

CHRISTMAS 2023
LUKE 2:1-7
NO ROOM!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Luke chapter 2 as we are celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Now for some, they feel, *“What’s the big deal about His birth. We are not even sure what day He was born on and it is not that important. What is important is His death and resurrection, so why don’t we just focus on that?”*

That is a great question, and yes, the death and resurrection of Jesus are necessary for our salvation. Apart from that we would still be dead in our trespasses and sins.

In Revelation 1:5-6 we are told, **“and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”**

In other words, by His shed blood on the cross of Calvary, paying in full our debt of sin, He suffered and died and was placed in a tomb. Then, three days later He rose from the grave, fulfilling not only the payment for our sin, but our assurance that these bodies will be raised in glory one day!

We see this in I Corinthians 15:3-4 as Paul tells us, **“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”**

“So, Pastor Joe, are you saying that the birth of Jesus our Messiah was not important? If that is true, why are we celebrating it?”

Because, apart from God becoming flesh and dwelling amongst us He could not redeem sinful man, He could not be our kinsman redeemer who has come to pay the debt for our sin which we could never pay for.

So, yes, the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus is vital in our salvation!

Let me show you what I mean.

You see, the Goel or kinsman redeemer must be able to do several things. Let me share them with you and you will see the importance of our Goel or Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ!

First of all - ***HE MUST BE A NEAR RELATIVE OF THE ONE WHO HAD LOST THE INHERITANCE!***

Jesus meets this requirement because He is of the root of David.

In other words, He was born of flesh and blood and thus He is able to redeem us and this earth back.

Luke 3:38 links Jesus to Adam and thus a relative of man because He was born of the flesh.

John 1:14 says “**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**”

Also, Hebrews 2:14-15 says, “**Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the Devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**” (Also, Galatians 4:4-5).

Next - ***HE MUST BE WILLING TO ACT AS A REDEEMER!***

Jesus said in John 10:18, “**No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.**”

Jesus was willing to go to the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

We are told in Colossians 2:14, **“Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”**

When Jesus cried, ***“TETELESTAI”*** or **“paid in full”** on the cross of Calvary, He was saying that all our sins have been paid in full.

During this time of Jesus they would write your transgressions down and after you paid the penalty you would be set free and given this document with the words written across it, ***“TETELESTAI”*** or ***“paid in full.”***

That meant that no one could accuse you of not paying the penalty for the crime. (Also see Romans 3:24, 5:12-15, 18-21)

And in Hebrews 12:2 we read **“Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”**

Also - ***HE MUST BE ABLE TO PAY THE PRICE OF REDEMPTION!***

Understand that the sacrifice for our sins must be perfect, without inherited or acquired sin.

We are told in I Peter 1:18-21, **“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”**

Christ met that requirement and thus Peter goes on to say, “**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit.**” I Peter 3:18.

Jesus met those requirements needed to be the kinsman redeemer.

He was born of the flesh and thus a relative of man.

He was willing to go to the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

And He was without sin, perfect before God, and thus able to pay the price for our redemption.

Thus, the birth of Jesus, God becoming flesh is important and we celebrate what our God has done because He was born to die for our sins!

In our study this morning we are going to look at this point – ***NO ROOM!***

Some of you may know what that is all about and maybe some of you are not sure. Don't worry, you will see what this is all about and how it can easily apply to our own lives.

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at here in Luke chapter 2 into two main points. They are,

NO ROOM FOR JESUS THEN!

NO ROOM FOR JESUS NOW!

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Luke chapter 2, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic – ***NO ROOM!***

LUKE 2**VERSES 1-3**

So we see here that Luke tells us that Caesar Augustus made a decree that everyone needed to be registered and to do this you had to travel to your own city or where your family was from. This registration was for tax purposes.

Caesar Augustus was known to be very sensitive to the nationalistic feelings of his subjects, and so he commanded them to return to their cities of family origin for the census.

Keep in mind that Caesar Augustus was the first Caesar to be called “***Augustus***” and prior to that it was a title that was given to the gods.

But now man had become God or so they thought. In fact, when Caesar Augustus died men actually “***comforted themselves, reflecting that Augustus was a god, and that gods do not die.***” (John Buchan)

Thus, as you can see, these men thought they were god’s and in power, in control, and what they wanted done was done or else!

So he issues a decree to tax the people thinking he was in charge but, as we are going to see, he was not in control but God was using him as His instrument to fulfill His plans!

One more point here just to give you an idea of the world that Augustus lived in and the world that Jesus was going to be born into.

