

Seventeen Reasons for Fact-Based Joy: A Study In Philipians

Reason 8: The Joy of Christmas

Philippians 2:5–11

The Lord's Day Morning

December 22, 2019

The eighth reason on which our joy is based is the historical fact of the first Christmas, when God came to live among us as a fully human baby. Feeling happy is in partnership with feeling loved. Our joy increases when we are cared for, just as Paul's joy increased when he received a visit from Epaphroditus who brought a tangible gift from the church at Philippi. Christmas reminds us that God visited us and brought the tangible gift of himself. When we consider Christmas and the way it highlights the unspeakable depth of God's love and care for us, we will experience greater joy. "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15).

1. The _____ Jesus: In his _____ God became a man without ceasing to be God and is given the name of _____ (5–7).
2. The _____ Jesus: In his _____, Jesus (the God-man), voluntarily satisfied God's wrath for _____ (8).
3. The _____ Jesus: In his _____ Jesus is promoted to reign over the universe and is given the name of _____ (9–11).