

# THE SOUL OF CHRISTMAS

## THE REAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE THE SOUL OF CHRISTMAS - PART 1

Message # 1357  
Pastor Keith Stewart  
December 3-4, 2016

### 1. HORRID CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE HAND OF GOD

*"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea... He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."*

Luke 2.1-6

### 2. THE MOST AMAZING NEWS EVER TO THE LEAST LIKELY AUDIENCE

*"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you: he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'"*

Luke 2.8-14

### 3. THE LEAST AUSPICIOUS OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE GLORY OF GOD

*"So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger."*

Luke 2.16

*"...and the glory of the Lord shone around them..."*

Luke 2.9

Next week, save resources and get expanded message notes by using our digital service guide - just scan the QR codes at the doors or visit [Springcreekchurch.org](http://Springcreekchurch.org)!

Unless otherwise noted, all verse references are from the New International Version (NIV)



### Welcome to Springcreek!

If it is your first time with us, we would love to get to know you better. Please fill out a response card in the seat-back pocket in front of you and bring it to the Welcome Center in the lobby or drop it in any offering box. We will give you more information about how you can engage in the ministry of Springcreek.

### Giving

Springcreek is supported by the generous contributions of the members and attendees of the church. You can give through offering boxes placed throughout the lobby and auditorium, the giving kiosk, or online at: [springcreekchurch.org](http://springcreekchurch.org).

### New Chaplains Prayer Center

If you need someone to pray with you, Springcreek chaplains are available and want to help! Chaplains are now located in the main lobby at a Prayer Center to the right of the front doors as you exit the building. The Center is designated specifically for praying with people after services. Springcreek chaplains wear black shirts with white crosses and CHAPLAIN printed on them.

### Get Equipped - Get Engaged / Upcoming events and classes

#### Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 9, 6:00-10:30pm

\$12 per child; \$25 family max (Infants-5th Grade)

Register online at: [springcreekchurch.org](http://springcreekchurch.org)

#### Springcreek Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, December 11, 12:45pm, Creekside Auditorium

Topics: 2016 Review, Ministry Objectives, 2017 Budget Proposal, etc.

Copies of Springcreek bylaws available at the Welcome Center.

#### Springcreek Christmas Music Weekend - "Best Christmas Ever"

Saturday - Sunday, December 10 - 11, All Weekend Services!

#### Christmas Eve Services at Springcreek

Saturday, December 24 at 3:30pm and 5:00pm (2 services)

NO SERVICES CHRISTMAS DAY.

Enjoy the day with friends and family!

#### New Year's Weekend Services

All services at regular weekend schedule times.

Saturday at 5:00pm, Sunday at 10:00 and 11:30am

For more information, a full list of upcoming events and classes or to RSVP, visit: [springcreekchurch.org](http://springcreekchurch.org) or stop by the Welcome Center after service.

Any musical selections or media elements used in our services are for illustrative purposes only and are not an endorsement of any artist, musical group, film, or television program.

Springcreek Church / 2660 Belt Line Road / Garland, TX 75044 / 972.494.5683 / [springcreekchurch.org](http://springcreekchurch.org)

## THE REAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Soul of Christmas - Part 1

Message #1357

Pastor Keith Stewart

December 3-4, 2016

## EXPANDED MESSAGE RESOURCES



## NORMAN ROCKWELL

### 1. HORRID CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE HAND OF GOD

*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world...And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea...He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

Luke 2.1-6

“Think of the tragedy of it, the loneliness of it; that in that hour of all hours, when womanhood should be surrounded by the tenderest care, she was alone.”

- G. Campbell Morgan

## **2. THE MOST AMAZING NEWS EVER TO THE LEAST LIKELY AUDIENCE**

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

Luke 2.8-14

### **Appearance, Fear, Comfort, Message, Sign**

“*murion*”

“[Shepherds were] despised in everyday life.”

- Dr. Joachim Jeremias

“To buy wool, milk or a kid from a shepherd was forbidden on the assumption that it would be stolen property.”

- Dr. Joachim Jeremias

- ☐ Because the shepherds weren't in a hurry.
- ☐ Because choosing the shepherds sends a message.
- ☐ Because a shepherd is what Jesus is called to be.

*But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.*

*Matthew 2.6*

☐ Because the shepherd's lives mirror that of the adult Christ.

☐ Because these shepherds cared for sacrificial lambs.

*...treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.*

*Luke 2.19*

### **3. THE LEAST AUSPICIOUS OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE GLORY OF GOD**

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.*

*Luke 2.16*

*...and the glory of the Lord shone around them...*

*Luke 2.9*