We are told, *“The lusty peninsula was worn out with twenty years of civil war. Its farms had been neglected, its towns had been sacked or besieged, much of its wealth had been stolen or destroyed. Administration and protection had broken down; robbers made every street unsafe at night; highwaymen roamed the roads, kidnapped travelers, and sold them into slavery. Trade diminished, investment stood still, interest rates soared, property values fell. Morals, which had been loosened by riches and luxury, had not been improved by destitution and chaos, for few conditions are more demoralizing than poverty that comes after wealth. Rome was full of men who had lost their economic footing and then their moral stability: soldiers who had tasted adventure and had learned to kill; citizens who had seen their savings consumed in the taxes and inflation of war and waited vacuously [vacantly] for some returning tide to life them back to affluence; women dizzy with freedom, multiplying divorces, abortions, and adulteries.”* (Durant)

Not a pretty world to be born into and yet, this was the perfect time for the Messiah to come.

So this decree was sent forth and people were to go to their family ancestry to register and pay their taxes.

Let’s read on and see how this plays out because it will fulfill the prophecy that the Lord spoke several hundred years earlier!

VERSES 4-7

Can you imagine getting this news, that you have to travel to your hometown and this decree was issued by Caesar Augustus, which meant you could not ignore the command, it could be trouble for you if you did.

For Joseph and Mary, they both were from Bethlehem, the House of Bread. And for them, it was an 80-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Now, for the most part, people were used to travelling long distances, but for Joseph and Mary, this was going to be difficult for them.

The reason that this was going to be a difficult journey was that Mary was pregnant. We are not told how far along she was in her pregnancy but very close to having this child.

Can you imagine being pregnant and far along in your pregnancy and have to ride a donkey some 80 miles!

Not an easy journey to say the least and yet, we don't read of them complaining or being mad at God for allowing this to happen to them. What we see here is the command to be registered and off they went.

Now we read something like this, and we may think how unfair this really is! How can God allow something like this to happen to this godly family? And all because some guy in Rome who thinks he is God makes this decree!

And as we look at this situation through earthly eyes, eyes that can only see what is in front of us, we too can feel that way.

But we have to learn to trust God in these situations, even though we might not understand why they have come upon us. We need to understand that He sees the big picture and He knows what is best for our lives.

Please understand that what transpired here with Joseph and Mary was in the plan and purposes of God. And the point of that is the same is true in our own lives. God is in control, not man.

Don't get me wrong, Caesar Augustus thought he was in control, but God was using him to fulfill His plans and purposes as I have said.

Let me show you what I mean about God being in control because some of you still may be struggling with this issue because of what you just went through or what you are going through right now. You don't see God in control and things are difficult for you.

So if you are still struggling with this, listen to what we are told in Micah 5:2, **“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.”**

Some 700 years before this event took place God said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem and how would you get this couple to travel that far in her condition, the later stages of her pregnancy?

You have a decree sent by this power-hungry ruler that all must return to their hometowns for taxation purposes.

In reading that, and think about this, who is really in control, who is really in power?

It was not Caesar Augustus, but God is in control and that will never change!

It is as Proverbs 21:1 says, **“The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; he turns it wherever He wishes.”**

Also notice in verse 5 that it says that they were **“betrothed”** and the word **“wife”** was added.

What is the point.

They were married but they had not consummated the marriage yet, not until after the birth of Jesus.

As you read the Scriptures you see that Mary and Joseph had other children, not just Jesus.

So as they were in Bethlehem Mary goes into labor and born to her is a son that they call Jesus!

And the way Luke wrote this it seems like Mary was alone in this delivery, there was no one there to help her except Joseph.

And as Jesus is born, we are told that Mary wrapped Him in “**swaddling cloths**” and this comes from an ancient Greek word that means “**to tear.**”

In other words, she wrapped Jesus in torn strips of cloth!

Not only that, but we are told that Jesus was “**laid in a manger**” or feeding trough for animals. Which tells me that Jesus was born in a stall or place where animals were kept.

Why?

Because, as Luke tells us that, “**there was no room for them in the inn.**”

How can that be?

From what I understand, Joseph did not make reservations for Mary and him there in Bethlehem. And as this happened, Mary was not happy about that and thus, this was the first – ***SILENT NIGHT!*** I could be wrong, but I think that is what happened and thus, the song.

No, that is not what happened. Then why was there no room for them?

