THE GOD WHO PURSUES

Luke 2:1-21

SERMON SUMMARY:

Each year we celebrate the birth of Jesus, yet many of us lose sight of the significance of His coming. For centuries, humanity has attempted to be worthy before God. But the problem of sin continues to thwart our efforts. As we celebrate Christmas this morning, we will explore why the coming of Jesus brings hope and rejoicing to our weary world.

SERMON OUTLINE:

The Hopelessness of Man-Made Religion

At the heart of the human experience lies the <u>unsuccessful pursuit</u> of <u>reaching up</u> to God.

The Announcement

God has come down to us.

Our Joyful Hope

Jesus <u>pursues us</u> because of <u>His grace</u>.

THINK ABOUT IT/TALK ABOUT IT:

- What aspects of man-made religion contribute to the sense of hopelessness?
- Reflect on instances where man-made religion may have hindered your understanding of God's grace. How does the concept of grace contrast with works-based religions?
- Share a personal story or example that illustrates the joy experienced when we recognize that Jesus pursues us because of His grace.
- How does the realization of God's pursuit of us impact our attitude and approach to worship, prayer, and daily living?
- In what practical ways can we remind ourselves and others of the joyous hope we have in Christ, especially during the Christmas season?