

Sermon Series: ARE YOU READY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Sermon Title: "Christmas Tests Our Faith: Do you believe?"

Scripture: Luke 1:67-80 (NIV)

REVIEW: How To Prepare For the Christmas Miracle?

1. Live life on _____ (call) for God
2. Refuse to let ministry become _____ (mundane)
3. Keep praying with _____ (persistence)
4. Believe that God's Word is _____ (enough)

5 AFFIRMATIONS FROM ZECHARIAH & 5 QUESTIONS FOR US TODAY:

1. "I believe in God's _____ (redemption) and salvation" (vv.68-69)
-redeemed: God has actually purchased us back from the grip of sin, death, and eternal damnation
-salvation: we are delivered from a sure and terrible end

*Question: What do you believe about your eternity?
2. "I believe in God's faithfulness to _____ (Israel)" (vv.70-72)
-God was promising freedom from Israel's enemies & oppression
-Abrahamic oath: Genesis 12:1-3

*Question: What do you believe for your nation?
3. "I believe in the trustworthiness of God's _____ (promises)" (vv.73-75)
-It's easy to say "Amen" when the preacher quotes God's Word on Sunday, but your real heart-belief will be demonstrated when you personally claim and stand on God's promises throughout the week

*Question: What do you believe about the promises of God?
4. "I believe in the future _____ (greatness) of my son" (vv.76-77)
-In Bible times it was significant for parents to pass on a "blessing" to their children
-While the "blessing" conveyed some physical & material favor, the focus was primarily spiritual

*Question: What do you believe about the next generation?
5. "I believe in the coming _____ (Messiah)" (vv.78-79)
-The Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of Jesus
-The New Testament proclaims Jesus will come again

*Question: What do you believe about Jesus?

CLOSE: How you answer these questions will greatly _____ (influence) your Christmas this year!