Keep in mind that it wasn't just Joseph and Mary that were being registered, so Bethlehem was filled to capacity. It was not a very big town and thus, there was no place for them to stay except this stall for animals.

The thing I want to focus on here is that there was – ***NO ROOM*** for Jesus!

And our first point is that there was – ***NO ROOM FOR JESUS THEN!***

Which was true at His birth, and we see it throughout His life.

God became flesh, dwelt among us to pay for our sins. A debt we could never pay, and He paid it full on the cross of Calvary! But for most of the people, they had ***NO ROOM*** for Jesus!

Let me give you an example to show you what I mean.

In Luke chapter 8, beginning in verse 26 we see that Jesus traveled to the area of the Gadarenes.

And in this area we find two men, but one is the focus, and these men were demon possessed and we are told that they were in this was in this condition for a long time.

And we are told in Luke 8:28-29, **“When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, ‘What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!’ For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.”**

Jesus sets this man free from this legion of demons and you would think that the whole area would be rejoicing, but that was not the case. Not at all!

As the people who witnessed this go and tell the other people in the area of what transpired, we are told in Luke 8:37-40, **“Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, ‘Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.’ And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him. So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him.”**

The people wanted Jesus to go, they had no room for Him in their lives.

But why?

I think the reason is that these Jews who were living in the area of the Gadarenes had a swine business, they raised pigs. And when Jesus cast the demons out of this man they went into this herd of swine, and they jumped into the sea of Galilee, and they all died.

So the reason that they had no time or no room for Jesus is that He was ruining their business affairs. Jesus was not ruining their business, but He was trying to get them right with God as pigs were an unclean animal and they were not to be eating it or raising swine!

The interesting thing to me is that this man who was demon possessed did have room for Jesus. He wanted to go with Jesus, be near Jesus. But Jesus tells this man that he can't come with them.

Why?

Because he was to go and tell his family and friends about Jesus!

How did he do?

We don't have to guess because Luke tells us that when Jesus returned to the area, "... the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him." Luke 8:40.

How awesome is that. The people saw the change in this man, that he was back to the way he was years ago, and he told the people that Jesus did this and they had to see the Man who freed their family member, their friend. What a witness he was!

But look at all the people during the earthly ministry of Jesus who just did not have time for Jesus, they had – ***NO ROOM FOR HIM!***

There was Herod, he had no room for Jesus, he was concerned that Jesus may take his position away from him. So he tried to kill Jesus, which, of course, he failed to accomplish.

There were the Jewish religious leaders who were opposed to Jesus, they had – ***NO ROOM FOR JESUS!***

You see, they too did not want to lose their position and even though the Scriptures told them the timeframe for the coming of the Messiah, all that He was to do, they just could not believe because it did not fit in with what they thought about the Messiah. In other words, they had – ***NO ROOM FOR JESUS!***

Think about all the people who saw the miracles of Jesus, even proclaimed Him as the Messiah on Palm Sunday but in the end, they let the Jewish religious leaders sway them away from the truth and they ended up having – ***NO ROOM FOR JESUS!***

That was then and as you look at history, we see this pattern over and over again where a group of people, where a nation, where individuals end up having – ***NO ROOM FOR JESUS!***

And as we see this world today, I think we can all see that there is – ***NO ROOM FOR JESUS NOW!***

Let me share this article with you and you will see how true that is. We are told,

Pew Research found *one-in-five Americans are too busy to go to church*. Busy work schedules or soccer practice is a higher priority for a growing number of people.

That's not surprising to me because, in America, we strangely envy a person who has a lot going on. It's a desirable thing to be busy. "**How are you doing?**" "*Good, but busy.*" is an acceptable, and admirable response.

What's most insightful about this study though is, for the first time *ever*, there is solid evidence to show that more and more Americans view the church as merely *optional*.

. . . For the past almost two thousand years of history, the church was *not* optional. It was a fundamental part of daily life. The church bells dictated daily activities, and the church calendar governed the yearly festivities.

That's just not the case anymore.

If anything dictates our daily schedules, it's Facebook. If anything governs our yearly festivities, it's the NFL's short, but highly anticipated season. Or it's *Dancing with the Stars*, *The Bachelor*, and whatever Netflix series is currently trending and everyone is tweeting about #rightnow. That's life today.

