

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Why Should There Be Joy To The World?

1 John 1:1-4

Sunday, December 20, 2015

There are two ways to approach the story of Christmas. You can describe the events based on the accounts in the Gospels, or you can explore the meaning of the events. We know the story of Christmas; what we need to know is how that story affects us.

1 John 1:1-4

1 We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. 2 This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.

BECAUSE GOD CAME TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH US

Fellowship is association, community, communion, joint participation. It is the sharing of what we are and what we have with someone else. It is intimacy.

1 John 1:1

We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. 2 This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him.

Jesus is not content to simply be believed in. He did not just come to inspire your heart. He is not content to only have you bow before Him as God.

John 17:21

I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one-as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

God went to great trouble to be seen and heard and touched. He went to infinite lengths to get close to you.

Now, in response, you must do everything you can to come close to Him. Put in the time, change your life, put Him in the center of it. He is more than worth it.

BECAUSE HE CAME TO SHOW US THAT LOVE MATTERS

1 John 4:7-11

7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love-not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

Christianity stands apart from every other religion because it has a God of love. Have you ever loved when there was no one to love? It cannot be done.

This is interesting because every other religion says that either God is a force, or a single personality who created us, then loved us. If you follow the logic, a force cannot possibly love, and a single personality could not possibly love until someone was created to love.

Conclusion

How could a character in a book you write ever know that you wrote the book? You would have to write yourself into the story.

Jesus wrote himself into the story of our lives in order to have fellowship with us and to show us what love really means.

Joy to the world

Verse 1

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her king; Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Verse 2

Joy to the earth! the savior reigns; Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders, of his love.