



TOPIC Joy of the World

SPEAKER Elder Edric Sng

THEME Share the Gospel

DATE 23 & 24 Dec 2017

MESSAGE SUMMARY

JESUS IS THE JOY OF THE WORLD

The very first Christmas detailed in Luke 2:8-20 is a stark contrast to how we view Christmas today. However, "Christ" remains the first syllable in the word "Christmas" and people from around the world still view this season as one filled with joy. As Elder Edric tells us to reflect on how the year 2017 has been for us based on the level of joy we have felt in the year, he addresses his sermon to two groups of people – the joyful and the joyless.

For those whose level of joy trends below the average in the joy quotient, there is good news of great joy. To those who are upbeat, optimistic and grateful, today's message tells us what to do with this overflowing joy.

WHY THE JOY?

1) A Change of Posture

In Luke 2:9-11, when the angel of the Lord suddenly stood before the shepherds and the glory of the Lord shone around them, they were greatly afraid. This sense of fear was dissipated when the angel went on to assure them, *"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*

Num 24:17 "A star shall come out of Jacob."

Isa 9:6-7 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Based on their knowledge of the old testament, these shepherds knew that the baby born is a fulfilment of prophesy. *Luke 2:15-16 ""Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste."*

Like the immense delight of babies born with congenital deficiency who were able to see their parents' faces for the first time after wearing corrective glasses, such was the pure joy of the shepherds when they saw baby Jesus - their God – face to face! **There was a shift in their posture, from one which was utterly afraid to one of unbridled amazement.**

2) A Change of Position

They were once shepherds who were pretty out of touch with the world and working away from home. From a position of being outside, they were now inside the enclosed space looking at the face of baby Jesus. There was a change in their position.

Rom 3:23 "For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God."

All of us are born in sin as descendants of Adam and Eve. Sin includes that which rage in our hearts and minds on the inside and not merely our actions visible to others. Unholiness cannot come into the presence of our Holy God for Rom 6:23 says, "*The wages of sin is death.*"

Rom 5:8 "God demonstrates His love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Jesus is the most wonderful gift from our Heavenly Father. *Rom 10:13 "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* **Through Him, the world has hope through a change in our position in God. For those who feel joyless, when we think there is a void in our lives, Jesus fills this gap.**

3) A Change in Purpose

Luke 2:17-18 "Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marvelled at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

Upon seeing baby Jesus, the shepherds burst out telling everyone what they had seen. **They had experienced a change in purpose from drowning in darkness to drawing people to the Light. For those joyful ones whose lives are full of blessings from the Lord, Elder Edric exhorts us to be like the shepherds – to do the work of an evangelist to repeat the sounding joy of the good news of the gospel to people around us.**

Conclusion

Jesus is God's most wonderful gift to us. Christ, our Saviour King was "made like us, fully human in every way" (Heb 2:17-18) and yet led a sinless life. He knows our every temptation, every difficulty and every need. Compelled by His love for us, He died on the cross to pay the price for our sins so that we need not be slaves to sin anymore. As such, Jesus is truly the joy of the world.

QUESTIONS

1. Rate your 2017 on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being joyless and 10 being joyful).

2. What does this “good news of great joy” mean to you personally?

3. How do you intend to proclaim this good news to your spheres of influence?