

Cause For Great Joy

2021 Advent Sermon Series: "Why Christmas"
Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 12/19/2021



I. Christmastime "Feelings"

Key Truth: There Is Reason To Rejoice

II. Wise Men Seek

Matthew 2:9-11

Point: Follow The Signs

III. Refuge & Shield

Psalms 5:11-12

Point: Exalt In God

IV. Free To Rejoice

Mid-Week Devotion (Take time this week to pray & respond to the following)

Christmas is a holiday that most people believe should evoke specific feelings such as happiness, generosity, thanksgiving or affection. You may or may not be feeling some or any of those at present. A date on a calendar and a change in weather can only do so much to lift a person's spirits. Even if you aren't feeling "Christmasy" this December 25th, you can still know the joy that flows from the miraculous event that Christmas commemorates. There is reason to rejoice at Christmas because it reminds us that Christ has come into the world to rescue the lost and bring the dead back to life.

Joy is not a mere feeling and it is more than the absence of despair. It is given and sustained by the Holy Spirit as a testimony to His presence and a confirmation of one's eternal security in Christ. Joy is not the result of imagination or wishful thinking. It is a reward for those who sought a relationship with God and found it in His Son. The joy of the Wise Men when they encountered the Christ child is the same joy experienced by those who encounter the risen Lord today. We exalt in His love and take refuge in His embrace because nothing can take away our place in His family.

If you are a born-again Christian, you have been set free to rejoice. This means that sin's condemnation cannot threaten your place in God's kingdom. Have you been set free? Are you better acquainted with joy today than you were this time last year? How will you take advantage of the opportunity that Christmas affords to share the joy of new life in Christ with others?

Prayerfully consider the presence or absence of true joy in your heart. Ask God to bridge the gap between how you presently feel and how you want to feel. Invite God to make evident the signs of His presence and purpose in your life. Affirm your commitment to be a bearer of joy and a proclaimer of the Gospel to whomever will receive it.