

IV. CELEBRATE THE PEACE OF THE LIGHT

A. Jesus came to provide peace with God.

¹⁴ *"Glory to God in the highest..."* Luke 2:14a

¹ *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"*

Romans 5:1

B. Jesus came to provide peace with others.

¹⁴ *"...And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

Luke 2:14b

¹⁴ *"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:*

¹⁵ *looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;"*

Hebrews 12:14-15

V. CELEBRATE THE PROCLAMATION OF THE LIGHT

A. The shepherds saw the Light.

¹⁵ *"So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.'*

¹⁶ *And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger." Luke 2:15-16*

B. The shepherds spread the Light.

¹⁷ *"Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.*

¹⁸ *And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.*

¹⁹ *But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

²⁰ *Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them."* Luke 2:17-20

CELEBRATE THE LIGHT

THE LIGHT HAS COME!

Celebrate The Light

Pastor Steve Reynolds

Introduction:

A. Merry Christmas! We like Christmas white and bright. It's the perfect time to focus on JESUS, THE LIGHT HAS COME!

Have you ever considered the very first thing God created was light. Genesis 1:3 reveals. *"Then God said, 'Let there be light; and there was light.'" God created light first because nothing can literally survive physically without it.*

In a similar way Jesus came to earth as God wrapped in flesh to be light and to rescue us from darkness. He did this because none of us can thrive spiritually, emotionally or mentally without Jesus as our Light.

¹² *"Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'" John 8:12*

⁴⁶ *"I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness." John 12:46*

B. You might feel like the light has gone out in your life. Attend THE LIGHT HAS COME! Teaching Series to discover how the Light of Christmas can brighten your dark days.

Dec 7	Believe The Light
TODAY	Celebrate The Light
Dec 21	Worship The Light
Dec 23-24	Receive The Light
Dec 28	Share The Light

TEXT: Luke 2:1-20

When Jesus The Light arrived, there was a huge celebration! It included the glory of God shining around the shepherds (2:9), and a multitude of angels praising God (2:13).

HOW TO CELEBRATE THE LIGHT

I. CELEBRATE THE PERIOD OF THE LIGHT

A. Jesus arrived during the registration. It was a Roman requirement for taxation and military purposes.

¹ *"And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.*

² *This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.*

³ *So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city."*
Luke 2:1-3

B. Jesus arrived at the perfect time.

⁸ *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."* Ephesians 5:8

⁴ *"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,"*
Galatians 4:4

II. CELEBRATE THE PLACE OF THE LIGHT

A. The place was Bethlehem.

⁴ *"Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,*

⁵ *to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child."*
Luke 2:4-5

B. This was a fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

² *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."* Micah 5:2

²⁰ *"knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,*

²¹ *for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*
II Peter 1:20-21

III. CELEBRATE THE PURPOSE OF THE LIGHT

A. Jesus came to provide salvation.

¹⁰ *"Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.*

¹¹ *For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* Luke 2:10-11

This statement is like a birth announcement to the whole world.

¹ *"Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,*

³ *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*

⁴ *and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,"* I Corinthians 15: 1. 3-4

B. Jesus came to provide salvation for the lowest class of people.

⁸ *"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night."*
Luke 2:8

Shepherds were considered one of the lowest classes of people, coming in just ahead of the lepers. It was to these "lowly people" God chose to announce the birth of Christ.

C. Jesus came to provide salvation for all classes of people.

¹⁰ *"Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."*
Luke 2:10

D. Jesus came to provide salvation for YOU!

⁹ *"that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*
Romans 10:9