We always knew it was a voluntary society to some degree in the modern era, but now we have proof that Americans agree. People are simply *too busy* for Jesus. Okay, maybe some would want to nuance this a bit and say: "*I'm not too busy for Jesus, I'm just too busy to attend church services. Besides, I can have Jesus without the church. He is with me at the mall, he is with me on the couch, he walks with me on the beach, he is with me wherever I go.*"

If we're honest, though, we both know that's not true. Jesus is not an accessory that we can carry around in our pockets - like a watch or purse or pocketknife or a piece of candy. . . .

Sitting down and allowing for Jesus to meet with us is what we need - both for the sake of our busy bodies and for the vitality of our souls. . . .

And what this study tells us, more blatantly than ever, is that we don't think we need Jesus, or his church, or his people, or anything. ***We're good enough on our own, thank you.***

We have convinced ourselves that we are capable and able and that our self-improvement programs and googling will be sufficient enough to save us.

The fact of the matter, though, is that this will ***never*** - not in a million years, not even in a fictional place like purgatory - be good enough. Ever. We need to stop and sit before Jesus.

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In other words, ***"I will fit Jesus into my life when and where I can. He will understand."***

Let me ask you this. Why did God become flesh, go to the cross for us?

Some would say, ***"To have my good life now!"***

But that is not the reason God did that for us! I am not saying we are not blessed as Christians, but this idea of the good life now is really about wealth, health, and the like. And I think you can clearly see that is not the reason that Jesus came.

The problem for mankind, every single person on this planet is – ***SIN!***

And what does sin do in our lives?

We can spend a long time on this but let me show you what sin does, and it is out of that we see it manifested in so many evil ways.

In Isaiah 59:1-2 we are told, **“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”**

There is the problem. Sin has separated us from God. And there is no way for us to fix that problem. The bridge that brings us to God has been destroyed by sin and we have no way to rebuild it. Yes, man tries hard to fix that problem, but as hard as he tries, his sin keeps demolishing this bridge.

And when man is separated from God, when there is not that deep relationship with Him, then what is manifested in our lives is given to us in Isaiah 59:3-4, **“For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity. No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.”**

Here’s the thing. Sin has separated man from God and yes, Jesus came to pay in full the penalty for our sins, but why?

Because He is the bridge that restores our relationship with God the Father. That is what Paul wrote in I Timothy 2:5-6, **“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”**

Job cried out that there was no mediator between God and man. (Job 9:33)

But now there is a mediator, and that is Jesus Christ. The One who can bring us to God the Father as Peter tells, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”**

The Living Bible puts this verse like this, **“Christ also suffered. He died once for the sins of all us guilty sinners although he himself was innocent of any sin at any time, that he might bring us safely home to God. But though his body died, his spirit lived on.”** (I Peter 3:18)

How many times did Jesus suffer for our sins?

Only once as He hung on the cross of Calvary and bore the sins of the world and the wrath of God was poured out upon Him, the wrath of God that was for you and me!

Why did He do this?

To bring us to God, to restore that relationship that was broken by sin.

The word **“bring”** was used *“of admission to an audience with the Great King.”* (Blum).

That is what Jesus has done for us and thus, when we refuse to have fellowship with God, we are trashing the work that Jesus has done for us.

Again, I couldn't save myself because I am a sinner, but Jesus was the perfect sacrifice and He paid in full the penalty for my sins, your sins in order that we can come before God and have fellowship with Him!

The just God, perfect, without sin suffered for us to bring us to the Father. That is love!

And please understand that Paul tells us that Jesus is the One and Only Mediator between God and man. There is no other, I don't care what people may say, I do care what God has told us in His Word and I will trust Him, that there is no salvation apart from Him!

We do not approach God through the intercession of angels, saints, or Mary. Only through the man Christ Jesus can men draw near to God.

Look at our nation – ***IS THERE ROOM FOR JESUS IN OUR NATION?***

No longer does our nation look at our Christian heritage but they have eliminated it out of our history, or they are trying, and they are doing a good job!

And in Psalm 9:17 we see the warning that God gives to nations that turn from Him. We are told, **“The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God.”**

What a warning to this nation or any nation that turns its back on God. We have fallen far in just under 250 years from a nation that loved God to a nation that says God is dead!

And the result of any nation that turns from God is seen in Romans chapter 1 and we see it as we turn on the news. We see immorality! We see violence! We see the love of many growing so cold! And apart from God, we will deteriorate more and more until, like what happened to Rome, we will rot from the inside and this nation will no longer stand as it is today!

And the reason that this nation has turned from God is because there is – ***NO ROOM FOR JESUS IN OUR LIVES!***

And what I mean by that is that there is no room in the lives of individuals who don't know the Lord. They don't care any longer. In fact, many have no idea who Jesus is and what He has done for them. A Nation that would send missionaries all over the world is in need of missionaries!

