

## PERCEPTIONS

Text: Luke 2:14-20

In many ways, the quality of one's experiences — and ultimately the quality of one's life — comes down to the quality of one's \_\_\_\_\_.

1. The angels experienced Christmas with great joy. Ref: Luke 1:28; Matthew 1:20-21

The angels understood that this event — Christmas — is something special, something incredible, and something that will change the course of human history. Ref: Luke 2:10-14

The angels experienced Christmas with great joy because they knew what Christmas really means.

It means that God hasn't given up on the human race, and he never will.

It means that he cares enough about to send his only Son into the world, so that through him we might have eternal life.

2. Mary experienced Christmas with a sense of wonder. Ref: Luke 2:19

Just think about: Christmas means that God \_\_\_\_\_ you, that he \_\_\_\_\_ you, and that he wants to \_\_\_\_\_ you and use you to be a blessing to others and to experience Christmas with a sense of wonder.

3. The Magi experienced Christmas as a journey. Ref: Matthew 2:11

The Christian life is a journey spent seeking Christ, worshiping him, and giving him our riches. What are the riches we give him? The song tells us...

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: I give my heart.

4. The shepherds experienced Christmas personally. Ref: Luke 2:15-20

There's an old hymn that says...

Though Christ a thousand times  
In Bethlehem be born,  
If He's not born in thee  
Thy soul is still forlorn.

It is my prayer that you experience Christ fully in your heart and in your life that he is "born in thee." And it is my prayer that you will share this glorious experience with everyone around you.

Christmas is the best thing ever because it's something that we experience personally — Christ comes to us where we are and makes his home in our heart.