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**Sermon: *“The Birth of Jesus: Confidence, Comfort and Joy”***

**Scripture: Luke 2:1-21**

Pastor Stephen Schultze

Sunday, December 10, 2017

**Introduction: What is Luke’s purpose in writing his account?**

To provide **confidence in one’s belief in Christ AND that, in believing, you might find true comfort and joy!** (Luke 1:1-4; 24:50-53)

**In order to explain the WHEN, WHERE and WHY of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem, Luke provides…**

* **The political setting. (v. 1-2)**
* **The ancestral background. (v. 3-5)**
  + ***Scriptures:*** 1 Samuel 17:15; 16:1-13; Ruth 1:1-2; 2:1,4; Micah 5:2-5)
* **The Birth Account. (v. 6-7)**

**Luke Highlights Three Significant Accounts Surrounding Christ’s Birth:**

1. **A Royal Announcement of the Angels (v. 8-14)**

**What did they proclaim that contained such good news of great joy?**

**“A Savior”--**A **deliverer**.

***Scriptures:*** Isaiah 43:11-12; 45:21; 49:26

**“who is Christ”** – The Savior is further introduced as the **Messiah**, the **anointed one**.

**“the Lord”**: A **king** who would reign eternally!

1. **A Focused Search for the Babe (v. 15-16)**

The sign given by the angels seems to address **timing & location.**

1. **A Fitting Reaction to the Messiah (v. 17-20)**
2. **The Reaction of the Witnesses:** Those who heard the report of the shepherds were moved in **amazement**. (v. 18)

* ***Scriptures:*** Mark 1:22, 27; 2:12; 6:51; 15:5; Luke 2:47

**Wonder without belief falls short of worship.**

1. **The Mother:** Maryresponded by wisely **meditating** on these events in her heart. (v. 19; 1:46-49)
2. **The Shepherds:** They fittingly responded in exuberant **worship**. (v. 20)

* Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-3; John 20:29

**Conclusion:** We are not called to simply stop and wonder, but like the shepherds, we are to hear, believe and return to our lives, **transformed** by life-changing **worship** of Jesus.

* ***Scripture:*** Titus 2:11-14

**For further study, please utilize “The Christmas Story” devotional**

**available for download in the links below the audio link**

**for this sermon at www.hscaudio.org.**