But what about us? I know, you are all here this morning but are there times in our life that there is – ***NO ROOM FOR JESUS IN OUR HEARTS?***

Think about our lives. Think about how busy we are. Think about how busy we are this time of year. There are gifts to buy. There are parties to go to. There are decorations to put up! There is snow that has to be dealt with. There is this and there is that and we are busy, busy, busy!

And in our culture, being busy is almost a status symbol. Let's face it, when someone asks you, "*How are you doing?*" you don't want to say, "*Good, not much going on. I just sit around all day with nothing to do!*" No, you end up saying, "*I am doing good, very busy but I am doing good.*"

Now I say that, and the problem is, I do say that, just ask my wife.

But I am not alone!

Let me show you how bad it is. We are told,

According to a survey conducted on 2,000 individuals by Onepoll on behalf of H&R Block, 59% of Americans find it extremely difficult to balance work and their personal schedules.

In fact, the average participant claimed to be so busy they only get about 26 minutes of free time a week. This leads to one and five US workers disregarding their non-professional objectives.

When it comes to balancing the respondents of the survey disclosed that they are currently putting off 14 things on their to-do lists. More grimly, roughly one and four bemoaned being too preoccupied with work to make regular doctor appointments and about half of those that file their own taxes outed their hectic schedule as the reason they won't this year.

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And please understand that not everything is evil or bad that keeps us busy. But sometimes we are so busy we miss what is most important!

Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

A number of years back, a young and very successful executive was travelling down a suburban street in his brand new black jaguar.

Suddenly a brick was thrown from the sidewalk, thumping into the side of the car.

Brakes slammed! Gears ground into reverse, and tires madly spun the Jaguar back to the spot from where the brick had been thrown.

The driver jumped out, grabbed the kid who had thrown the brick and pushed him up against a parked car. “What was that all about?!” he screamed. “That’s my new Jag, that brick you threw is gonna cost you a lot of money!”

“Please, mister, please . . . I’m sorry! I didn’t know what else to do!” pleaded the youngster. “I threw the brick because no one else would stop!”

Tears were dripping down the boy’s chin as he pointed around the parked car. “It’s my brother, mister,” he said. “He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can’t lift him up.” Sobbing, the boy asked the executive, “Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He’s hurt and he’s too heavy for me.”

The mood was transformed in a moment as the young executive realized what had occurred. He lifted the young man into the wheelchair and took out his handkerchief and wiped the scrapes and cuts. He then watched as the younger brother pushed him down the sidewalk toward their home.

The young exec never did fix the dented side door of his Jaguar. He kept the dent to remind him not to go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at him to get his attention.

Can we become so busy, so preoccupied that we miss what is going on around us?

We absolutely can and we do!

Now in saying that, let me add this. If your priority in life is not your relationship with God, then everything else is going to be off and you will be busy, and it will be like you are not accomplishing anything.

Listen to what we are told in Isaiah 40:31, **“But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”**

Who are we to **“wait”** upon?

We are to **“wait”** upon the Lord!

That means we have to take the time to spend with Him, fellowship with Him so we can hear from Him.

And the idea here in Isaiah is that of waiting with the expectancy of God coming through and it implies that you are praying and acting upon what God has told you to do.

And as we do, Isaiah tells us that we will soar like eagles, we shall have our strength renewed, we shall run and not be weary, and we shall walk and not faint! That is what the Lord has for us!

You see, the purpose of this strength from the Lord is that **“They shall run and not be weary.”**

In other words, the purpose of this strength that the Lord gives to us is to move us forward, to make progress for Him. It is not strength to receive glory for ourselves but to bring glory to God! He will give us the strength we need to accomplish the work that He has called us to do.

I have experienced this many times in my own life. When I thought there is no way I could accomplish all that is before me, I took that step of faith and in the end the work is done, and God gets the glory. I don't understand how it could be done but all He asks us to do is walk by faith, to run and you will not be weary as you do the work of the Lord.

We just have to be careful that we are not so busy that we don't have time for the Lord to direct our lives!

May we do as Isaiah said, "**But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.**" Isaiah 40:31.

If you are worn out God is here to give you strength - if you will wait on Him!

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let's not be so busy as to miss what this day is all about, what we are celebrating!

Many do and many Christians get so busy that they just want to get this day over with because they are so busy preparing for it.

Instead of being that busy, maybe step back and reflect on what God has done for us.

