

December 11-12, 2021

Title: Why Christmas Pt 2, "Ponder, Praise and Proclaim the Savior" – Luke 2:1-20

Big Idea: Why Christmas? Ponder, Praise and Proclaim the Savior!

What in the message stood out to you?

Read Luke 2:1-20. What questions do you have?

1. God knows "why," and the "why" is worth it.

Read Luke 2:1-7 again. How did God work His sovereign plan through Caesar Augustus? (see Micah 5:2) Why is this helpful for us to know?

Have you ever witnessed God's hand shaping His plan by using nonbelievers? Explain. How does this affect the way you view your relationships with both believers and nonbelievers?

Why were Joseph and Mary careful to obey the civil authorities? Should we obey the civil authorities today? (see Romans 13:1-7) Under what circumstances should we not obey them? (see Acts 5:27-29 and 1 Cor. 4:1-5)

Read Isaiah 46:9-11. What is a difficult circumstance you are currently facing in your life? How should this passage affect the way you view this circumstance and God's role in it?

2. Jesus is Savior, Christ and Lord

Read Luke 2:8-14. The angel announced "peace" (2:14) to people on earth. What did he mean by "peace"?

Read Hebrews 1:14 and Hebrews 13:2. What is the role of angels in our lives? Do you think you have ever entertained or been served by an angel? Share the story.

What does it mean that Jesus is Savior? What does He save us from? (see Matthew 1:21).

What does it mean that Jesus is Christ and Lord?

Why was the first announcement of the Messiah's birth given to lowly shepherds? In what way are the shepherds good examples for us today?

Why is "fear not" one of the key themes of the Christmas story?

### 3. Ponder, Praise and Proclaim the Savior

Read Luke 2:15-20. Have you pondered the “why” of Christmas in your life? Explain.

A.W. Pink describes salvation as four-fold – salvation from the penalty, pleasure, power and presence of sin. How does Jesus save us from the penalty of sin?

What does it mean to be saved from the pleasure of sin? How do you see this happening in your life?

What does it mean to be saved from the power of sin? How do you receive this power from God?

What does it mean to be saved from the presence of sin? Do you look forward to this? Why or why not?

As you ponder the truth that Jesus came to save you from your sins, what in your life needs to change?

Can you think of three persons to teach about the Lord and his salvation? How will you share with them? What will you say?

#### Oneness & Witness Takeaways:

- Ponder: Ask the Lord to save you more and more from the pleasure and power of specific sins in your life
- Praise: Find a way to publicly praise the Lord for saving you from your sins and share your story.
- Proclaim: Invite someone who normally does not attend church to our Christmas Eve services and attend with them.