



---

**L I G H T H O U S E**

---

Sunday, December 17, 2023

**Opening God's Gifts at Christmas  
2 Corinthians 9:15**

**Opening God's Gift of Joy - Luke 2:8-12**

- **The World Searches for Happiness**
  - Feeling Based on Circumstances
- **The World Needs Joy**
  - Feeling Based on Belief and Choice
- **Christmas is a Season of Joy**
  - You Find it in the Carols
  - Joy is a Major Biblical Theme occurring over 650 times in Scripture
  - The Incarnation Story Overflows with Joy

**Luke 1:14, Luke 1:44, Luke 1:47, Luke 1:58, Luke 2:10**

- **Everyone Wants Joy**
  - No one sets out to become jaded or bitter.
  - People Can Lose Their Joy
- **Life Can Steal Our Joy**
  - Experience Seems to Teach us that Reality Seldom Exceeds Expectation
  - Solomon Expressed His Frustration

**Ecclesiastes 1:12-14**

- Isaiah Saw Disappointing Situations

**Isaiah 8:21-22**

- Yet Isaiah Saw Something More

**Isaiah 9:1-2, Hebrews 12:22-24, Galatians 5:22-23**

**Nehemiah 8:10**

- Joy that is Lost Can be Recaptured

**Philippians 4:4-7, Psalm 97:12, Isaiah 49:13**

**Job 19:25, Psalm 139:14**

- Gentleness Evident to All

**Colossians 3:12**

- Do Not be Anxious About Anything
  - Worry Robs Joy
- Pray

**Hebrews 4:16**

- Thanksgiving - for past answers, present, and for future answers

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**