

CHRISTMAS SERIES  
"Celebrating God's greatest gift to the world"

# LASTING JOY

December 12, 2021

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## **I Thessalonians 5:16-18** (NASB)

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

*"Part of God's Will for us is to rejoice always"*

## **FOUR TRUTHS ABOUT LASTING JOY**

### **JOY IS AVAILABLE TODAY**

#### **Luke 2:8-9** (ESV)

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

*God shows up in ordinary lives. You don't have to achieve the world's definition of greatness to experience God's joy!*

### **JOY IS NOT ACHIEVED IT'S RECEIVED**

#### **Luke 2:10-12** (ESV)

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

UNLEASH THE SHEPHERD  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
TEACHING NOTES

## **JOY IS TO BE SHARED**

#### **Luke 2:15-18** (ESV)

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

*What are we doing with the Good News of Great Joy?*

## **JOY IS A CHOICE**

#### **Luke 1:26-30** (ESV)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

#### **Luke 1:46-50** (ESV)

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

### **NEXT WEEK: CHRISTMAS SERIES**

*We're so glad you joined us. If you would like more information about God, Jesus and the Bible, please talk with any of our church leaders.*

***Thank you for joining us!***