

Light of the World (Part 3)

Review – Different facets of the light

- Advent candles – Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, --Jesus

1 John 1:5 (NIV) ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

The Light comes as a person

Isaiah 9:1–3 (NIV) ¹ Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan — ² **The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.** ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7 –

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light... For to us a child is born... and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Joy

Remember the context of the story

- The situation for Israel
- The situation for Joseph and Mary
- The life of a shepherd --their situation – how were they seen by the priests – the people?

Luke 2:8–20 (NIV) ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ **The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.**

The Greek word -- chara (χαρά)

- Joy (chara) comes from the same root word as grace (charis).
- Joy is not circumstantial happiness
- It comes from understanding the unshakable eternal truths
- It is also a gift of the Holy Spirit – when we allow the Spirit to tell us the truth

Joy is:

- Flowing from God's grace
- Deeper and more durable than feelings
- Rooted in salvation from sin and death – the old order of things (Revelation 21)
- For all people on whom his favor rests
- Independent of circumstances

The story itself says something about what kind of Joy –life goes on for all the characters

The angelic announcement is not:

- For the Shepherds --“Good news, your life will get easier.”—you don't have to be a shepherd any more and the culture will respect and appreciate you
- “Good news, Rome will stop oppressing you.”
- “Good news” Mary and Joseph -Herod wont try to kill Jesus
- For us today – everything will be as I want –make me comfortable – will I see in my lifetime --

What changed in their situation? – Yet they have joy now –why?

What do they know now?

- I understand that God sees me differently than I see myself of the world sees me – I have an identity
- God sees me –He invited me
- He has a bigger plan that ends in their good
- I have already what is most needed
- I have a purpose – a joy spreader –a light in the world
- Bringing these truths into my life today – soaking in the truth impacts what comes out of me

How does joy work in our lives today?

Hebrews 12:1–4 (NIV) ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at

the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. ⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Philippians 4:4–10 (NIV) ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. ¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.