Our Savior
Our Christ (Messiah)
Our Lord

II.   Army of Angels (v.13,14)
The army of angels sing: *"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased."*

Luke gives us a rare picture of heavenly praise. The shepherds see the army of angels praising God.

This announcement of peace on earth is not a Pax Romana, brought about by Roman decree. This peace is the transcendent peace that brings an end to the conflict between man and God.

To those who hear the message of the coming of the Messiah, the war is over.

Peace has become incarnated in the Prince of Peace, who came to reconcile us with God.

Romans 5:1 – *"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

"The angelic praise contains two basic ideas: 1) the heavens rejoice and praise God for salvation's outworking and 2) the people to whom God draws near through Jesus will experience the harmony and benefits that God bestows on his own." D. Bock

III.   Conclusion