Remember what the angel told the shepherds in the field in Luke 2:8-14, **“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 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. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’”**

Out in the fields, as these shepherds were watching over the sheep, we see this angel, maybe Gabriel come before them to bring news, information to God’s people.

What information?

He is bringing **“good tidings”** or the Gospel message, which, of course is very Good News to these shepherds!

And this Good News was not just to the Jews but to all people!

You see, we didn’t need an advisor, but a Savior!

We didn’t need a doctor, we needed a Savior!

We didn’t need a businessman, we needed a Savior!

We didn’t need a teacher, we needed a Savior!

We didn’t need a lawyer, we needed a Savior!

And you can put anything else in there besides a Savior and it will not help us because sin had separated us from God and we needed a Savior to save us from our sins, to pay the debt for our sins that we could never pay!

Also, the word “**Christ**” means Messiah and the sign to these shepherds is that they will find this Savior of mankind, this Messiah wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

Not exactly what you would expect!

And as this angel finishes bringing this good news to these shepherds all of sudden we see this multitude of angels break forth with this worship song unto the Lord, they just could not hold back any longer and they sang out, “**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace towards men of good will.**”

I know, in your Bibles it says that they were praising the Lord and singing “**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth good will toward men!**”

That is not correct.

It is correctly translated, “**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace towards men of good will**” or “**Glory to God in the highest, and peace among men with whom He is pleased.**”

You see, the peace of God is not for everyone but for those who have come into a relationship with Jesus, who have asked Him to be Lord and Savior of their lives.

Who is God pleased with?

Those who believe in Him, and that belief is just not an acknowledgement of who He is because the demons know He is God, and they are not saved.

It is giving your life to Him, all of it. In John 6:29 we are told, “**... ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.’**”

You see, God’s peace is not given to those who have good will nor to all, but to those who are recipients of God’s good will, His favor.

In fact, Isaiah 48:22 says, “**‘There is no peace,’ says the LORD, ‘for the wicked.’**”

This peace that permeates the land is coming when Jesus returns, but we can have peace with God through Jesus Christ and then the peace of God will fill our hearts and our lives.

It is as Jesus said in John 16:33, **“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”** The only true peace is found in Jesus!

These shepherds heard the good news, the Gospel message. They had room for Jesus in their life and they went to see this newborn King!

I pray that you have made room for Jesus in your life. If you have not come to saving faith yet, if you have not repented of your sins and asked Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life, today is the day.

This really is what Christmas is all about, the birth of our Savior and you are here this morning or listening on the radio or the internet not by some random chance. This is a God ordained meeting and God is calling for you to come to Him and receive the precious gift of life that is found in Him.

For those of us who have come to saving faith, don't let the busyness of life get your priorities messed up. Keep Jesus first in your life and your life will be in order. I am not saying that it will be easy, but it will be in order, and you will get done the things that God desires you to get done!

The Italians have a legend about a woman named Befana who lived along the dusty road that led to Bethlehem. She was her village's best housekeeper. Meticulous. Which was no small task with all that dust.

Late one night there was a knock at the door, and she opened it to find three kings in search of the baby born to be King of the Jews, the Prince of Peace. Frankly, what she also saw was all the dust that blew in and the dirt on their boots and clothes.

They asked to rest awhile and invited her to join them on their journey. And she said she'd love to do that, but she had to get the house back in order after they left, and there was a load of laundry to be done. ***“Let me finish up,”*** she said, ***“then I’ll be right behind you.”***

And they told her all she had to do was follow the star.

She worked all night and finally, near dawn, she put on her heavy cloak. She took a little straw doll she wanted to give to the baby, and left her house - spic and span.

But the sky had clouded over, and she couldn't see the star.

It began to rain, and her little doll was ruined. Finally, she gave up and went home. ***“I’m a foolish old woman,”*** she said to herself. ***“I missed my chance to worship the newborn Prince of Peace. Perhaps I will find him someday.”***

So the legend is that each year she sets out with a bag of toys, leaving some at every house where there is a child, in hopes one of them might be the Child she missed.

- Source Unknown

May we not be so busy that we miss our time with our Savior!

I will close with this to put this all-in perspective for us. ***“Take another look at the manger this Christmas. Look beyond the tender scene, and see what Jesus Himself knew even before He came – that He was born to die.”***

The beginning of the Christmas story and the end of the Christmas story as our Lord went to the cross to pay in full the penalty for our sins. And we have – ***NO ROOM FOR HIM?***